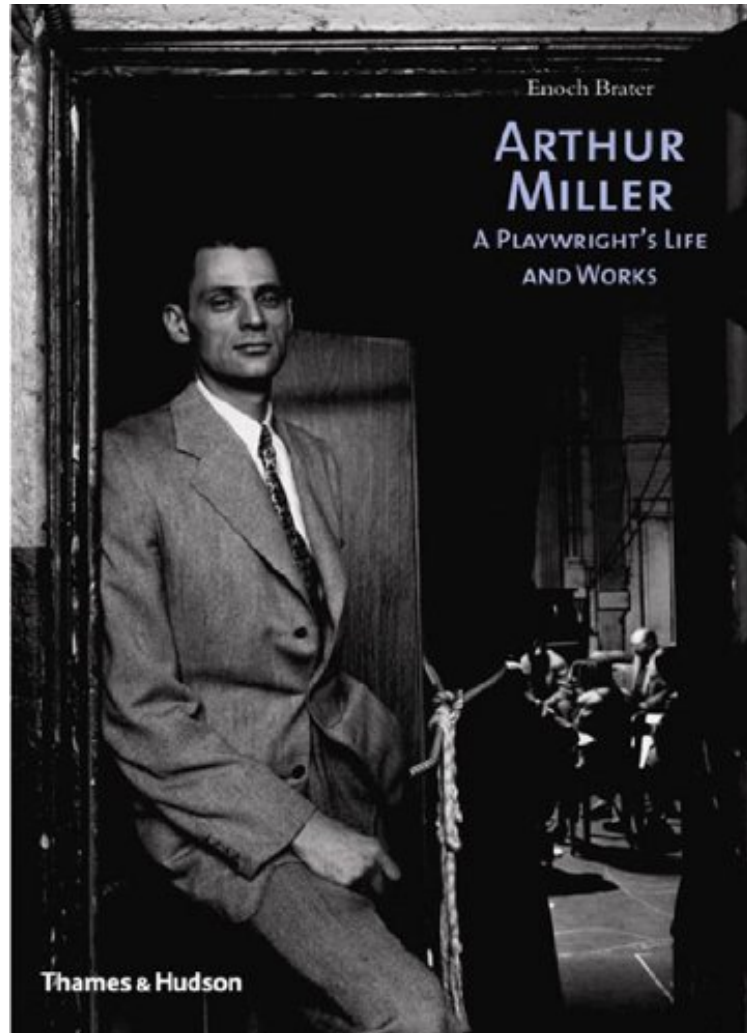


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Arthur Miller: A Playwright's Life and Works

Enoch Brater

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Enoch Brater : Arthur Miller: A Playwright's Life and Works before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arthur Miller: A Playwright's Life and Works:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Definitive Text for All Audiences By Richard A. Sax The premier Arthur Miller and Samuel Beckett scholar in the world (Enoch Brater of The University of Michigan) provides an excellent introduction to the work of Arthur Miller that will work for a variety of audiences from high schoolers writing an AP English paper to college undergraduates and even Theatre MFA students. Brater's prose is flawless and insightful without any of the academic jargon that often undermines scholarly writing. Brater has a passion for Miller's work but still is able to analyze it objectively and with the kind of contextualization that is necessary in order to appreciate the symphonic complexity of Miller's achievements.

An affectionate, understanding, and informed study of Miller's life and works, supported by a wide selection of personal and public photographs. Arthur Miller was one of the most highly regarded and widely performed playwrights of our time. With his probing and perceptive dramas, he succeeded in charting the landscape of the American psyche to create classics of modern theater that have found enthusiastic audiences all over the world. Enoch Brater's concise literary biography gives the general reader a welcome introduction to this most political and moral of writers, whose keen social conscience and insights into human nature made him a cornerstone of contemporary culture. Professor Brater follows Miller's career from his prize-winning student days at the University of Michigan, through the phenomenal success of his 1949 drama, *Death of a Salesman*, to his doomed marriage to the actress Marilyn Monroe, and beyond. Examining seminal works, including *All My Sons*, *The Crucible*, and *A View from the Bridge*, as well as commenting on Miller's journalism, fiction, screenplays, and acclaimed autobiography, Brater looks at how the writer, throughout his long career, achieved a fusion of family drama, political allegory, use of realism and expressionism, and themes of unrest and redemption, to stunning and often devastating effect. 122 illustrations.

From Publishers Weekly In the first biography of illustrious American playwright Arthur Miller since his death at age 89, University of Michigan theater professor Brater offers a concise study that, undivided by chapters and greatly enhanced by 70 black and white photographs, reads like a long encyclopedia entry. Taking an "and then he wrote" approach, Brater's study hits all the points of Miller's distinguished career from *Death of a Salesman* to *The Crucible* and the standard fare of his tumultuous personal life, including his marriage to Marilyn Monroe and testimony before McCarthy's HUAC committee. Due in part to its brevity, the book lacks the depth and interpretation of Martin Gottfried's recent Miller biography, but it offers far better stage production histories of Miller's many plays. Like his earlier work on novelist and playwright Samuel Beckett, Brater presents the facts of Miller's life and work for the general reader or student in need of a basic introduction to one of America's most renowned dramatist. Photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Enoch Brater is Professor of English and Theater at the University of Michigan. He has published numerous critical studies on modern and contemporary theater, including *The Essential Samuel Beckett*.