

Edward Albee The American Dream Full Script

Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,7, University of Kassel, course: 20th Century British and American Drama, language: English, abstract: Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" has become one of the major works in American dramatic history (Roundane 42) and a huge career boost for Albee himself. This is not surprising as this masterpiece is considered to be revolutionary and ambitious as well as scandalous and highly controversial at the same time. The play, which has been discussed so passionately, "gives us four almost unrelievably nasty people who for something like three-and-a-half hours [...] take part in a drunken orgy of backbiting, bitchery, humiliation, verbal castration, exposure and physical mauling" (Hilfer 121). Not only wanting to entertain the audience but also including social criticism, Albee makes use of essential themes which help to make people understand their situation and to make them realize the necessity to act in order to modify society. In the course of this paper, I am going to attempt to illustrate the importance of the American Dream and to establish a connection to the topic of truth and illusion which can be understood as the basis of Albee's concept. To start with, I will exemplify different aspects of the American Dream and point out selected features of the characters that can be linked to the American Dream. In order to appreciate most of the professional criticism, it is of the utmost importance to look at the issue of truth and illusion that is predominant in many parts of the play. Examining the subject matter of illusion, I will concentrate on the imaginary son as well as the relationship between the guests Nick and Honey. In a last step, I am going to explain the issue of truth in the play by examining the killing of the imaginary son and the confession of Nick and his wife. Examining selected scenes, I will try to clarify the aspects Albee criticizes and explain the

Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject American Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: 1,3, University of Duisburg-Essen, course: Proseminar: An Introduction to American Civilization, 9 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: "We were brought up to succeed, weren't we?" (Arthur Miller "The Price," 109). Is this true? Were we really brought up only to succeed in order to achieve material plenty and is this what the American Dream is all about: Success as the reason for living? In my research paper I will try to find an answer to these questions by looking at the origin of the concept of the American Dream, the critical interpretation of the American Dream referring to its change of values. Furthermore, I am going to discuss the influence of the American Dream on popular imagination and, as a conclusion, I will briefly state the effect it has on political rhetoric. So, the main purpose of my paper is to show that the notion of the American Dream has not always been identified with materialism but with success primarily as a God given task intended for self-salvation. Therefore, I will point out how this aspect of a success in religious and moral terms changed into an aspect of material success only. Further, I will show, according to this change that the aspect of material success promotes selfish individuals instead of a "Great Society" in which the American Dream is realized in the community since there is "nothing whatever in a fortune merely in itself" (Adams "The Epic of America," 416). While the American Dream stands on the one hand for a land of opportunity where everyone is given the chance of attaining something according to

one's ability, the American Dream stands on the other hand for a struggle to succeed without much social or emotional support that eventually turns into an American nightmare.

A Study Guide for Edward Albee's "American Dream," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Drama For Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Drama For Students for all of your research needs.

Outdoor reception -- 5-course dinner with wine pairings -- Silent Auction -- Live music from The Big Band Sound.

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The American Dream And, The Zoo Story : Two Plays Plume Books Truth, Illusion and the American Dream in Edward Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf GRIN Verlag Arena Stage presents, Edward Albee's "The American Dream," and "What Shall We Tell Caroline?" by John Mortimer, directed by Alan Schneider.

Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject American Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: 1 (A), Justus-Liebig-University Giessen (Anglistics), course: Radical Theater: American Plays and American Culture of the 1960s, language: English, abstract: All three plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream are Edward Albee's early plays in which he points out the deplorable state of the American society. Albee's way of writing is provocative because his ultimate goal is to shock his audience. At the same time he wants to amuse the viewers with dialogues that are governed by sarcasm and irony. He writes in the preface of the play The American Dream: "Is the play offensive? I certainly hope so; it was my

intention to offend- as well as amuse and entertain.” (p.14) Thus his plays manages to confront the audience with the harsh reality of life and the problems of modern society. In *The Zoo Story* a clash of two different representatives of the modern American society takes place and ends up in an accidental manslaughter. In *The Death of Bessie Smith* the audience faces a society ruled by hatred, racism and frustration. The third play which is going to be examined closely in this paper is *The American Dream*, a sad portrait of an American family craving for something to replace the emptiness they find themselves in. This paper will examine the social criticism in these three plays which were written between 1958 and 1960 in order to find common topics and critical issues which were present at that particular time, and are still relevant today. The topics that are going to be analyzed are the outcasts of the society and their treatment by the members of the establishment, the lack of communication and growing violence as a result of it and finally the artificial values of the modern society and the constantly present hypocrisy and double standard. As Edward Albee sums it up: The play [*The American Dream*] is an examination of the American scene, an attack on the substitution of artificial for real values in our society, a condemnation of complacency, it is a stand against the fiction that everything in this slipping land of ours is peachy-keen. (p. 13-14)

Provides an examination of the American dream in classic literary works.

Bachelor Thesis from the year 2008 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,7, Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald (Department of English and American Studies), language: English, abstract: Every year thousands of people from all over the world migrate to the United States of America. For most people escaping war, poverty, ecological destruction and other dangers, the United States constitute a safe harbor where their hopes of a better life come true. Ever since the settling of what is today the US, people came to live in the New World and to lead a better life than in their countries of origin. The hopes connected with this better and happier live are all joined in the concept of the "American Dream," which became one of most powerful creation myths of a country. People migrating to the United States have certain dreams or hopes of a better life but in reality these promises often turn out to be not as strong as people originally believed them to be. Only a very small amount of people achieve the famous idea of "rising from rags to riches" whereas many people fail to attain their goal of a better life. Hence it is not surprising that the American culture not only is shaped by the glorious American Dream but also by the grim truth of its failing or being flunked. Of course, such an important concept deeply influences American culture. Continuously the ideas of the American Dream can be found in television, movies, literature, and arts for instance in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* or Gabriele Muccino's film *The Pursuit of Happiness*. This paper aims to examine the presentment and importance of the American Dream for twentieth century American drama. Drama in general was selected because of its importance as one of the three main literary genres. Temporal narrowing in form of 20th century was chosen because drama as a literary genre is characterized by experimentation with form and content in this period. Furthermore, some of the be

These three plays tackle major themes such as race relations, American family life, and the essence of theater itself -- each of which still continue to resonate. Representing the bold and exciting periods in the then young career of widely considered America's most popular and imaginative playwrights, this edition is a must-have for theater lovers.

THE STORIES: THE AMERICAN DREAM. Mommy and Daddy sit in a barren living room making small talk. Mommy, the domineering wife, is grappling with the thought of putting Grandma in a nursing home. Daddy, the long-suffering husband, could not care less.

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