

ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Facts. Perception. Truth? *The Price*

With expert cast Artists Rep presents rare revival of Arthur Miller classic

WHO: Artists Repertory Theatre

WHAT: Mainstage production of *The Price* by Arthur Miller

WHEN: March 31 – April 26, 2015 | **Opening Night is Saturday, April 4**

WHERE: Artists Repertory Theatre – Alder Stage, 1516 Alder St. Portland, OR 97205

TICKETS: \$25-\$55; Students, under 25 tickets \$25

- Pay-What-You-Can first preview performance: Tuesday, March 31
- Preview performances: Tuesday – Friday, March 31 - April 3
- Regular run: Wednesday-Sunday at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2pm .
- Additional performances: Wednesday, April 15 @ 11am and Saturday, April 25 @ 2pm
- Buy tickets: 503.241.1278 or www.artistsrep.org

PHOTOS AVAILABLE: April 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 12, 2015. Artists Repertory Theatre is proud to present *The Price*, a gripping and moving drama by one of America’s most influential playwrights, Arthur Miller. This richly written play features a virtuoso, four-person cast and is directed by Adriana Baer, Artistic Director of Profile Theatre.

“The delicately searing *The Price* requires a director with a keen instinct for character and complex family dynamics, Adriana Baer understands the nuanced directorial choices required when serving the work of a master playwright like Arthur Miller,” said Artistic Director Dámaso Rodriguez.

In an article for the production’s playbill Director Adriana Baer wrote: “Arthur Miller is what my grad-school professor would call ‘a writer of chestnuts.’ Yet somehow, this writer (born 100 years ago this October) continues to surprise me. Here, smack dab in the middle of his canon, lies a simple, seldom-produced play, *The Price*. A cop, a doctor, a wife and an antique dealer. A single set with some furniture. A single day. Some talking. And yet, in this one small room, this masterful writer creates a whole world of desire, disappointment and the complex relationships between family. This is a play so well-crafted, so tight dramaturgically and so emotionally truthful, that the only way to approach it is with equal measure guts, heart, and intellect, trusting the text and riding the wave Mr. Miller created for us.”

ABOUT THE PLAY

In this seldom-seen masterpiece, two estranged brothers must sift through a lifetime of their deceased father's possessions as they negotiate with a mysterious buyer. Arthur Miller's timeless classic unearths lifetimes of choices and emotional illusions to reveal the cost of living a life. This production of Miller's last major play will commemorate his weighty influence in American theatre as 2015 marks the centennial of the playwright's birth.

The Price premiered on Broadway at the Morosco Theatre in February 1968 and was nominated for two 1968 Tony Awards, for Best Play and Best Scenic Design. The production featured Harold Gary as Gregory Solomon, Pat Hingle as Victor Franz, Kate Reid as Esther Franz, and Arthur Kennedy as Walter Franz. After its original production, *The Price* was revived three times on Broadway. First, in 1979, the play was produced at the Playhouse Theatre. Then, in 1992, *The Price* was a part of Roundabout Theatre Company's first Season on Broadway at the Criterion Center Stage Right. This production was directed by John Tillinger and starred Hector Elizondo, Debra Mooney, Eli Wallach and Joe Spano. It was nominated for the 1992 Best Revival Tony Award. More recently, in 1999 and 2000, the play ran at the Royale Theatre after its summer revival at the Williamstown Theatre Festival. It is also fun to note that in 1971, the show was adapted for television and nominated for four Emmy Awards.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Arthur Miller (1915-2005) is one of the most prominent figures in American Theatre. With multiple Tony winning-productions, a Pulitzer Prize in Drama, two Drama Critics Circle Awards and an Obie, Miller's portrayals of American family life and the struggle for the American Dream are some of the most remarkable social dramas of the 20th Century. Miller grew up in New York, and attended college at the University of Michigan. Originally a major in Journalism, Miller switched to English and began his career as a playwright with, *No Villain* in 1936, for which he won the Aver Hopwood award. Upon graduating in 1938 Miller turned down an offer to write scripts for 20th Century Fox and instead joined the Federal Theatre Project, a New Deal agency established to create jobs in theatre. The Project was closed by the government for fear of communist infiltration, and Miller went on to write numerous radio plays for CBS. It was in the late 40's and early 50's that Miller wrote his most celebrated plays, *All My Sons* (1947), *Death of a Salesman* (1949), for which he won the Pulitzer Prize, and *The Crucible* (1953), his most frequently produced work worldwide. It was also during this time that Miller formed a friendship with director Elia Kazan, who directed the premiere of *Death of a Salesman*. The friendship ended when Kazan provided names to the House Un-American Activities Committee to avoid being blacklisted himself. It was at this point that Miller wrote *The Crucible*, using the Salem witch trials as an allegory for those social ills he saw promoted by McCarthyism. Miller himself was called before the HUAC in 1957 but refused to name names. He was convicted of Contempt of Congress, blacklisted, and sentenced to 30 days in prison. The conviction was later overturned, after which Miller wrote the screenplay *The Misfits* (1961), starring Marilyn Monroe, to whom he was married for a time. Miller continued writing until his death in 2005. Some other plays include *A View from the Bridge* (1955), *After the Fall* (1964), *The Price* (1968) and *The Last Yankee* (1993). He also adapted *The Crucible* into a screenplay, for which he was nominated for an Academy Award. After his death, Broadway theatres darkened their lights in a show of respect and many actors and directors paid tribute to Miller, calling him the last great practitioner of the American Stage.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Adriana Baer is the Artistic Director of Profile Theatre where she has directed *Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl, *True West* and *Buried Child* by Sam Shepard and *The Road to Mecca* and *My Children! My Africa!* by Athol Fugard. New York directing credits include *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Streetcar Named*

Desire, The Seagull, The Hairy Ape (Columbia Stages), and work at Atlantic Theater Company Acting School, the cell and The Acting Company. Other directing credits include *Woyzeck* (Bay Area Critics Circle Award for Best Direction), *The Maids*, and *No Exit* at The Cutting Ball Theater (San Francisco) where she was the Associate Artistic Director during the 2004-2007 seasons. She has a BA from Sarah Lawrence College and an MFA in Directing from Columbia University. This is her first time directing at Artists Rep.

ABOUT THE CAST

Michael Elich (Victor Franz) is returning to Artists Rep after playing Gregor in Amy Freed's *The Monster Bulider* last season. He is a 20-season actor with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and has been featured in wide variety of lead roles. A Julliard School graduate, Elich has appeared in numerous Off-Broadway and regional theatre across the country.

Linda Alper (Esther Franz) is a Resident Artist at Artists Rep following 23 seasons at Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Her lead role credits include many Off-Broadway and regional theatre productions. She has appeared the Artists Rep productions of *Tribes, The Quality of Life, Ten Chimneys, Superior Donuts* and *The Cherry Orchard*. Alper is a graduate of The Julliard School and is a Fulbright Senior Scholar.

Joseph Costa (Gregory Solomon) has recently moved to Portland from New York City, this is his first production at Artists Rep and in Portland. He has appeared in more than 130 productions at prestigious theatres across the nation. Costa has numerous Off-Broadway, film and television credits. Trained at Gettysburg College, CUNY and Yale School of Drama, he is also a guest artist and teacher at many East Coast colleges and universities.

Michael Mendelson (Walter Franz) is Artistic Associate and a Resident Artist at Artists Rep. He has performed in 23 Artists Rep productions and has been seen in *Tribes* and *Blithe Spirit* this season. Mendelson has performed in dozens of Portland productions and has many national and regional theatre credits. He received his BFA from Wayne State College and his MFA from the University of Washington. Mendelson is also the Founding Artistic Director Portland Shakespeare Project.

CAST

Michael Elich* – Victor Franz
Linda Alper^* – Esther Franz
Joseph Costa* – Gregory Solomon
Michael Mendelson^* – Walter Franz

CREATIVE TEAM

Adriana Baer~ – Director
Jack O'Brien – Scenic Designer
Alison Heryer** – Costume Designer
Carl Faber** – Lighting Designer
Sharath Patel^ – Sound Designer
Mary McDonald Lewis^ – Voice & Text Director
Natalie Rae Heikkinen – Props Designer
Michelle Jazuk* – Production Manager
D Westerholm* – Stage Manager
Jillian Gibson – Assistant Director
Marina Capizzi – Production Assistant
Dave Petersen – Board Op

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

^ Artists Rep Resident Artist

~ Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

** Represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE.

ABOUT ARTISTS REPERTORY THEATRE

Portland's premiere mid-size regional theatre company is led by Artistic Director Dámaso Rodriguez and Managing Director Sarah Horton. Founded in 1982, Artists Repertory Theatre is the longest-running professional theatre company in Portland. For the 2014/15 season Artists Rep will offer eight bold and entertaining plays written by internationally acclaimed playwrights, and guided by esteemed directors. Artists Rep productions will feature the work of a core group of accomplished Resident Artists, each with a shared history and a shorthand for collaboration, working alongside guest artists from Portland and beyond.

Artists Rep's mission is to engage diverse audiences in fresh, thought-provoking and intimate theatre. We are committed to world-class acting, directing, design and stagecraft that support new playwriting and aspire to embody great literature, moving audiences to truly feel — to *experience* — storytelling in a way that only the best live theatre can.

The 2014/15 Artists Repertory Theatre season is presented by Ronni Lacroute/WillaKenzie Estate. *The Price* is presented at Artists Rep with support from John & Jan Swanson. Our season media sponsors are The Oregonian and KINK. Other season support comes from the Regional Arts Culture Council, The Oregon Community Foundation, the Collins Foundation, the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation and Rafati's Catering.

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