

Evolution Of Drama And Theatre Arts

* Mihir Yaduvanshiand **Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma

*Research Scholar, Department of Performing Art, SunRise University, Alwar, Rajasthan (India)

**Professor, Department of Performing Art, SunRise University, Alwar, Rajasthan (India)

Email:Moshujimmy2@gmail.com

Abstract: Theatre is a vivid world of fantasy. The most striking feature of theatre is its inclusive nature. It can be viewed by every person irrespective of age, gender, educational vocational background. Owing to its lifelike nature, every person relates to it the way he relates to real incidents. It is so impactful that different political groups use it for spreading their propaganda, governments try to use this medium to educate the masses, and social activists use it to give a reality check of social evils (nukkad natak). Thereby, it is one of the most effective media of mass communication. Thinking about its origin, one is compelled to think whether it was created for this purpose only or for mere entertainment purposes, what form of theatre was performed and how did it evolve. This chapter aims to study this aspect. It tells the history of theatre- its origin and development.

[Yaduvanshiand, M. and Sharma, R.K. **EVOLUTION OF DRAMA AND THEATRE ARTS**. *Rep Opinion* 2025;17(4):7-10]. ISSN 1553-9873 (print); ISSN 2375-7205 (online). <http://www.sciencepub.net/report>. 02. doi:[10.7537/marsroj170425.02](https://doi.org/10.7537/marsroj170425.02)

Keywords: Theatre; drama; performance art; creative

Introduction:

The origin of the drama is deep-rooted in the religious predispositions of mankind. This is the case not only with English drama, but with dramas of other nations as well. The ancient Greek and Roman dramas were mostly concerned with religious ceremonials of people. It was the religious elements that resulted in the development of drama. As most of the Bible was written into Latin, common people could not understand its meanings. That's why the clergy tried to find out some new methods of teaching and expounding the teachings of Bible to the common people. For this purpose, they developed a new method, wherein the stories of the Gospel were explained through the living pictures. The performers acted out the story in a dumb show. The oldest existing church drama was "Quem Quarritus" (whom are you seeking). This drama was called liturgical (ritual, ceremonial, used in the church) drama, in which the story was simply taken from the scripture (Holy Books, The Bible).

The origin of the drama is deeply rooted in the religious nature of mankind. The same applies not only to English dramas, but also to dramas from other countries. Ancient Greek and Roman dramas mainly dealt with the religious ceremonies of the people. It was a religious element that led to the development of the drama. Most of the Bible is written in Latin, so the general public could not understand its meaning. For this reason, the priests found some new teaching methods and tried to explain the teachings of the Bible to the general public. To this end, they have developed a new way in which the gospel story is explained

through living pictures. The cast recreated the story in a stupid show

Drama- A drama is a composition designed for a theater performance in which an actor acts as a character, performs a specified plot, and speaks out written dialogue.

Classical Greek drama

Western drama originates in classical Greece. In Greece dramatic performances were associated with religious festivals. The Greeks produce different types of drama mainly tragedy and comedy. Famous greek tragedians include Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides. The best writer of comedy was Aristophanes.

Classical Roman drama

The Romans inherited the drama tradition from the Greeks. Following the expansion of the Roman Republic (509–27 BC) into several Greek territories (between 270–240 BC), Rome encountered Greek drama. Roman theatre was more varied, extensive and sophisticated than that of any culture before it. The expansion of the Rome helped spread drama to many places in Europe and the Mediterranean world. Seneca is the most important Roman tragedian.

Medieval drama

The middle ages start with the fall of the Roman Empire. Most of classical learning was lost in mediaeval times. The Middle Ages were dominated by religion and the study of theological matters. The Christian doctrine and Christian values were the measure of everything. During the middle ages, drama

was looked down upon as evil and a means of corruption. However faced with the need to spread the word of God to the illiterate masses, the church came up to devise some form of dramatic performance To help the teaching in teaching Christian beliefs and Biblical stories. In which the characters personify moral qualities such as charity or vice or obstructions as death or youth and in which moral lessons are taught. (From the liturgical, drama evolved to Mystery and Miracle. Mystery and Miracle plays, along with Moralities and Interludes, evolved into more elaborate forms of drama, such as was seen on the Elizabethan stages).

The elements of drama are-

- ✓ Plot
- ✓ Characterization
- ✓ Dialogue
- ✓ Settings
- ✓ Stage directions
- ✓ Conflict
- ✓ Theme

History of English Drama

A drama is a literary work performed by a professional actor on the stage (or theater) in front of an audience. It's about conflicts, actions, and specific topics. Impressive makeup, facial expressions and artist body language are the hallmarks of live performances. Although art forms exist in different countries, the drama deserves special mention in Britain because of its relationships with several legendary playwrights, including William Shakespeare. Read the following lines for interesting information about the history, background and origins of British theater.

Interesting Information on Background & Origin of English Drama

Twenty-five hundred years ago, Western theatre was born in Athens, Greece. Between 600 and 200 B.C. the ancient Athenians created a theatre culture whose form, technique and terminology have lasted two millennia, and they created plays that are still considered among the greatest works of world drama. Their achievement is truly remarkable when one considers that there have been only two other periods in the history of theatre that could be said to approach the greatness of ancient Athens - Elizabethan England and the Twentieth century. The theatre of Ancient Greece evolved from religious rites which date back to at least 1200 BC. At that time Greece was peopled by tribes that we in our arrogance might label 'primitive'. In northern Greece, in an area called Thrace, a cult arose that worshipped

Dionysus, the god of fertility and procreation. The Cult of Dionysus practiced ritual celebration. The cult's most controversial practice involved, it is believed, uninhibited dancing and emotional displays that created an altered mental state. This altered state was known as 'ecstasies'. Ecstasy was an important religious concept to the Greeks, who would come to see theatre as a way of releasing powerful emotions. Though it met with resistance, the cult spread through the tribes of Greece. (Dionysiac, hysteria and 'catharsis' also derive from Greek words for emotional release or purification). During this time, the rites of Dionysus became mainstream and more formalised and symbolic. An essential part of the rites of Dionysus was the dithyramb. The word means 'choric hymn'. This chant or hymn was probably introduced into Greece early accompanied by mimic gestures, and probably music. It began as a part of a religious ceremony, like a hymn, describing the adventures of Dionysus. It was performed by a chorus of men, group of dancers, and band of revellers. In this way, over a period of time dithyramb evolved into stories in play form now known as drama.

Emergence

The Romans introduced the drama to England in the Middle Ages. As for the land, many auditoriums were built for this artistic performance. Mummers' play related to Morris dance became a popular street theater format during this period. The performance is based on the folk tales of St. George, Robin Hood and the Dragon. The artist went from town to town to play these folk tales. In return for their service, they received money and hospitality. The mysteries and moral plays at the medieval religious festival were Christian-themed.

English Renaissance

The English Renaissance, an English cultural and artistic movement that lasted from the 16th to the early 17th century, paved the way for the dominance of British drama. Queen Elizabeth, I ruled at a time when great poetry and drama were born. Notable playwrights of the time included William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Johnson, and John Webster. Playwrights wrote plays on subjects such as history, comedy, and tragedy. While most playwrights specialize in only one subject, Shakespeare became an artist who created plays based on all three subjects.

Interregnum (1649-1660)

During the armistice, the Puritans closed British theaters for their religious and ideological reasons. However, in London the theaters reopened shortly after the "Reconstruction" in 1660. With the support of Prince Charles II, the theater continued to thrive.

The writings of current playwrights and the appearance of professional actresses in dramas (previously all female characters were male) drew public attention. The Yushin in

Was an opportunity to incorporate new genres such as Yushin heroism and comedy into the drama. George Etheridge's *Fashionable Man* (1676), William Wycherley's *Country Wife* (1676), Aphra Behn's *the Tramp* (1677), John Dryden's *All for Love* (1677) and (*AurengZebe*) (1675), Thomas Otway's *Venice Preserved* (1682) was one of the popular plays of the time. Sexual frankness was the highlight of the comedy during the recovery period. The aristocratic spirit of Prince Charles II and his court promoted such plays that began in 1660 and continued until 1685.

18th Century

The British Restoration comedy, which began in the late 17th century, declined with the advent of the 18th century. Family tragedy and sentimental comedy have become a new taste of this era. Burlesque and musical entertainment at the fair booth, which preceded the British music hall, flourished during this period, reducing the popularity of legal British theater.

Victorian Era (1837-1901)

During the Victorian era, plays written by Shakespeare competed with musical burlesques and comic operas. Reed Entertainment, a German company, tried to start a musical theater in England in 1855. In 1890, the first series of musical comedies of the Edwardian era were released in this country. With the development of public transportation, the audience moved, and now it is possible to go to the theater until late at night. The number of prospects for English theaters has increased significantly. As a result, performances in theaters began to become longer.

As time passed, more and more people began to visit the theater. This made drama a lucrative business. The increase in the audience led to an increase in the production value of the drama. This art form has recorded consistent performance as it grows in popularity. Towards the end of the Victorian era, the fame of the leading poets and playwrights of the time, W. S. Gilbert and Oscar Wilde, rose. The plays Wilde wrote closely resemble those of Edwardian playwrights such as George Bernard Shaw (Ireland) and Henrik Ibsen (Norway).

The Present Time

Many of the 20th century musical dramas were written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, who dominated the stage at the time. His work has been immensely popular. As a result, the drama went on Broadway in New York and around the world. Some of them have also been made into feature films. Postmodernism had a major

impact on the existence of British drama at the end of the 20th century. However, there are still many theaters around Shaftesbury Avenue in West London. Based in Stratford-upon-Avon (Shakespeare's hometown), the Royal Shakespeare Company now produces most plays written by the legendary playwright.

Some famous english drama list

- ✓ Hamlet
- ✓ Macbeth
- ✓ King Lear
- ✓ Romeo and Juliet
- ✓ The Importance of Being Earnest
- ✓ Othello
- ✓ The Merchant of Venice
- ✓ Twelfth Night

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare is the father of English Drama. He wrote 18 comedies, 10 Tragedies and 10 Histories. Shakespeare's era began in the 16th century in community theaters. He wrote for modern theater and manipulated the Elizabethan stage with great resourcefulness and ingenuity. William Shakespeare was an English playwright, poet and actor, considered by many to be the greatest writer in the English language and the greatest playwright in the world. He is often referred to as Britain's national poet and "The Bard of Avon".

Conclusion

A drama is a composition of poetry or prose performed on the stage, where the story is told through dialogue and action, accompanied by gestures, costumes, and settings as in real life. The origin of the drama is deeply rooted in the religious nature of mankind. The same applies not only to English dramas, but also to dramas from other countries. Ancient Greek and Roman dramas mainly dealt with the religious ceremonies of the people. There is no solid evidence of its origin. Many historians believe that the drama came to England in 1066 with the Norman Conquest. When the Romans were in England, they built a huge Amphitheater to perform some plays, but when they left the theater, they disappeared with them. The evolution of English drama builds a significant part of the history of English literature.

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3/2/2025