



## Killer Joe

By Tracy Letts

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### Killer Joe By Tracy Letts

"One of the best American plays of the past quarter century." - Terry Teachout, *Wall Street Journal*

"An immensely entertaining pop artifact. Written with neon-lit flamboyance." - Vincent Canby, *New York Times*

"A brilliant play. A major theatrical event." - Michael Billington, *Guardian*

"A visceral theatre experience of the highest order. For those who like their theatre strong, not tepid, it's immensely gratifying." –*Backstage*

The Smith family hatch a plan to murder their estranged matriarch for her insurance money and hire Killer Joe Cooper, a police detective and part-time contract killer, to do the job. Once he enters the trailer, their simple plan spirals out of control. Letts's unforgettable first play is "a tense, gut-twisting thriller ride" and has been performed in fifteen countries in twelve languages (*Chicago Tribune*). The film adaptation, released in 2011 and starring Matthew McConaghey, is "written with merciless black humor...one hell of a movie" (Roger Ebert).

**Tracy Letts** was awarded the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play for *August: Osage County*, which premiered at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in 2007 before playing Broadway, London's National Theatre, and a forty-week US tour. Other plays include Pulitzer Prize finalist *Man from Nebraska*; *Killer Joe*, which was adapted into a critically acclaimed film; and *Bug*, which has played in New York, Chicago, and London and was adapted into a film. Letts is an ensemble member of Steppenwolf Theatre Company and garnered a Tony Award for his performance in the Broadway revival of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

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"An immensely entertaining pop artifact. Written with neon-lit flamboyance." - Vincent Canby, *New York Times*

"A brilliant play. A major theatrical event." - Michael Billington, *Guardian*

"A tense, gut-twisting thriller ride in the theater. An astonishing piece of work." - Richard Christiansen, *Chicago Tribune*

"One of our most valuable playwrights." - *Time Out New York*

"It left me speechless." - Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun-Times*

"Seeing *Killer Joe* made me want to write a different type of play." - Martin McDonagh

#### About the Author

Tracy Letts is a playwright, actor and ensemble member of Steppenwolf Theatre Company. He is the author of *Killer Joe*, *Bug*, *Man from Nebraska*, *August: Osage County*, *Superior Donuts* and a new version of Chekhov's *Three Sisters*. He is the only person to win both a Tony Award for acting and a Pulitzer Prize.

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