



Studio's 'Salesman' palpable, relatable

BY STEVE PARKS
steve.parks@newsday.com

Any American actor worth his dramatic salt wants to play Willy Loman at some point in his career. Was it prescient of Philip Seymour Hoffman to play him at such an early age — 44 — in 2012?

The brilliance of Arthur Miller's 1949 Pulitzer- and Tony-winning "Death of a Salesman" is that Willy Loman is someone we know, whether we've ever known a traveling salesman, much less had one for a father or husband. Any one who saw Hoffman in almost any role felt as if we knew that guy.

At BroadHollow's Studio Theatre, Scott Hofer, known recently for roles in cross-dressing farces, embodies a more age-appropriate Willy, washed up at age 62. As directed by Marian Waller, Hofer's Willy is as palpable and knowable as any I've encountered.

That includes Long Islander



W. Gordon Innes, left, Scott Hofer and Linda May in "Death of a Salesman" at Studio Theatre.

Brian Dennehy's fiercely angry Willy and Dustin Hoffman's defeated characterization, both on Broadway, and that of Jack Howell, a former salesman, at BroadHollow. At Studio, Howell plays Willy's neighbor and friend, Charley, with a cynical yet sympathetic tone. He gets Willy, like no one in his family — not even his wife, Linda, and especially not his sons.

Willy, haunted by the success of his older brother — a smug told-you-so as played by W. Gordon Innes — is weary of traveling. The sample cases he totes are loaded with the baggage of unfulfilled dreams, if not for himself, then for his firstborn, Biff, onetime football hero. Hap, the younger son, is chopped liver. And his wife has become the default refuge

whose solace no longer suffices. Hofer's Willy isn't so much angry at the world that's discarded him as he is delusional about Biff's prospects. His hopeful countenance deteriorates into an abysmal blank — convincingly evoking, perhaps, the onset of Alzheimer's. Retired, Willy might be OK. The mortgage is paid. But who can rest when your sons are bums?

WHAT "Death of a Salesman"
WHEN | WHERE Friday and Saturday nights at 8, Sunday at 2:30 p.m. through Nov. 15, BroadHollow's Studio Theatre, 141 S. Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst
TICKETS \$25 (advance discounts); 631-226-8400, broadhollow.org

BROADHOLLOW THEATRE COMPANY

Which brings us to Evan Donnellan as Biff. Indifference morphs into anguish on Biff's shoulders and Donnellan makes us feel the weight. We sweat tears for Biff and for Willy. Bryan Nee as the misnamed "Happy" is the bystander, unable to make his father care. Linda May as the torn mother and wife captures the agony of having to take sides among these men in her life. "Attention must be paid," she says without scorn — only compassion for her doomed husband. That's not a spoiler. The title is, after all, "Death of a Salesman."



GETTY IMAGES / MICHAEL LOCCISANO

moviebuzz

By Rafer Guzmán
rafer.guzman@newsday.com

MASTER OF 'DISASTER' | A 'Divergent' dimension

WHO James Franco
THE MOVIE "The Disaster Artist"

THE DEAL Screenwriters Scott Neustadter and Michael Weber, of "The Fault in Our Stars" and "(500) Days of Summer," are joining Franco's upcoming movie about one of history's strangest films. Franco will direct and play Tommy Wiseau, a flamboyant filmmaker whose 2003 indie film, "The Room," was so inept and incoherent that it became a cult hit, playing to sellout crowds around the country. Dave Franco will play Greg Sestero, the reluctant star of "The Room," whose behind-the-scenes book is the basis for "The Disaster Artist."

Franco's new film will be about a bad movie.



Shailene Woodley will be back — this time in 3-D.

SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT / JAAP BUITENDIJK

THE MOVIE "The Divergent Series: Insurgent"

THE DEAL Lionsgate's sequel to "Divergent," a young-adult adaptation that became a \$289 million hit this past spring, will be released in 3-D, according to Deadline.com. Shailene Woodley will return as Tris, a teenager rebelling against a dystopian regime, as will Theo James as her comrade-in-arms, Tobias "Four" Eaton. Ticket sales for 3-D movies have declined over the past four years, though viewers from 12 to 24 are the most likely to see a 3-D movie, according to the Motion Picture Association of America. "Insurgent" is due in theaters March 20.

THE MOVIE "Stations of the Elevated"

THE DEAL Manfred Kirchheimer's 16-mm footage of New York in the late 1970s — later edited into a 45-minute featurette with a jazz soundtrack — is considered to be the first filmed documentation of graffiti art. Rarely seen since a Manhattan premiere in 1981, the film enjoyed its first proper U.S. theatrical run earlier this month. Kirchheimer will personally bring his rediscovered gem to Long Island next week.
INFO Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Cinema Arts Centre, 423 Park Ave., Huntington. Tickets are \$15. 631-423-7611; cinemaartscentre.org

hottix



NEWSDAY / MICHAEL E. ACH

Chris Isaak is set to play The Paramount in Huntington.

WHO Chris Isaak
WHEN | WHERE Dec. 18, The Paramount, Huntington
INFO \$55-\$85; beginning at 10 a.m. tomorrow; 800-745-3000, ticketmaster.com

WHO One Direction
WHEN | WHERE Aug. 5, 2015, MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, N.J.
INFO \$39.50-\$99.50; beginning at noon Saturday; 800-745-3000, ticketmaster.com

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