

Outline of History of Drama
February 4, 2012

ARTS>Literature>History>Drama

Aeschylus

playwright

Greece

-490 to -458

Suppliants [-490]; Persians [-472]; Seven against Thebes [-467]; Oresteia [-458: trilogy]; Agamemnon [-458: Oresteia first play]; Choephoros or Libation Bearers [-458: Oresteia second play]; Eumenides or Fates [-458: Oresteia third play]

He lived -525 to -456 and wrote tragedies. Perhaps, his son Ion wrote Prometheus Bound.

Sophocles

playwright

Greece

-450 to -406

Ajax [-450]; Antigone [-441]; Oedipus Rex or Oedipus Tyrannus [-429]; Electra [-425 to -410]; Trachiniae or Women of Trachis [-425 to -410]; Philoctetes [-409]; Oedipus at Colonus [-406]

He lived -496 to -406 and wrote tragedies.

Euripides

playwright

Greece

-438 to -406

Alcestis [-438]; Medea [-431]; Heraclidae or Descendants of Heracles [-430]; Hippolytus [-428]; Andromache [-426]; Hecuba [-425]; Suppliants [-420]; Hercules Furens or Madness of Hercules [-420]; Electra [-417]; Trojan Women [-415]; Helena [-412]; Ion [-412]; Phoenician Women [-409]; Orestes [-408]; Iphigenia in Aulis [-406]; Iphigenia in Tauris [-406]; Bacchae [-406]

He lived -485 to -406 and wrote tragedies.

Aristophanes

playwright

Greece

-423 to -411

Clouds [-423]; Wasps [-422]; Birds [-414]; Lysistrata [-411]

He lived -448 to -380 and wrote comedies.

Menander

playwright

Greece

-317

Dyskolos or The Grouch [-317: comedy]

He lived -342 to -291.

Titus Maccius Plautus [Plautus, Titus Maccius]

playwright

Rome, Italy

-205

Swaggering Soldier [-205: comedy]

He lived -254 to -184.

Terence

playwright

Rome, Italy

-162 to -160

Eunuchus [-161]; Phormio [-161]; Adelphi [-160]

He lived -192 to -158 and was of Scipionic Circle.

Peter van Diest [Diest, Peter van]

playwright

Flanders

1495 to 1518

Elckerlijc or Everyman [1495 to 1518: morality play later translated into English]

Perhaps, he was Petrus Dorlandus [1454 to 1507].

Lope de Vega or Phoenix of Spain or Félix Lope de Vega Carpio [Lope de Vega Carpio, Félix]

playwright

Spain

1594 to 1634

El maestro de danzar or Dance Teacher [1594: comedy]; La Arcadia [1598: pastoral romance]; La Dragontea [1598: poem of Sir Francis Drake's last expedition and death]; El Isidro or Isidore [1598: octosyllabic quintillas about St. Isidro, patron of Madrid]; La Hermosura de Angélica or Beauty of Angelica [1602: three poem books]; La viuda de Valencia or Valencian Widow [1611: comedy]; El perro del hortelano or Dog in the Manger [1612: comedy]; Fuente Ovejuna or Sheep Well [1612 to 1614: comedy]; Arte nuevo de hacer comedias en este tiempo or New Art of Making Comedy in this Time [1609: book]; Rimas humanas y divinas del licenciado Tomé de Burguillos or Human and Divine Rhymes [1634: poems]

He lived 1562 to 1635 and wrote love and intrigue dramas {capa y espada, Lope de Vega} (cloak and sword).

Francis Beaumont [Beaumont, Francis]

playwright

England

1607 to 1610

Woman Hater [1607]; Knight of the Burning Pestle [1607]; Philaster [1609: with John Fletcher]; Maid's Tragedy [1610: with John Fletcher]

He lived 1584 to 1616 and worked with John Fletcher.

Thomas Dekker [Dekker, Thomas]

playwright

England

1608 to 1609

Bellman of London [1608]; Gull's Hornbook [1609]

He lived 1570 to 1632.

John Fletcher [Fletcher, John]

playwright

England

1609 to 1610

Philaster [1609: with Francis Beaumont]; Maid's Tragedy [1610: with Francis Beaumont]

He lived 1579 to 1625 and worked with Francis Beaumont.

John Webster [Webster, John]

playwright

England

1609 to 1613

White Devil [1609 to 1612]; Duchess of Malfi [1612 to 1613]

He lived 1578 to 1635.

Tirso de Molina [Molina, Tirso de] or Gabriel Tellez [Tellez, Gabriel]

playwright

Spain

1627

El Burlador de Sevilla y Convidado or Rake of Seville and the Stone [1627: about Don Juan]

He lived 1583 to 1648. Don Juan lived 1571 to 1648.

Pierre Corneille [Corneille, Pierre]

playwright

France

1637

Le Cid [1637]

He lived 1606 to 1684.

Molière or Jean-Baptiste Pocquelin [Pocquelin, Jean-Baptiste]

playwright

France

1658 to 1673

Amorous Doctor [1658]; Tartuffe [1664]; Misanthrope [1666]; Doctor in Spite of Himself [1666]; Miser [1668];

Amphytrion [1668]; Wise Women [1669]; Le Bourgeois gentilhomme or Gentleman Bourgeois [1670]; Les Fourberies de Scapin or Scapin's Tricks [1671]; Le Malade Imaginaire or Imaginary Illness [1673]

He lived 1622 to 1673.

Jean Racine [Racine, Jean]

playwright

France

1669 to 1691

Britannicus [1669]; Berenice [1670]; Bajazet [1672]; Mithradate [1673]; Iphigenie en Aulide [1674]; Phaedra [1677];

Esther [1689]; Athalie [1691]

He lived 1639 to 1699.

William Wycherley [Wycherley, William]

playwright

England

1672

Country Wife [1672]

He lived 1641 to 1715.

William Congreve [Congreve, William]

playwright

England

1700

Way of the World [1700]

He lived 1670 to 1729.

George Farquhar [Farquhar, George]

playwright

England

1706

Recruiting Officer [1706]

He lived 1678 to 1707.

Prosper Crébillon [Crébillon, Prosper]

playwright

France

1711 to 1748

Rhadamiste et Zenobie [1711]; Catilina [1748]

He lived 1674 to 1762.

Chikamatsu Monzaemon [Monzaemon, Chikamatsu]

playwright

Japan

1720

Double Suicide [1720]

She lived 1653 to 1725.

Antoine Prévost [Prévost, Antoine] or Abbé Prévost [Prévost, Abbé]

playwright

France

1731

Manon Lescaut [1731]

He lived 1697 to 1763.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe [Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von]

novelist/playwright/scientist

Germany

1773 to 1821

Gotz von Berlichingen [1773: play]; Sorrows of Young Werther [1774: novel]; Iphigenie auf Tauris [1787: play];

Romische Elegien or Roman Elegies [1790: poems]; Hermann und Dorothea [1798: poem]; Egmont [1808: play]; Faust

[1808 to 1832: part 1 and part 2, plays]; Die Wahlverwandschaften or Elective Affinities [1809: novel]; Aus meinem

Leben: Dichtung und Wahrheit or Out of My Life: Poetry and Truth [1811 to 1813: poems]; Wilhelm Meisters

Lehrjahre or Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship [1821: novel]; Metamorphosis of Plants [1790: nonfiction book];

Theory of Colors [1810: nonfiction book]; Italienische Reise or Italian Journey [1817: nonfiction book]

He lived 1749 to 1832 and wrote about strong emotions { Sturm und Drang }. He studied color contrast effects { Goethe's shadows } and biology. Living things have repeated parts with similar structures. Leaf is basic plant form, and other plant parts are leaf variations. Skulls evolved from vertebrae.

Metaphysics

Nature is a living whole, a unity manifesting God. All transitory things are but symbols. Things have archetypes or beginning forms { Ur, Goethe }.

Pierre de Beaumarchais [Beaumarchais, Pierre de] or Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais [Beaumarchais, Pierre-Augustin Caron de]

playwright

France

1775 to 1784

Barber of Seville [1775]; Marriage of Figaro [1784]

He lived 1732 to 1799.

Richard Sheridan [Sheridan, Richard]

playwright

England

1777

School for Scandal [1777]

He lived 1751 to 1816.

Alfred de Musset [Musset, Alfred de]

playwright

France

1833 to 1837

Moods of Marianne [1833]; Fantasio [1834]; Don't Play with Love [1834]; Lorenzaccio [1834]; Caprice [1837]

He lived 1810 to 1857.

Georg Büchner [Büchner, Georg]

playwright

Germany

1834 to 1835
Woyzeck [1834]; Lenz [1835]
He lived 1813 to 1837.

Nikolai Gogol [Gogol, Nikolai]

novelist/playwright/essayist

Russia

1836 to 1842

Inspector-General [1836: play]; Dead Souls [1842: novel]; Shinel or The Overcoat [1842: story]

He lived 1809 to 1852.

Henrik Ibsen [Ibsen, Henrik]

playwright

Norway

1875 to 1899

Peer Gynt [1875]; Doll's House [1879]; Enemy of the People [1882]; Wild Duck [1884]; Hedda Gabler [1890]; Master Builder [1892]; When We Dead Awaken [1899]

He lived 1828 to 1906.

August Strindberg [Strindberg, August]

playwright/novelist

Sweden

1887 to 1907

Father [1887]; Miss Julie [1888]; Inferno [1894]; Son of a Servant [1896]; Dream Play [1907]

He lived 1849 to 1912.

Anton Chekhov [Chekhov, Anton]

playwright

Russia

1890 to 1904

Boor [1890]; Sea Gull [1896]; Uncle Vanya [1899]; Three Sisters [1901]; Cherry Orchard [1904]

He lived 1860 to 1904 and wrote in Realistic style.

Arthur W. Pinaro [Pinaro, Arthur W.]

playwright

England

1891 to 1900

Times [1891]; Second Mrs. Tanqueray [1893]; Trelawny of the Wells [1900]; Gay Lord Quex [1900]

He lived 1855 to 1934.

Maurice Maeterlinck [Maeterlinck, Maurice]

playwright/essayist

Belgium

1892 to 1909

Pelléas et Mélisande [1892]; Monna Vanna [1902]; Bluebird [1909]

He lived 1862 to 1949.

George Bernard Shaw [Shaw, George Bernard]

playwright

England

1897 to 1925

Devil's Disciple [1897]; Candida [1898]; Caesar and Cleopatra [1901]; Man and Superman [1903: includes the scene Don Juan in Hell]; Major Barbara [1905]; Doctor's Dilemma [1906]; Androcles and the Lion [1913]; Pygmalion [1916]; Heartbreak House [1919]; Back to Methuselah [1921]; Arms and the Man [1924]; Saint Joan [1925]

He lived 1856 to 1950.

Edmond Rostand [Rostand, Edmond]

playwright

France

1898

Chanticleer; Cyrano de Bergerac [1898]

He lived 1868 to 1918 and was Romantic.

James Barrie [Barrie, James]

playwright

Scotland

1902 to 1908

Admirable Crichton [1902]; Peter Pan [1904]; What Every Woman Knows [1908]

He lived 1860 to 1937.

Maxim Gorky [Gorky, Maxim] or Alexander Peshkov [Peshkov, Alexander]

storyteller/playwright/novelist

Russia

1902 to 1913

Twenty-six Men and a Girl [1899: story]; Foma Gordeyev or Gordeyev Family [1899: novel]; Chelkash [1895: story];

Decadence [1902: play]; Lower Depths [1902: play]; Malva [1906: story]; Mother [1906: novel]; Life of Klim Samgin

[1925 to 1936: novels]; My Childhood [1913: biography]

He lived 1868 to 1936.

Edward Dunsany [Dunsany, Edward]

playwright

England

1906 to 1918

Time and the Gods [1906]; Land That Time Forgot [1918]

He lived 1878 to 1957.

John Millington Synge [Synge, John Millington]

playwright

Ireland

1907

Playboy of the Western World [1907]

He lived 1871 to 1909.

John Drinkwater [Drinkwater, John]

playwright/poet

England

1913 to 1922

Georgian Poetry [1913 to 1915: poems]; Rebellion [1914: play]; Preludes [1921 to 1922: poems]

He lived 1882 to 1937.

Rabindranath Tagore [Tagore, Rabindranath]

playwright

India

1913 to 1930

Gardener [1913: play]; King of the Dark Chamber [1914: play]; Religion of Man [1930: essay]

He lived 1861 to 1941.

Samuel N. Behrman [Behrman, Samuel N.]

playwright

USA

1914

Destroyer [1914]

He lived 1893 to 1973.

James Joyce [Joyce, James]

novelist/playwright

Ireland

1914 to 1939

Dubliners [1914: play]; Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man [1915: novel]; Ulysses [1914 to 1922: novel]; Finnegans Wake [1939: novel]

He lived 1882 to 1941.

Akutagawa Ryunosuke [Ryunosuke, Akutagawa]

writer

Japan

1915

Rashomon [1915]

He lived 1892 to 1927.

Luigi Pirandello [Pirandello, Luigi]

playwright

Italy

1917 to 1932

Right You Are If You Think So [1917 and 1922]; Six Characters in Search of an Author [1925]; As You Desire Me [1932]

He lived 1867 to 1936.

Ernst Toller [Toller, Ernst]

playwright

Germany

1919

Letters from Prison [1919]

He lived 1893 to 1939.

Eugene O'Neill [O'Neill, Eugene]

playwright

USA

1922 to 1953

Hairy Ape [1922]; Great God Brown [1926]; Strange Interlude [1928]; Desire under the Elms [1931]; Mourning Becomes Electra [1931]; Emperor Jones [1933]; Ice Man Cometh [1939]; Long Day's Journey into Night [1940]; Touch of the Poet [1953]

He lived 1888 to 1953.

Sean O'Casey [O'Casey, Sean]

playwright

Ireland

1924 to 1956

Juno and the Paycock [1924: play]; Plough and the Stars [1926: play]; Within the Gates [1934: play]; Mirror in My House [1956: autobiography]

He lived 1880 to 1964.

Arthur Schnitzler [Schnitzler, Arthur]

playwright

Germany

1926

Traumnovelle or Dream Story [1926]

He lived 1862 to 1931.

Archibald Macleish [Macleish, Archibald]

playwright

USA

1926 to 1952

End of the World [1926: poem]; Ars Poetica [1926: book]; J. B. [1952: poem play]

He lived 1892 to 1982.

Thorton Wilder [Wilder, Thorton]

playwright/novelist

USA

1928 to 1943

Bridge of San Luis Rey [1928: novel]; Our Town [1938: play]; Matchmaker [1938: play]; Skin of Our Teeth [1943: play]

He lived 1897 to 1975.

Noel Coward [Coward, Noel]

playwright

England

1930 to 1939

Private Lives [1930]; Dinner at Eight [1933]; Private Lives [1934]; Topper [1937]; Man Who Came to Dinner [1939]

He lived 1899 to 1973.

Moss Hart [Hart, Moss]

playwright

USA

1930 to 1959

Once in a Lifetime [1930: play, with Kaufman]; Act One [1959: autobiography]

He lived 1904 to 1961.

George S. Kaufman [Kaufman, George S.]

playwright

USA

1931 to 1936

Butter and Egg Man [1925]; Of Thee I Sing [1931: with Morrie Ryskind]; You Can't Take It with You [1935: with Moss Hart]; Stage Door [1936: with Edna Ferber]

He lived 1889 to 1961.

Clifford Odets [Odets, Clifford]

playwright

USA

1933 to 1950

Awake and Sing [1933]; Waiting for Lefty [1935]; Golden Boy [1937]; Country Girl [1950]

He lived 1906 to 1963.

Maxwell Anderson [Anderson, Maxwell]

playwright

USA

1935

Elizabeth the Queen [1930]; Winterset [1935]; What Price Glory [1935]; High Tor [1937]

He lived 1888 to 1959.

Berthold Brecht [Brecht, Berthold]

playwright

Germany

1936 to 1941

Threepenny Opera [1928]; Mother Courage [1941]; Good Woman of Setzuan [1943]; Galileo [1943]

He lived 1898 to 1956.

Jean Giraudoux [Giraudoux, Jean]

playwright

France

1937

Electre [1937]

He lived 1882 to 1944.

Robert Sherwood [Sherwood, Robert]

playwright

USA

1938

Abe Lincoln in Illinois [1938]; Petrified Forest

He lived 1896 to 1955.

Rodolfo Usigli [Usigli, Rodolfo]

playwright

Latin America

1938

Gesticulator [1938]

He lived 1905 to 1979.

Lillian Hellman [Hellman, Lillian]

playwright

USA

1939

Little Foxes [1939]

She lived 1905 to 1984.

Rachel de Queiroz [Queiroz, Rachel de]

novelist/playwright

Brazil

1939 to 1967

Three Marias [1939: novel]; Metonymy or Husband's Revenge [1967: story]

She lived 1910 to 2003 and wrote in Portuguese.

Jean Anouilh [Anouilh, Jean]

playwright

France

1942 to 1959

Antigone [1942]; La Valse des Toréadors or Waltz of the Toreadors [1952]; Becket [1959]

He lived 1910 to 1987.

Mary Chase [Chase, Mary]

playwright

USA

1944

Harvey [1944]

She lived 1907 to 1981.

Tennessee Williams [Williams, Tennessee]

playwright

USA

1945 to 1964

Glass Menagerie [1945]; Summer and Smoke [1948]; Rose Tattoo [1950]; Camino Real [1953]; Cat on a Hot Tin Roof [1954]; Streetcar Named Desire [1955]; Sweet Bird of Youth [1962]; Night of the Iguana [1964]
He lived 1911 to 1983.

Eric Bentley [Bentley, Eric]

novelist

USA

1946 to 1965

Playwright as Thinker [1946]; Life of the Drama [1964]; Bentley on Brecht [1965]

He lived 1916 to ?.

Christopher Fry [Fry, Christopher]

playwright

England

1948 to 1949

Lady's Not for Burning [1948]; Venus Observed [1949]

He lived 1907 to 2004.

Terence Rattigan [Rattigan, Terence]

playwright

England

1948 to 1965

Winslow Boy [1948]; Browning Version [1951]; Separate Tables [1954]; VIP's [1963]; Yellow Rolls-Royce [1965]

He lived 1911 to 1977.

Ugo Betti [Betti, Ugo]

playwright

Italy

1949

Queen and the Rebels [1949]

He lived 1892 to 1953.

Garson Kanin [Kanin, Garson]

playwright

USA

1949 to 1950

Adam's Rib [1949]; Born Yesterday [1950]

He lived 1912 to 1999.

Eugene Ionesco [Ionesco, Eugene]

playwright

Romania/France

1949 to 1960

Bald Soprano [1949]; Rhinoceros [1960]

He lived 1912 to 1994.

Arthur Miller [Miller, Arthur]

playwright

USA

1949 to 1968

Death of a Salesman [1949]; Crucible [1953]; View from the Bridge [1955]; Price [1968]

He lived 1915 to 2005.

Peter Weiss [Weiss, Peter]

playwright

Germany

1950 to 1964

Der Turm or The Tower [1950]; Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton Under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade [1964]

He lived 1916 to 1982.

William Carlos Williams [Williams, William Carlos]

poet/playwright

USA

1951

Farmer's Daughter [1951: play]

He lived 1883 to 1963.

Samuel Beckett [Beckett, Samuel]

playwright

France

1952 to 1953

End Game [1952]; Waiting for Godot [1953]

He lived 1906 to 1989 and wrote theater of the absurd.

William Inge [Inge, William]

playwright

USA

1952 to 1958

Come Back, Little Sheba [1952]; Bus Stop [1955]; Picnic [1955]; Dark at the Top of the Stairs [1958]

He lived 1913 to 1973.

Robert W. Anderson [Anderson, Robert W.]

playwright

USA

1953

Tea and Sympathy [1953]

He lived 1917 to ?.

Peter Shaffer [Shaffer, Peter]

playwright/novelist

England

1954 to 1959

Salt Land [1954]; Balance of Terror [1957]; Five Finger Exercise [1959]

He lived 1926 to ?.

Paddy Chayefsky [Chayefsky, Paddy]

playwright

USA

1956

Marty [1956]

He lived 1923 to 1981.

Friedrich Durrenmatt [Durrenmatt, Friedrich]

playwright

Switzerland

1956 to 1962

Der Besuch der alten Dame or Old Woman's Visit [1956]; Physicists [1962]

He lived 1921 to 1990.

Jean Genet [Genet, Jean]

playwright

France
1959
Our Lady of the Flowers [1959]; Blacks
He lived 1910 to 1986.

Lorraine Hansberry [Hansberry, Lorraine]

playwright
USA
1959
Raisin in the Sun [1959]
She lived 1930 to 1965.

Ben Hecht [Hecht, Ben]

playwright
USA
1959
Ten Commandments [1959]
He lived 1894 to 1964.

Arthur L. Kopit [Kopit, Arthur L.]

playwright
USA
1960
Phantom [1960]; Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad [1967]
He lived 1937 to ?.

Harold Pinter [Pinter, Harold]

playwright
England
1961
Birthday Party [1961]
He lived 1930 to ?.

Edward Albee [Albee, Edward]

playwright
USA
1961 to 1980
American Dream [1961]; Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf [1962]; Zoo Story [1980]
He lived 1928 to ?.

Robert Bolt [Bolt, Robert]

playwright
England
1962
Man for All Seasons [1962]
He lived 1924 to 1995.

William Gibson [Gibson, William]

playwright
USA
1962
Miracle Worker [1962]
He lived 1948 to ?.

Brendan Behan [Behan, Brendan]

playwright/novelist

Ireland
1962 to 1964
Island [1962]; New York [1964]
He lived 1923 to 1964.

Martin Duberman [Duberman, Martin]
playwright
USA
1964
In White America [1964]
He lived 1930 to ?.

Rolf Hochhuth [Hochhuth, Rolf]
playwright
Germany
1964
Deputy [1964]
He lived 1931 to ?.

Leroi Jones [Jones, Leroi] or Amiri Baraka [Baraka, Amiri]
playwright/poet
USA
1964
Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note [1961: poems]
He lived 1934 to ?.

John Osborne [Osborne, John]
playwright
England
1964
Look Back in Anger [1956]; Luther [1964]
He lived 1929 to 1994.

Frank D. Gilroy [Gilroy, Frank D.]
playwright
USA
1965
Subject Was Roses [1965]
He lived 1925 to ?.

Tom Stoppard [Stoppard, Tom]
playwright
England
1967
Rosencranz and Guildenstern are Dead [1967]
He lived 1937 to ?.

Ruth Jhabvala [Jhabvala, Ruth]
playwright
Germany
1970 to 1974
Bombay Talkie [1970]; Heat and Dust [1974]
She lived 1931 to ?.