

Furthermore, he advises Biff and Happy: 'be liked and you will never want' (33). In light of this idealistic advice, both sons struggle to mature any sort of discipline, and end up failing to do well in any job they attempt.

- Willy's profession means that he must develop a personality that is at odds with his true self.

Robert Corrigan argues that Miller's 'sympathies are for the most part directed toward those ordinary little men who never discovered who they really were' (Robert Corrigan, 2000). Willy's troubles stem from the split between his public and private self - who he really is and who his job forces him to be.

The Salesman profession demands a behaviour that is unnatural, artificial and performative. The tension between the public and private self is dissipated, and Willy transposes his salesman techniques into conversation with his family. Trying to make a living as a salesman, Willy finds that he 'must develop a personality that is at odds with his true self' (Arthur Miller, 1984). He is constantly 'riding on a smile', regardless of what mood he is in, and he must split himself in two between his job and who he actually is. - His life is a falsehood (Christopher Bigsby, 2005)

- **LDJ:** The American Dream and its corruptive qualities

Tyrone is a practitioner of the "American Dream", and this is perhaps his greatest flaw. O'Neill, like Miller, tried to depict that the American Dream, the pursuit of capital gain, was merely an unrealistic manifestation of the capitalist state. And Tyrone's decision to give up the chance of becoming a great Shakespearean actor in order to instead take a profitable but artistically unrewarding part in a popular melodrama shows how American values have ultimately been corrupted by the materialistic pursuit of capital gain. Society damaged Tyrone psychologically through the myth of "The American Dream", and he in turn damaged his family by extending and even magnifying those same values onto the more insular stage of family life.

Tyrone measures all human relations based on the notion of "productiveness" or "use value". In the capitalist society, everything must be sacrificed for money: in this case, happiness, and the well-being of the ill Edmund. Tyrone's soul is destroyed by possessiveness and greed. Therefore, in a similar sense to Willy Loman, Tyrone is torn between two choices: saving his family, or saving his money, and he is unable to do both.

Both are men with grand ambition, and an over-blown sense of self-worth, who poison those around them with their deceptions and expectations. Both have been married forever, though are frequently out on the road (both, one could argue, selling themselves while out there). Both love their wives, but are over-dependent on them for admiration to feed their fragile egos, and they sadly neglect them. Both ride their sons unfairly, demanding they emulate their own success (which is less than they will admit), and even while they love them, too, ultimately estrange them.