

"Arthur Miller at his most searching and provocative.

A play that makes you think." - The New York Times

The Hand to Mouth Players

Present

Incident at Vichy

By Arthur Miller

Directed by

Melinda O'Brien

performances: April 22, 23, 27, 29 and May 1

at the Trinity Boscobel United Methodist Church in
Buchanan.

In a detention room in Vichy in 1942, the Nazis have picked up several men for questioning. They wonder why they were chosen. Perhaps only their identity papers will be checked, but most of them are Jews or are suspected to be. The Nazi officer has been forced into this police assignment and he resents it. He has faced the glory of the battlefield and has been wounded in combat.

The prisoners, include a former French officer, who has thoughts of overpowering the guard, an Austrian nobleman who left Vienna in disgust after the Nazi occupation, and several other French citizens who are caught up by the frenzy of fear and rumor in occupied France. Who will be freed and who will be sent to a concentration camp?

Arthur Miller (1915-2005) was one of America's most celebrated and profound playwrights. He was born in Manhattan and attended the University of Michigan studying journalism. Miller returned to New York and worked as a freelance writer completing several radio plays, a draft of a movie script and stage plays. His first successful play on Broadway "All My Sons" (1947) received the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award. His most famous work, "Death of a Salesman" (1949) followed and received the Pulitzer Prize and within a short while, it had been translated into over a dozen languages. In response to the paranoia of post war America, Miller wrote "The Crucible" (1953) which led to his conviction before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. In 1964 after visiting the Mauthausen death camp and covering the Nazi trials in Frankfurt, Germany for the New York Herald Tribune, "After the Fall" and "*Incident at Vichy*" premiered.

"Arthur Miller has dedicated himself to the investigation of the moral plight of the white American working class. With a sense of realism and a strong ear for the American vernacular, Miller has created characters whose voices are an important part of the American landscape. His insight into the psychology of desperation and his ability to create stories that express the deepest meanings of struggle, have made him one of the most highly regarded and widely performed American playwrights." PBS American Masters

PLAYS BY ARTHUR MILLER: *After the Fall, All My Sons, The Archbishop's Ceiling/The American Clock, An Enemy of the People, Broken Glass, The Creation of the World and Other Business, The Crucible: A Play in Four Acts, The Crucible: Screenplay, Danger: Memory!: Two Plays: I Can't Remember Anything, Clara, Death of a Salesman: Certain Private Conversations in Two Acts and a Requiem, Elegy For a Lady, Everybody Wins: A Screenplay, Incident at Vichy, The Last Yankee: With a New Essay About Theatre Language, A Memory of Two Mondays, Mr. Peters' Connections, Playing for Time, The Price, The Ride Down Mt. Morgan, Some Kind of Love Story, A View from the Bridge*

Melinda O'Brien is among the Hudson Valley's most respected directors. She has a Bachelor of Arts from the Parsons School of Design and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Pace University. She has been active on stage and backstage for several theaters in Westchester and Putnam Counties. Melinda O'Brien's directorial credits include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Philadelphia, Here I Come* and *Lord Byron's Love Letter* and *Mr. Dickens Tells a Christmas Carol*. She has directed *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, You Imperfect Speakers, Blind Date, Third and Oak: the Laundromat, The Substitute Tooth Fairy* and *Art*, which was chosen to represent NY State at the Eastern States Theatre Festival in 2003, *Monkey See, Monkey Voodoo*, for which she received an award for Outstanding Production Values & Use of Space by the Theatre Association of NY State (TANYS) and *A View from the Bridge*, for which she won a Best Director Merit Award from TANYS. On stage, she originated the role of Dr. Kate

Rafferty in *The White Inferno*. Written by Cathy Gonick, "The White Inferno" was featured at the Philipstown Depot Theatre One Act Festival, the Schoolhouse Festival and for Samuel French Off-Off Broadway.

Melinda O'Brien's acting appearances also include Lee in *Marvin's Room*, Mrs. Chevely in *An Ideal Husband*, Lenny in *Crimes of the Heart*, Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Rose in *Dancing at Lughnasa* and the Angel in *Angels in America*. She and her husband, Michael J. Muldoon, have founded M&M Productions, a professional traveling theatre company that is presently touring Westchester and Rockland counties.

Hand to Mouth Players, has given over 35 years of continuous service. As a community theater group in Westchester County, New York it's goal is to entertain & involve the community, while offering affordable quality family entertainment to the greater Westchester County and Lower Hudson Valley region. HTM is an all-volunteer not-for-profit community theatre group.

The 2004 season included performances of The New York premier of James E. Ragan's *Life Goes On*, *Regards II* (a musical revue), the *13th Annual Playwright/Director's Workshop* and Neil Simon's *Dinner Party*.

HTM was honored to have its production *Double Date* by Albi Gorn (12th Annual Playwright's Director's Workshop) chosen for competition at the Eastern States Theater Association Festival in April 2004 where they won five awards.

Hand-to Mouth Players' Spring Production, *Incident at Vichy* continues a long tradition of excellence in theater which includes classic american plays such as *Steel Manolias* (2003), *Twelve Angry Men* (2002), *Arsenic & Old Lace* (2001), *Nuts* (2000), *Inherit The Wind*(1999) and many others.

**For information contact the director at
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