



The University of Texas at Austin
Theatre and Dance
College of Fine Arts

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

PRESENTS

THE CRUCIBLE

THE TONY AWARD-WINNING MASTERPIECE

BY ARTHUR MILLER

NOVEMBER 8-19, 2017

AT THE OSCAR G. BROCKETT THEATRE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* directed by Michael Fry, November 8-19, 2017 at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre. Accusations of witchcraft turn neighbor against neighbor in 17th century Salem, Massachusetts. The malicious trials that follow reflect the mob psychology of a community paralyzed by terror, in which piety and righteousness are masks for malevolent greed and self-interest.

The Crucible was originally written as an allegory for 1950s McCarthyism and the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which accused thousands of Americans of being communists or communist sympathizers. The winner of the 1953 Tony Award® for Best

Play, *The Crucible* has been revived on Broadway five times and been adapted for film twice, including a 1996 version by Miller himself.

“Great plays never date, and one of the reasons for *The Crucible*’s regular production is because its principal theme (licensed anarchy, and the fear and preservation of self-interest) seems to always resonate,” Michael Fry, the production’s director, shares. “Margaret Atwood recently compared what Hillary Clinton experienced on the 2016 campaign trail to the vindictiveness of the Salem witch trials. Miller himself saw parallels with Bill Clinton’s targeting by Kenneth Starr during the 1998 impeachment, finding a manic and salacious reaction by the public to the details of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. It is not coincidental that *The Crucible* has often been performed in countries around the world during (or shortly after) times of frenzy and persecution.”

Director Michael Fry was born and is based in London, where is currently Deputy Director of East 15 Acting School at the University of Essex. He has worked as director and writer at theatres including, in the UK, the Liverpool Everyman, Nottingham Playhouse, Mercury Colchester, Watermill Newbury, Cambridge Theatre Company and for the Welsh National Opera and Glyndebourne. His work abroad includes Ireland, Italy, France, Romania, Estonia, South Africa, China and, frequently, the United States. His plays and adaptations have been performed in theatres throughout England, America and Australasia and are published by Methuen (*Emma*), Samuel French (*Tess of the d’Urbervilles* and *The Great Gatsby*) and Oberon (*The Trumpet Major*). He has written frequent articles, chapters and theatre criticism, mostly recently on Complicite for *British Theatre Companies 1980–1994* (Methuen, 2015). This fall he directed Libby Appel’s version of Chekhov’s *Three Sisters* for the Clarence Brown Theatre (Knoxville, Tennessee).

“Perhaps by revealing the nature of that procedure some light could be thrown on what we were doing to ourselves. And that’s how the play came to be.”

- Arthur Miller, on the evolution of *The Crucible*

“I think that *The Crucible* is one of the most important (and best) plays of the 20th century. Miller understands character and behavior with as much authority as Shakespeare or Chekhov,” Fry explains. “He is a significant dramatist because he recognizes that by inviting an audience to empathize with individuals he can represent more universal themes and issues.”

The production’s creative team includes Michael Fry (Director), Zoe Andersen (Scenic Designer), Laura Baggs (Dramaturg), Scott Bussey (Technical Director), Ben Campbell (Sound Designer), Aaron Kubacak (Costume Designer), Mercedes McCleary (Lighting Designer) and Jackie Perez (Stage Manager).

For more information on *The Crucible*, please visit JoinTheDrama.org

CALENDAR LISTING

November 8-19, 2017 – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *The Crucible* at Oscar G. Brockett Theatre (300 E. 23rd St.), located in the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. A map of the campus: theatredance.utexas.edu/about/location-directions-parking

Performance times are November 8 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview); November 9-10, 12, 14-18 at 7:30 p.m. and November 12, 18-19 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets for performances on November 9-19 (\$26 adult, \$21 UT faculty and staff, \$15 student) are on sale at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office and all Texas Box Office outlets, online JoinTheDrama.org, or by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO. Tickets for the preview performance on November 8 (\$10 adult, \$5 student) are available at the Bass Concert Hall Box Office and F. Loren Winship Building Box Office. Box Office locations and hours: theatredance.utexas.edu/ticketing

ABOUT TEXAS THEATRE AND DANCE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance is a world-class educational environment that serves as the ultimate creative incubator for the next generation of artists, thinkers and leaders in theatre and performance.

ALSO THIS SEASON

Anon(ymous)

By Naomi Iizuka

October 4-15, 2017

Dance Repertory Theatre presents

Fall For Dance

November 7-12, 2017

The Drowsy Chaperone

Music and Lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison

Book by Bob Martin and Don McKellar

December 6-10, 2017

ENRON

By Lucy Prebble

February 21-March 4, 2018

Fall for Dance presents

Transcendence

March 28-April 8, 2018

UTNT (UT New Theatre)

April 12-22, 2018

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