

# Hoffman's 'Salesman': the lines are still the same

By JOAN HANAUER  
UPI TV Reporter  
NEW YORK (UPI) — It is hard to believe that barely a line has changed in "Death of a Salesman."

The new television version of Arthur Miller's 1949 Pulitzer Prize winning tragedy seems very different than the remembered original, but a rereading of the play shows the CBS version — to air Sept. 15, 8-11 p.m. Eastern time — is just about line-for-line faithful to Miller's manuscript.

The big difference is the passage of years and the vast gulf between the Willy Loman created by Lee J. Cobb and the defeated salesman recreated by Hoffman, first for a Broadway revival and now for the small screen.

The opening scene is the same. Enter Willy Loman, wearily dropping two heavy sample cases on the floor of his Brooklyn home, the house where he and his wife brought up their two sons and watched themselves being crowded in by apartment buildings, the elm trees they lov-

ed chopped down in the name of progress.

Something similar is happening to Loman. Lee Cobb's Loman was a big man who was cut down by age, disillusion and a lifetime of pursuing a false vision of success. Hoffman's Willy, like Hoffman himself, was never very big.

While the 1949 Willy Loman was betrayed by a false dream, Hoffman's Loman is a man betrayed as much by his life-long habit of self-deception as by the cruelty of outside economic factors.

Hoffman as Loman seems to

shrug and gesture with a slightly Jewish inflection, and he shuffles around like a man much older than his 42 years, particularly in the early scenes.

But as the power of Hoffman's performance builds, these distractions fade into insignificance.

When the Miller play opened on Broadway and took the critics by storm, Loman was considered by some a poor man's King Lear, a truly tragic if not regal common man contending with ungrateful sons instead of daughters. Hoffman's Loman is sadly disappointed in his sons, but his major despair stems from his own failure and his exhausting battle to hide his mediocrity from himself.

Hoffman mumbles, shouts, shuffles and contends with the ghosts of his past, all dramatizing the conflict between the man he wants to be — well-liked, funny, successful and, pathetically, tall — and the man he fears he is,

not liked, laughed at, passed by, a failure.

He is supported by a fine cast, with John Malkovich as sensitive Biff, destroyed by his father's hypocrisy but trying to find the truth about himself and trying to make his father face his own reality.

Stephen Lang plays Biff's younger brother, Happy, a philandering scoundrel who will follow in his father's self-deceiving footsteps. Kate Reid is a paragon of self-sacrifice as the loving desperate wife on whom Willy practices little cruelties when he is up and depends upon for mothering when he is down. Charles Durning is Loman's long-suffering neighbor and friend-enemy.

"Death of a Salesman" was made into a 1951 movie starring Fredric March, and an abbreviated version of the play starring Lee J. Cobb also appeared on television, but it is wonderful to have a faithful and fascinating performance of an American theater classic put on the record.

"Death of a Salesman" proves that American television can bring American classics to the screen with the same artistry that British television devotes to the shows it sells to PBS.



Hoffman as Loman



## Cosby, Blake shows top Nielsens

NEW YORK (UPI) — Things were looking good for NBC last week — the network was in first place in the prime time ratings. "The Cosby Show" was the most-watched show and a rerun of Robert Blake's "Hell Town" pilot was in the top ten.

The top 10 prime time shows for the week ending Sept. 8 according to the A.C. Nielsen Co., were:

1. The Bill Cosby Show (NBC)
2. Family Ties (NBC)
3. "Stripes," ABC Sunday Night Movie

4. Cheers (NBC)
5. (tie) Murder, She Wrote (CBS)
6. "The Gambler — The Adventure Continues" part I (CBS)
7. Moonlighting (ABC)
8. "Hell Town" (NBC)
9. Night Court (NBC)
10. 60 Minutes (CBS)

## Television schedule

**THURSDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 12, 1985  
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**EVENING**

6:00 ●●●●● NEWS  
● HART TO HART  
● FRYBATE REJAMIN  
● MACGEEB / LEHNER NEWSHOUR  
● STATIONARY ANK  
● IN OUT OF CONTROL  
● CARTOON  
● C: \$16.00 NAME THAT TUNE  
● FISHBY HOLE  
● MOVIE ●●● "Educating Rita" (1983) Michael Caine, Julie Walters. A working-class English girl decides to better herself by going to college, where she charms an aesthetic, academic professor into picking up the pieces of his writing career. PG-13

(LIFE) RICHARD SIMMONS (MTV) VIDEO JOCKEYS  
6:30 ●●● NEWS  
● CBS NEWS  
● BUSINESS REPORT  
● NICK ROCKE: VIDEO TO GO  
● MASTER HAROLD... AND THE BOYS  
● ANHO FIGARD's play about the turning point in the friendship between a young man and his black servant in South Africa. Matthew Broderick stars as Harly, and Zakes Mokae re-creates his Broadway role as Sam.  
● CAROL BURNETT AND FRIENDS  
● HORSE RACING WEEKLY  
(LIFE) IT FIGURES  
7:00 ●●● NEWS  
● WHEEL OF FORTUNE  
● FIVE DAYS WIDE  
● A-TEAM  
● \$100,000 PYRAMID  
● JETTERSONS  
● ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT  
● BARNEY MILLER

● BUSINESS REPORT  
● MAONEL / LEHNER NEWSHOUR  
● YOU CAN'T DO THAT ON TELEVISION  
The kids test the strategies of supply and demand and other marketing ploys.  
● RADIO 1980  
● INSIDE THE NFL Hosts: Len Dawson, Nick Buoniconti.  
● COURTSHIP OF EDDIE'S FATHER  
● SPORTSCENTER  
(LIFE) WORKING MOTHER  
7:30 ●●● NEWS  
● PRICE IS RIGHT  
● M\*A\*S\*H  
● BASEBALL Montreal Expos at Philadelphia Phillies.  
● BENNY HILL  
● INDEPENDENT NEWS  
● THRILL OF A LIFETIME  
● GUNFIGHTER CHRONICLES  
● DANGEROUS HOUSE  
● DRAGNET  
● PLEASE DON'T EAT THE DAISIES  
● NEWS  
(LIFE) MOTHER'S DAY  
8:00 ●●● NEWS  
● COBBY SHOW  
● NEWS  
● BASEBALL Toronto Blue Jays at New York Yankees  
● NFL FOOTBALL Los Angeles Raiders at Kansas City Chiefs  
● BLESS ME FATHER  
● LIFELINE  
● NEWS  
● THE BIKO INQUEST Albert Finney stars in this dramatization of the controversy surrounding black anti-apartheid leader Stephen Biko's death in 1977 while he was in the custody of South African police.  
● MOVIE ●●● "The Swap" (1989) Robert De Niro, Jennifer Warren. The arrival of a beautiful blonde upsets the formerly stable working relationships of a group of filmmakers producing a political documentary.  
● MOVIE ●●● "Body Rock" (1984) Lorenzo Lamas, Vicky Frederick. An aspiring breakdancer has to make a choice between his devoted girlfriend and a socialite who's willing to stake his career. PG-13

● WACKIEST SHIP IN THE ARMY  
● MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S GREAT-EST HITS  
● MOVIE ●●● "The Executioner's Song" (1982) Tommy Lee Jones, Rosanna Arquette. Norman Mailer's adaptation of his own book about the life of convicted murderer Gary Gilmore and his fight for execution, ultimately carried out in Utah in 1977.  
(LIFE) HOT PROPERTIES WITH RICHARD BAKER  
8:30 ●●● SATURDAY MORNING CARTOON  
● "Back to Next Saturday" Keesha Knight. Fulham of "The Cosby Show" gets an assist. Fulham of "The Cosby Show" gets an assist.  
● "Punky Brewster" and "The Adventures of the Gummi Bears"  
9:00 ●●● MOVIE ●●● "The Villain" (1979) Kirk Douglas, Ann-Margret. Lovely Charming Jones hires a heroic gunslinger, the "Handsome Stranger," to protect her from the wild attacks of Cactus Jack, the most incompetent outlaw in the West.  
● MOVIE ●●● "The Terry Fox Story" (1983) Furguson. A former British consul, the true story of a young athlete who, despite having lost a leg to the disease, runs a "Marathon of Hope" across Canada in a successful bid to raise money for cancer research. (R)  
● MYSTERY! AND ALL THAT JAZZ II  
Among the performers and their selections are Della Reese ("Misty"), Billy Taylor (a movement from "Cote D'Ivoire") and Maynard Ferguson ("Seven Miles from Jude"). Taped in 1982 in Jacksonville, Fla.  
● C 700 CLUB  
● AUTO RACING World Endurance Spa 1000 Miles  
(LIFE) REGIS PHILBIN'S LIFESTYLES (MTV) VIDEO JOCKEYS  
9:30 ●●● CHEERS  
9:45 ●●● FAMILY BROADWAY ON SHOWTIME  
10:00 ●●● HOMETOWN  
● HILL STREET BLUES  
● NATION'S JOURNAL  
● CAPITOL JOURNAL  
● MY HEART, YOUR HEART Newsman Jim Lehrer recalls his 1983 heart attack, surgery and rehabilitation. In his report on heart disease, including an update on recent improvements in diagnosis and treatment. (R)  
● MONEYMOONERS: THE LOST EPISODES  
● GANGETER CHRONICLES  
● MOVIE ●●● "The Blue Lagoon" (1980) Brooke Shields, Christopher Atkins. Two castaway children grow to adolescence on a remote South Pacific island and experience a range of first love. (R)  
● AUTO RACING CART Moleton Indy Race from St. Pie. Que (R)  
(LIFE) GOOD SEX WITH DR. RUTH WILKINSON  
10:30 ●●● INDEPENDENT NEWS  
● DORIS CHASE: PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST A survey of the 30-year career of the

painter, sculptor, designer and video artist. C TO BE ANNOUNCED  
● MOVIE ●●● "The Wild Life" (1984) Christopher Penn, Eric Stoltz. With the start of school just around the corner, a group of teen-agers spends the last week of summer in all out hedonistic revelry. (R)  
11:00 ●●● NEWS  
● ODD COUPLE  
● QTV NATIONAL NEWS  
● MOVIE ●●● "Chryseide Autumn" (1964) James Stewart, Richard Widmark. Directed by John Ford. The dramatic exodus of Cheyenne Indians extends from an Oklahoma reservation to their homelands in Wyoming.  
● TWILIGHT ZONE  
● MOVIE ●●● "Once Upon A Time in America" (1984) Robert De Niro, James Woods. Sergio Leone's portrait of the friendships, loyalties and betrayals of a small group of Jewish gangsters in the 1920s and '30s. (R)  
● GONG SHOW  
● MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E.  
● MOVIE ●●● "The Word" (Part 1 of 2) (1978) David Janssen, James Whitmore. A public relations executive encounters treachery and murder while investigating the authenticity of a newly discovered Gospel.  
11:20 ●●● NEWS  
11:25 ●●● JUST FOR LAUGHS A potpourri of stand-up comedians from Europe, Canada and the U.S., including a performance of "We Are the World" by Franch-Canadian comedienne Philippine Gagnon.  
11:30 ●●● COLUMBUS  
● TONIGHT  
● OFF TRACK BETTING  
● ABC NEWS NIGHTLINE  
● LATER WITH AMERICA  
● MAKE ME LAUGH  
● NEWS  
11:50 ●●● MOVIE ●●● "Under the Volcano" (1984) Albert Finney, Jacqueline Bisset. Director John Huston's adaptation of Malcolm Lowry's novel. A former British consul, tormented by alcoholism and his past, struggles ineffectually to reverse his self-destructive behavior. (R)  
12:00 ●●● HAWAII FIVE-O  
● TWILIGHT ZONE  
● MOVIE ●●● "Holocaust 2000"

## Your horoscope

By FRANCES DRAKE  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1985

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) — At last a work project begins moving. Though you meet with affection, there are still some problems to face in romance.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 to May 20) — You may be disappointed in a loved one's reactions regarding a home improvement project. Some entertain on a grand scale tonight.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) — Now you're willing to face the problems you've been avoiding. Cheerfulness is the keynote that brings you success today.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) — Mixed trends affect your financial picture today. You may receive a gift as well as notice that a bill has to be paid.

**LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22) — Your efforts to spruce up appearance will not go unnoticed. Still, you were hoping for a more positive response from a loved one.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) — You're able to handle those little things now. Privacy abets romance, though nighttime finds you overly introspective.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) — People like you just the way you are and you needn't try to keep up with the Jones' today. Throw off a money concern.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) — You could be a bit hard on yourself now. Don't

let self-consciousness keep you from accepting an invitation. Participate!

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) — Though some pleasant news comes from afar, there are some regrets. Dwell on the positive and put the negative in a proper perspective.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) — A person to whom you're attracted may be somewhat shy. Realize that Rome wasn't built in a day. Take things as they come.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) — Though rapport is wonderful with a close tie now, a career responsibility may put a damper on some of your social plans.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) — It's on the job where you may meet with romantic attraction today. A backlog of work, though, also needs your attention.

**YOU BORN TODAY** are creative and imaginative. You have a flair for self-expression and will succeed in such fields as advertising, journalism, law and theater. You have a tendency to scatter your energies or to drop things before they are completed. Do not let your versatility work against you. Work for public benefit to make the most of your potential. You may be especially talented in art and also have leadership abilities. Birthday of: Alfred A. Knopf, publisher; Maurice Chevalier, actor; and H.L. Mencken, journalist.

**STRAND THEATRE**  
A NEW COMEDY STARRING MICHAEL J. FOX  
*Lean On Me*  
Nights 7:00 & 9:30

**PRIZZI'S HONOR**  
6:45  
9:40

**PLATTSBURGH CINEMA 142**  
STEVEN SPIELBERG Presents  
*TO FUTURE*  
6:45  
9:15

7:00  
9:30  
**PEE-WEE'S BIG ADVENTURE**  
SKEWBAULT  
VIDEO CINEMA  
**GORILLA**  
6:45 9:30

**SUPER 87**  
Rte. 22 Northway Exit 34b  
"WHAT A MOVIE!  
THE ACTION  
IS NON-STOP."  
**STALLONE**  
**RAMBO**  
FIRST BLOOD PART II  
Bronson's never hotter! *Men Do*  
RAMBO'S ALIVE IN '85

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Save This Calendar Find Out Why In October

**NITE LIFE**  
Holiday Inn  
Route 3, Plattsburgh  
NITE LIFE HOTLINE  
561-1288  
September 1985

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sun.
1 SLUSHY SUNDAY	2 MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL!	3 BUSINESS MAN'S NIGHT	4 Ceronimo Surrenders COLLEGE I.D. DOCTOR IT UP!	5 ULTIMATE LADIES' NIGHT	6 SNAKE EYES!	7 LUCKY
8 SLUSHY SUNDAY	9 REQUEST NIGHT!	10 BUSINESS MAN'S NIGHT	11 Beatles First Concert DOCTOR IT UP!	12 ULTIMATE LADIES' NIGHT	13 BACK TO SCHOOL!	14 BALLOON DROP!
15 SLUSHY SUNDAY	16 TRIVIA FOR NITE LIFE MONEY!	17 SOG LIP SYNC!	18 Air Force Independent DOCTOR IT UP!	19 MICKEY'S DEBUT!	20 MAD MATTERS!	21 DANCE CONTEST!
22 SLUSHY SUNDAY	23 GRAB A HEINY! 8-10pm \$2.00	24 FASHION SHOW! 4-6 30pm Sponsored By Intimate Touch	25 DOCTOR IT UP!	26 BALLOON DROP!	27 TOGA PARTY!	28 FULL MOON!
29 SLUSHY SUNDAY	30 MYSTERY MONDAY!					

**DIONNE WARWICK**

**AREA CABLE CONVERSION CHART**

	WCAX Ch 3 CBS	WPXZ Ch 5 NBC	WEPZ Ch 22 ABC	WNYW Ch 7 (Black) Wey. Ind.	WPIX N.Y.C. Ind.	WETL Ch 23 ETV	WCPE Ch 57 P.Borg. ETV
Plattsburgh	2	4	8	—	11	13	7
PAF	2	4	8	—	11	13	7
Keseeville	2	4	8	—	11	13	7
Ticonderoga	3	5	4	—	—	7	—
Saranac Lake	3	5	4	7	2	—	13
Lake Placid	3	5	4	—	11	—	10
Morrisville	2	4	8	—	11	13	7
Schuyler Falls	2	4	8	—	11	13	7
Peru	2	4	8	—	11	13	7
Chateaugay	3	5	4	—	—	—	8

N—Not shown  
 S—Showtime  
 U—USA Network  
 H—Home Box Office  
 C—Cablecast Network

A—Appalachian Network  
 E—Entertainment and Sports Program Network  
 M—The Movie Channel  
 BT—Black Television