



Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream

By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney

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 manage 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)

 [Download Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Pl ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical ...pdf](#)

Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream

By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney

Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney

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 manage 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)

Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2565040 in eBooks
- Published on: 2004-07-30
- Released on: 2004-07-30
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Pl ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney

Editorial Review

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alyson Hardy:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the book untitled Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream can be good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Tony Caldwell:

Often the book Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was written by the very famous author. The writer makes some research prior to write this book. This specific book very easy to read you may get the point easily after looking over this book.

Raul Warren:

Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream can be one of your nice books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to put every word into joy arrangement in writing Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream nevertheless doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand new stage of crucial imagining.

Henry Hedrick:

In this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you are related is just spending your time very little but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of the books in the top listing in your reading list is actually Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo

Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking way up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

Download and Read Online Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney #N49F3CP71J2

Read Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney for online ebook

Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney books to read online.

Online Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney ebook PDF download

Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney Doc

Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney MobiPocket

Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney EPub

N49F3CP71J2: Social Criticism in Edward Albee's Radical Plays The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith and The American Dream By Dusica Marinkovic-Penney