

THE PRICE

A PLAY BY

Arthur Miller

The Arion Press is proud to announce the publication of *The Price*, one of the finest plays by the American dramatist Arthur Miller. Written in 1967, it was revived on Broadway on November 15, 1999. Of the new production, *New York Times* drama critic Vincent Canby wrote: "It must now be apparent (as it wasn't to a number of critics when it first opened on Broadway in 1968), that *The Price* is one of the great Miller works. It ranks alongside *Death of a Salesman* and, in its sheer playwriting craft, it may even be the superior of that classic."

Thus *The Price* has joined the list of Miller works whose contemporary relevance was confirmed when they were revived in the late 1990s, including the already famous Broadway production of *Death of a Salesman* with Brian Dennehy and the film version of *The Crucible* with Daniel Day-Lewis. At the time of *The Price*'s 1968 opening, no one denied that it was masterfully written and constructed. "This is unquestionably one of Miller's two or three best plays," critic Clive Barnes wrote. "The phrase 'a well-made play' has become a dirty word in the world, but here Miller has produced a well-made play that in its undemanding and totally unpretentious way is truly entertaining." *The Price* may be Miller's funniest play, a virtue that has been acknowledged, with surprise, by critics including Brendan Gill, whose 1968 review called Miller, "a humorless man who is nevertheless pretty good at cracking jokes." In the character of the 89-year-old furniture dealer, Gregory Solomon, Miller gives us a towering comic character, a wise man who is part scoundrel and part saint.

Looking back recently, Miller explained his reasons for writing a play that takes place in 1968, but whose true subject is the Depression. "The 1960s was a time when a play with recognizable characters, a beginning, middle, and end was routinely condemned," he said in 1999 in "Why I Wrote *The Price*". "Indeed, the very idea of an operating continuity between past and present in any human behavior was *démodé*. Like the