The Crucible
By Arthur Miller

Arthur Miller
- A native New Yorker, graduated from the University of Michigan in 1938.
- In May 1936, wrote his first play, No Villain, in six days during spring break. No Villain receives the Hopwood Award in Drama, a prestigious U-M writing award.
- In 1937, that play is produced in Ann Arbor and Detroit.
- Also in 1937, Miller receives a 2nd Hopwood Award.

Arthur Miller
- After graduation, Miller writes for radio and theater. His first Broadway play, All My Sons, opens in 1947.
- It wins New York Drama Critics Circle Award and launches Miller as an important American playwright.

Arthur Miller
- Death of a Salesman opens on Broadway in 1949, directed by Elia Kazan.
- It wins the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, the Pulitzer Prize, and the Tony Award, among numerous other honors.

Arthur Miller
- With many friends in Hollywood, Miller is called to testify before the U.S. House Un-American Activities Committee in 1956 about alleged Communist activities — his own as well as those of his friends and associates.
- He refuses to "name names" and is convicted of contempt of Congress in 1957.
- In 1958, U.S. Court of Appeals overturns his conviction.
Arthur Miller
- In part reacting to the “witch hunts” of the House Un-American Activities Committee long before he was called before it, he begins writing *The Crucible* in 1950.
- It opens on Broadway in 1953. It wins the Tony Award.

Arthur Miller
- In 1956, Arthur Miller divorces his wife and marries…
- Marilyn Monroe!

Arthur Miller
- Was a stormy marriage; ended in divorce 5 years later.
- Miller continues to write, produce plays on Broadway.
- *Death of a Salesman* enjoys numerous Broadway revivals.
- He dies in February 2005.
- The Arthur Miller Theater at U-M is the only theater that bears his name.

Salem Witch Trial Facts
- Occurred from January-November, 1692, in Salem, Massachusetts.
- Began when 2 young girls (ages 9 & 11) started acting strange (screaming fits, blasphemy, trance-like states). Pressured to identify the source of their affliction, they named 3 women as witches. Warrants were issued for their arrest and the hysteria began.

Salem Witch Trial Facts
- Eventually, 140 people were accused; and 43 people claimed to be “afflicted.”
- 19 people were hanged; one was pressed to death. Another 4-13 died in prison.
- Trials allowed “spectral evidence” – evidence offered as claims by the “afflicted” that the accused person’s spirit visited them in a dream or in their sleep while the accused person was actually elsewhere.
- In May 1693, the colonial governor pardoned all remaining accused.
- In 1703 the Massachusetts colonial legislature granted amnesty to all of the accused, convicted and executed.
The Crucible

- Written by Arthur Miller in 1952.
- Opened on Broadway in 1953 to critical acclaim, but not initially popular acclaim.
- Miller was called before the committee in 1956, refused to "name names," and was convicted of contempt of Congress in 1957. His conviction was overturned.

The Crucible

- Compelling people to falsely accuse others to save themselves or generally accusing people of "crimes" for which they cannot possibly prove their innocence has come to be known as a "witch hunt."
- It carries the stench of "prove your innocence" or you will be deemed guilty.