Meadow Brook creates warm characters



Lead role of Joe Keller is played with vigor by William LeMassena, in Meadow Brook's "All My Sons" by Arthur Miller.

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special writer

William Le Massena is a marvel as the backlapping, jovial father in the Meadow Brook production of Arthur Miller's tragedy "All My Sons."
Director Cateles Nolle brings out superby the humor and humanity of Miller's characters.
Even the folks who live next door are intriguing
as they make us laugh at the mundane foolishness,
and jealousies that make up their lives. Steven Anders. Jayne Houdyshell, Bethany Carpenter and J.
Nathan Prench are apity cast as the neighbors.
As Joe Keller, Lo Massena displays small-town
geniality so infectious that he could have been a
salesman rather than a factory owner — which, of
course, brings to mind Willy Loman in Miller's
classic American play "Death of a Salesman."
Miller was one of the lirst to create a trage hero
who was an ordinary man, not a great king as in
classic tradition. Both Joe Keller and Wille Loman
are average, middle-class American bustnessmen
confronted with moral questions of tragic dimersions.

IN MANY WAYS "All My Soos" is a warm-up for

contronted with moral questions of tragic dimen-sions.

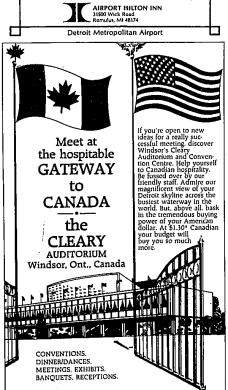
IN MANY WAYS "All My Soos" is a warm-up for 'Death of a Salesman," the play Miller wrote after 'Sons. 'Characters and themes are certainly first counts. Both deal with a family of father, mother that the state of the state of the state of the state the misplaced values of American business.

"Salesman" went on to become an all-time clas-sic in American theater, yet "All My Soos" is sel-dorn revived, probably because Miller's genius for showing us the flaws in our values is more heavy-handed in this earlier work.

Keller is a factory owner accused with his part-







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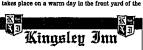
ner of selling cracked cylinder heads to the govern-ment during wartime. Twenty-one pilots died when the faulty heads caused their planes to crash. Keller was sentenced to jail and later exonerated for the crime.

for the crime.

His son Chris, the young idealist who came home to work for his father after the war ended, needs to believe in his father's innocence. Peter Gregory Townsend is convincing as the serious young man ruying to re-create a life for himself after the disruption of war.

He has invited a former neighbor, Ann, to visit because he wants to marry her. Linda Gehringer plays a fine, sensible Ann, the daughter of Joe's former partner who is still in jail for the cylinder-head crime.

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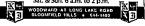


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Miller was one of the first to create a tragic hero who was an ordinary man, not a great king as in classic

KEIGH home. The grass looks freshly mowed, the screen door has fly specks and the wicker lawn furniture has seen many summers.

It's a wonderful set of the neighbor's home, to which Ann comes with marriage on her mind. She's to the only one to come back to the old neighborhood. Her brother George returns with vengeance on his mind after visiting their father in prison. George is played by Philip Locker, who is a fine actor but is micast in the part.

Rather than looking like Ann's hig brother, a small-town kid who grew up to be a lawyer, he looks more like a tough, seasoned gangater. It's a minor flaw in his otherwise rewarding production. Meadow Brook's 'All My Sons' successfully wresties with the secrets and guilts that lurk beneath the veneer in this hometown, all-American family.





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