

in celebration of Arthur Miller's centenary

RAPTURE THEATRE'S

ALL MY SONS

by arthur miller

EDUCATION RESOURCE - PART ONE



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INTRODUCTION

This Education Resource has been produced to promote Rapture Theatre's up-coming production of **All My Sons** by Arthur Miller. Part One provides educational establishments with information on how to book tickets for the show as well as details on a post-show workshop.

Part Two of the Education Resource will contain background information to support teaching and learning of the play, and will be made available for download to those establishments who reserve a workshop session.

in association with



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

TOUR SCHEDULE

click on the
venue image to
BOOK TICKETS!



28TH AUG

The Beacon, Greenock
(Open Dress Rehearsal)



1ST - 5TH SEPT

Theatre Royal, Glasgow



7TH - 9TH SEPT

Eden Court, Inverness



10TH - 12TH SEPT

Adam Smith, Kirkcaldy



17TH - 18TH SEPT

MacRobert, Stirling



22ND - 26TH SEPT

King's Theatre, Edinburgh

THE WORKSHOP

Rapture Connect, the creative learning programme of Rapture Theatre, is offering a post-production workshop to compliment and enhance its presentation of Arthur Miller's **All My Sons**. The workshop would particularly benefit pupils studying the play at Higher or Advanced Higher level and has been developed to support the experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence through the subject areas of Drama and English & Literacy.

The workshop will investigate the underlying themes of the production by having participants explore and devise character-driven scenes, allowing them to gain a deeper understanding of the individuals within the play.

Participants will work in small groups to devise scenes which will explore the themes of:

Guilt & Blame **Lies & Deceit**
Money, Money, Money! **Family**
Justice & Judgement **Courage**
Memories of the Past

Workshop Schedule: Includes Welcome, Q & A on **All My Sons**, Warm-up Drama Games, Devise a Scene, Performance of Scenes & Feedback from other groups and a Tour of Venue (if applicable).

Location: The workshop can be delivered at either a school or theatre venue.

Duration: 1½ hrs, (or 2hrs for additional backstage tour option - theatre venues only).

Cost: **Free** to any school booking **10+ tickets to the performance.**

This workshop is suitable **only** as a post-production resource. Maximum group size **30** pupils.

[BOOK A WORKSHOP HERE](#)

THE PLAYWRIGHT

Arthur Miller was born in New York City on 17th Oct 1915. His father owned a successful business making women's clothing, and the family lived in a luxurious apartment overlooking Central Park. However, the Miller family lost almost everything they had after the Wall Street crash in 1929 and moved to Brooklyn.

After graduating high school, Miller got a job working as an office clerk in an auto-parts warehouse. Looking for a way to escape this life, he enrolled in an 'affordable fee' scheme at the University of Michigan in 1934 (having been rejected because of bad grades the first time around) to study journalism. During his time at university he enrolled in playwriting classes and eventually graduated in 1938 with a degree in English.

Although Miller had been showered with many writing awards at university, success afterwards did not come easily, writing a string of unsuccessful plays for theatre and radio in the subsequent years. He got his first break on Broadway in 1944 with his play **The Man Who Had All the Luck**, although it was short-lived, closing after only four performances.

Then in 1947, Miller's reputation as a great playwright was finally established. The opening of his play **All My Sons** won him a Tony award. It also won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, beating Eugene O'Neil's **The Iceman Cometh** for the prize.

Two years later he wrote his Pulitzer Prize winning **Death of a Salesman**, then in 1953 **The Crucible** and in 1955 **A View from the Bridge**. Miller continued to write throughout his lifetime, including **After the Fall**, **The Price**, **The Archbishop's Ceiling**, **Broken Glass**, **The Last Yankee** and **Finishing the Picture**, his final play which premiered in 2004.

Miller married three times, probably most famously to the actress Marilyn Monroe in 1956. He was persecuted for his political views under McCarthyism.

He died on 10th Feb 2005 at his home in Connecticut.

BOOK A WORKSHOP HERE

ALL MY SONS



"It was a couple of years ago that Arthur Miller fell to talking with a Midwestern lady who told him of a war profiteer whose daughter, though she loved her father, exposed him and then ran away from home.

"Where," the lady asked Mr Miller only a couple of minutes later, "do you get ideas for plays and stories?"

"I just pick them up," said Mr Miller, "here and there."

He had, of course, just picked up the basic idea for "All My Sons,"

New York Times article by John K Hutchens, 1947

Watch this video of Arthur Miller discussing his inspiration for **All My Sons** courtesy of the BBC.

All My Sons tells the story of Joe Keller, a successful businessman who lives comfortably in an idyllic suburban American neighbourhood with his wife Kate and his son, Chris. The Keller's had another son, Larry, who is missing and presumed dead from his time as a fighter-pilot in World War II. Kate holds onto the hope that Larry is still alive.

On the surface, the Keller's seem to be the perfect American family; however, each holds their own secrets.

Chris wants to marry Ann, the former fiancée of his brother Larry. Kate, guessing this is the reason for Ann's upcoming visit, becomes increasingly agitated. She wants Ann to remain faithful to Larry; for Kate to accept the love blossoming between Chris and Ann means that she must accept that Larry is really dead, and to do so would also mean she must face up to the truth behind her husband Joe's guilty secret.

We learn that Joe's factory was responsible for producing faulty aircraft parts, which in turn caused the deaths of 21 pilots during the war. On discovering the faults Joe's former partner, Steve (who is also Ann's father), calls Joe to ask his advice. Joe tells him to weld over the cracks and ship them out. Joe and Steve are arrested. At their trial Joe denies all knowledge of the phone call, claiming to have been ill in bed with the flu. Steve is charged and put into prison.

As the play's narrative unfolds, the secrets and the truths behind them are slowly uncovered.

At the heart of **All My Sons** lie the underlying themes of criticism of The American Dream, moral and social responsibility, guilt and greed and the downfall of a tragic hero figure.

All My Sons first opened on Broadway at the Coronet Theatre, New York. It ran for 328 performances and starred Ed Begley, Beth Miller, Arthur Kennedy and Karl Malden. It was directed by Elia Kazan, to whom the play is dedicated. The play has twice been adapted for film, the first in 1948 and then again in 1987.

RAPTURE THEATRE

Rapture Theatre has been producing top quality touring theatre in Scotland for over 15 years and regularly attracts the best performers and artists.

Rapture's recent projects include John Byrne's **Uncle Varick**, a Scottish adaptation of Chekhov's **Uncle Vanya**, **The Collection**, a hard-hitting play set in a debt-collection agency, a sell-out production of **The Sash**, a British tour of the modern Scottish hit **Gagarin Way** and a contemporary production of **Hamlet** set in Glasgow.

CLICK HERE to listen to Artistic Director Micheal Emans talk about **All My Sons** and Rapture Theatre.



RAPTURE CONNECT

Rapture Connect is the creative learning department of Rapture Theatre. Rapture Connect understands that creativity and learning are mutually compatible.

The **Rapture Connect** team is headed by Dr Lyn McAndrew. Lyn has a strong academic background, having achieved an MA (Hons) in English Language and Literature, specialising in Drama, followed by a PhD at Edinburgh University and a PGCE in English and Drama at Strathclyde. Lyn's particular areas of interest lie in promoting literacy and effective communication skills in young people through their participation in theatrical activities, and in encouraging the development of social awareness, self-confidence and personal insight in people of all ages through theatre. Working alongside Dr McAndrew is Christina Cox, who has worked within Education for the past 20 years in various roles, including Cultural Co-ordinator (North Lanarkshire Council), Outreach Officer (Museum Resources for Social Integration, NLC) and also as an Arts and TEFL teacher in Barcelona, Spain. Christina has an MA European Fine Art, Winchester School of Art and a BA (Hons) Drawing & Painting from Edinburgh College of Art.

Rapture Connect Achievements: Since August 2010, Rapture has carried out major education projects on:

- **Challenging Sectarianism through Drama**
- **Developing literacy levels in Scotland**
- **Delivering creative writing workshops in Secondary Schools**
- **Providing help and support for those in debt**
- **Raising awareness of Mental Health Issues**

Rapture Connect has worked with the following partners:

Sense Over Sectarianism

Glasgow City Council

North Lanarkshire Council

The Scottish Government

Citizens Advice Bureau

Glasgow Association of Mental Health

[BOOK A WORKSHOP HERE](#)