

# ARTHUR MILLER'S A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



## Education Mini-Pack

9 MARCH — 18 APRIL 2019

Southbank Theatre, the Sumner

### About the Play

Brooklyn dockworker Eddie Carbone and his wife Beatrice agree to take in two Sicilian relatives – illegal immigrants trying to find work. Hardworking Marco is sending money home to his wife and sick children. Rodolpho is chasing the American dream, but finds being different makes him an outsider. When Rodolpho falls for Eddie's niece Catherine, the protective uncle must confront his own feelings, and his jealous mistrust threatens to expose an unspeakable secret.

### About the Playwright

There are few names in American playwriting more powerful than Arthur Miller. He lived from 1915 to 2015, and was married to Marilyn Monroe for five years. Born to wealthy, Jewish manufacturers in New York City, Miller and his family moved to Brooklyn to avoid financial ruin in the Depression. Their upper Manhattan privileges ceased overnight, and Miller volunteered to sell bread before school to help his parents earn money. A young socialist was born. Upon completing college in Michigan, Miller turned down a lucrative writing contract with 20th Century Fox in favour of joining a small theatre troupe in New York. He wrote his four most celebrated plays in his thirties: *All My Sons* (1947), *Death of a Salesman* (1949), *The Crucible* (1953) and *A View from the Bridge* (1955, revised 1956). The success of these four works catapulted Miller into the lofty echelons of 20th century American playwriting, joining the ranks of Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill, Edward Albee and Thornton Wilder. Between them a new era of playwriting was born, as Americans were encouraged to look inward at the social furores that troubled them. Playwrights became spokespeople for social movements, and major theatres transitioned from being places of pure entertainment, to places where people left politicised and hungry for change. In 1956 – the same year Miller married Monroe and his play *A View from the Bridge* premiered in London – he was subpoenaed by the House of Un-American Activities Committee and found guilty of contempt of Congress. The conviction was overturned a year later, but the ordeal of the trial had an undeniable impact on his life and work.

### Cast

**Eddie** Steve Bastoni  
**Alfieri** Marco Chiappi  
**Rodolpho** Andrew Coshan  
**Beatrice** Daniela Farinacci  
**Louis/Mike/Ensemble** Simon Maiden  
**Catherine** Zoe Terakes  
**Marco** Damian Walshe-Howling

### Creative Team

**Director** Iain Sinclair  
**Set & Costume Designer** Christina Smith  
**Lighting Designer** Niklas Pajanti  
**Composer & Sound Designer** Kelly Ryall  
**Voice & Dialect Coach** Anna McCrossin-Owen  
**Fight Choreographer** Brad Flynn  
**Choreographer** Freya List  
**Stage Manager** Whitney McNamara  
**Assistant Stage Manager** Ben Cooper  
**Lighting Intern** Lachlan McLean  
**Sound Intern** Nathan Santamaria  
**Rehearsal Photography** Deryk McAlpin  
**Production Photography** Pia Johnson

### Genre

Classic American drama

### Running Time

Approx. 1hr 50min with no interval

### Attendance Information

Contains sexual references, violence, mature themes and haze effects. For detailed information, please visit [www.mtc.com.au/production-content-guide](http://www.mtc.com.au/production-content-guide)



Turn the page for activities, and discussions.

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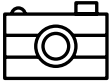
## Before the show



The play is set in the 1950s in Red Hook, a neighbourhood in Brooklyn, New York City. Research this place and what it was like at the time.

Download the show programme at [mtc.com.au/backstage](http://mtc.com.au/backstage) to read more about playwright Arthur Miller.

See photos of past Arthur Miller productions at MTC at [mtc.com.au/backstage](http://mtc.com.au/backstage). Discuss the set and costume designs and make predictions about this production of *A View from the Bridge*.



See the rehearsal gallery at [mtc.com.au/backstage](http://mtc.com.au/backstage) and make predictions about how the actors will utilise the space.



Hear actor Daniela Farinacci and director Iain Sinclair discuss the play at [YouTube.com/melbtheatreco](https://www.youtube.com/melbtheatreco). Iain likens Miller to Shakespeare, and Daniela talks about how her character, Beatrice, often observes rather than speaks. Discuss each of these comments, and make predictions about the play.

Watch the trailer for the play at [YouTube.com/melbtheatreco](https://www.youtube.com/melbtheatreco) and make predictions about the play's performance style, tone, and design.

## Post-show Activities



Discuss this moment in the play:

**EDDIE:** Just remember, kid, you can quicker get back a million dollars that was stole than a word that you gave away.

Who is Eddie speaking to, and what is he implying? How might this quote be an example of foreshadowing?

What contemporary and local issues does this production conjure in your mind? In what ways is this play relevant to 2019 Australia?

Why was Eddie so threatened by Rodolpho?



Look at the production photos at [mtc.com.au/backstage](http://mtc.com.au/backstage). Discuss how lighting was used in the play. Discuss the infinite darkness, the bright white light, and the mahogany red floor. Can you identify any symbolic meaning in these design choices?.



Recall the moment where Eddie and Marco try to lift up a chair. How does this moment create dramatic effect without dialogue? What other production areas were being manipulated in this scene?

Research the lyrics to Paper Doll by The Mills Brothers. Why might Miller have chosen to include this song in his play?

Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the Yalukit Willam Peoples of the Boon Wurrung, the First Peoples of Country on which Southbank Theatre and MTC HQ stand. We pay our respects to all of Melbourne's First Peoples, to their ancestors and Elders, and to our shared future.



@melbtheatreco #mtcViewFromTheBridge



MTC Education

MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne

