

Chronology of Dramatic Literature Through the 20th Century

(more to come)

Ancient Greece and (Lesser) Rome

Aeschylus 525-456 BC 7/70 tragedies (plus Achilles)
The Persians * *Seven Against Thebes* * *The Suppliants* * *The Oresteia* (*Agamemnon*, *Libation Bearers*, *Eumenides*) * *Prometheus Bound*

Sophocles 495-406 BC 7/123 tragedies
Oedipus * *Antigone* * *Electra* * *Oedipus at Colonus* * *Ajax* * *Philoctetes* * *Trachiniae*

Euripides 480-406 BC 18/90 tragedies
Alcestis * *Medea* * *Heracleidae* * *Hippolytus* * *Andromache* * *Hecuba* * *Suppliants* * *Electra* * *The Heracles* * *Trojan Women* * *Iphigenia in Tauris* * *Ion* * *Helen* * *Phoenician Women* * *Orestes*, *Bacchae* * *Iphigenia in Aulis* * *Rhesus* * *Cyclops*

Aristophanes 448-380 BC 11/30 comedies (old)
Acharnians * *Knights* * *The Clouds* * *The Wasps* * *Peace* * *The Birds* * *Lysistrata* * *Thesmophoriazousae* * *The Frogs* * *Ecclesiazusae* * *Wealth*

Menander 342-291 BC 1/100 comedies (new)
The Grouch

Plautus 205-184 BC 21/130 Comedies
Menaechmi * *Amphitryon* * *Miles Gloriosus* * *Pseudolus*

Terence 185-159 BC 6/6 comedies
The Mother-In-Law, *The Eunuch*, *Andria*

Seneca 4 BC-65 AD 10/10 tragedies
Oedipus Tyrannus * *Medea* * *Thyestes* * *Phaedra* * *Trojan Women* * *Hercules* * *Agamemnon* * *Phoenician Women* * *Octavia*

[Medieval Theatre]

Hrosvitha 935-973 (German nun, modeled on Terence)
Dulcitius

“Quem Quaeritis” trope 925 AD

Miracle (Saint) Plays 1200-1550

Mystery (Cycle) Plays 1350-1550 (pageant wagon stage)
The Second Shepherd’s Play

Morality Plays 1350-1600 (platform stage with mansions)
Everyman

Farces – *Pierre Pathelin*

Renaissance

Italian (Neoclassical ideal)

Niccolo Machiavelli 1469-1527 *La Mandragola*
Ludovico Ariosto 1474–1533 *Orlando Furioso*
Torquato Tasso 1544-1595 *Aminta*
Commedia dell’Arte

English Drama before 1642

Henry Medwell *Fulgens and Lucres* (first secular English morality play, 1497)
Anonymous, *Gammer Gurtun’s Needle* (1533)
John Heywood *Ralph Roister Doister* (based on Plautus, c. 1634-41)
Thomas Sackville & Thomas Norton, *Gorboduc* (first English tragedy, 1561)
Thomas Kyd *The Spanish Tragedy* (c. 1587)
Christopher Marlowe *Doctor Faustus* (c. 1588)
William Shakespeare 1564-1616
Ben Jonson *Volpone* (1606)
Francis Beaumont *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* (c.1607)
& John Fletcher *The Maid’s Tragedy* (c. 1610)
John Webster *The Duchess of Malfi* (1613/14)
John Ford 1586-1639 ‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore

Neoclassicism in France

Pierre Corneille 1606-1684 *The Cid* * *The Liar*
Jean Racine 1639-1699 *Phedre*
Jean-Baptiste Poquelin (Moliere) 1622-1673

Spanish Theatre before 1700

Miguel de Cervantes *The Siege of Numancia* (c. 1584)
Lope de Vega *Fuente Ovejuna* (1614)
Calderon de la Barca *Life is a Dream* (1636)

The English Restoration

John Dryden *All for Love* (tragedy), *Marriage a la Mode* (comedy)
Thomas Otway *Veniocce Preserv’d* (tragedy)
William Wycherly *The Country Wife* (comedy of manners)
William Congreve *The Way of the World*

The Eighteenth Century

England (middle class sentimentalism)
Sir Richard Steele *The Conscious Lovers* (1722)
John Gay *The Beggar’s Opera* (ballad opera, 1728)
Henry Fielding *Tom Thumb* (satirical burlesque, 1730)
George Lillo *The London Merchant* (1731)
Oliver Goldsmith *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773)

Richard Brinsley Sheridan *The School for Scandal* (1777)
 France (*comédie larmoyante*)
 Voltaire *Zaire* (1732)
 Beaumarchais *The Barber of Seville* (1775)
 Italy
 Carlo Goldoni *The Mistress of the Inn* (1753)
 Carlo Gozzi *The Love for Three Oranges* (1761)
 Germany (*sturm und drang*)
 G. E. Lessing *Minna von Barnhelm* (comedy, 1767),
Nathan the Wise (1779)
 Friederich Schiller *The Robbers* (1782), *The Maid of Orleans* (1801)
 J. W. von Goethe *Faust* (Part I, 1808; Part II, 1831)
 Heinrich von Kleist, *The Prince of Homburg* (1811)
 USA
 Royal Tyler *The Conquest* (first American play, 1787)
 William Dunlop *Andre* (1798)

Romanticism (1800-1850)

Christian Dietrich Grabbe (precursor to expressionism, the absurd)
 Georg Buechner *Danton's Death* (1835), *Woyzeck* (1836)
 Victor Hugo *Hernani* (1830)
 Alexander Pushkin *Boris Gudenov* (1825)
 Coleridge, Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley (neoclassic closet drama)

Early Nineteenth Century Drama

Pixerecourt (France) & Kotzebue (Germany) popular middle class plays
 England (John Phillip Kemble, Edmund Kean)
 Thomas Holcroft *A Tale of Mystery* (first melodrama, 1802)
 Douglas Jerrold *Black-Eyed Susan* (1829)
 Edward George Bulwer-Lytton *Richieu* (1839),
Money (1840)

Late Nineteenth Century Drama

England
 Dion Boucicault (1822-1890) sentimental comedies, spectacular melodrama
 Gilbert and Sullivan
 France
 Eugene Scribe (1791-1861), Victorien Sardou (1831-1908) "the well-made play"
 Alexander Dumas fils *The Lady of the Camellias* (1852) "moral" melodrama
 Russia
 Nikolai Gogol *The Inspector General* (1836)
 Alexander Ostrovsky *The Thunderstorm* (1853)
 Ivan Turgenev *A Month in the Country* (1850)
 Leo Tolstoy *The Power of Darkness* (1886)
 America
 Augustin Daly *Under the Gaslight* (1867)
 Bronson Howard (first professional playwright),
Shenandoah (1888)
 William Gillette, *Secret Service* (1895)
 David Belasco, *The Girl of the Golden West*

Modern Drama

Realism

Henrik Ibsen *Peer Gynt* (1867), *A Doll's House* (1879), *Ghosts* (1881), *An Enemy of the People* (1882), *The Wild Duck* (1884), *The Master Builder* (1896)
 Arthur Schnitzler *La Ronde* (1900) (*The Blue Room*, 2000)
 Arthur Wing Pinero *The Second Mrs Tanqueray* (1893)
 Oscar Wilde *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895)
 George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)
 Anton Chekov *The Seagull* (1896), *Uncle Vanya* (1899), *The Three Sisters* (1901), *The Cherry Orchard* (1904)
 Sean O'Casey *Juno and the Paycock* (1924)

Naturalism

Emile Zola *Therese Raquin* (1873)
 Henri Becque *The Vultures* (1882)
 Franz Wedekind *Spring's Awakening* (1891), *Earth Spirit*, *Pandora's Box* (1895)
 Gerhart Hauptman *The Weavers* (1892)
 Maxim Gorky *The Lower Depths* (1902)

Symbolism

Maurice Maeterlinck *The Bluebird* (1908)
 August Strindberg *The Father* (1867), *Miss Julie* (1888); *A Dream Play* (1902), *The Ghost Sonata* (1907)
 John Millington Synge *The Playboy of the Western World* (1907)
 William Butler Yeats *At the Hawk's Well* (1917)
 Jean Girardaux, *Amphytrion 38* (1929)
 Jean Anouilh, *Antigone* (1943)

Expressionism

Reinhard Johannes Sorge *The Beggar* (1912)
 Georg Kaiser *From Morn to Midnight* (1916)
 Ernst Toller *Man and the Masses* (1921), *Hurrah, We Live!* (1927)

Epic Theatre

Bertolt Brecht *The Threepenny Opera* (1928),
Mother Courage and Her Children (1938),
Galileo (1939), *The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui* (1941)

Neorealism

Carl Zuckmayer *The Captain of Kopenick* (1931)

Verse Drama

T. S. Eliot *Murder in the Cathedral* (1935)
 Maxwell Anderson *Winterset* (1935)

Surrealism

Alfred Jarry *Ubu Roi* (1896)
 Guillaume Apollinaire *The Breasts of Tiresias* (1917)

Jean Cocteau *The Eiffel Tower Wedding Party* (1921), *The Infernal Machine* (1934)
 Luigi Pirandello *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (1921)
 Federico Garcia Lorca *Blood Wedding* (1933)
 Michel de Ghelderode *Barrabus* (1928)

Commercial Theatre

Noel Coward *Private Lives* (1930)
 Emlyn Williams *Night Must Fall* (1935), *The Corn Is Green* (1938)
 J. B. Priestley *An Inspector Calls*, 1946

American Drama

Eugene O'Neill
 Realism: *Beyond the Horizon*, *Anna Christie*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *A Long Day's Journey Into Night* (1941), *The Iceman Cometh* (1956)
 Expressionism: *The Hairy Ape*, *The Emperor Jones*, *The Great God Brown*
 Symbolism: *Lazarus Laughed*, *Marco Millions*
 Elmer Rice *The Adding Machine* (expressionism, 1923)
 Paul Green *In Abraham's Bosom* (realism, 1926)
 Maxwell Anderson *What Price Glory?* (realism, 1924), *Winterset* (verse drama, 1935)
 Clifford Odets *Waiting for Lefty*, *Awake and Sing* (agit-prop, 1935)
 Robert Sherwood *Idiot's Delight* (anti-war comedy, 1936)
 Marc Blitzstein *The Cradle Will Rock*
 William Saroyan *The Time of Your Life* (1939), *My Heart's In the Highlands* (1941), sentimental comedies
 Kaufmann & Hart *You Can't Take It With You* (1936), *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (1940), middle class comedies
 Phillip Barrie *The Philadelphia Story* (realistic comedy, 1939)
 Thornton Wilder *Our Town* (domestic comedy, 1938), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (surrealistic comedy, 1943)
 Lillian Hellman *The Children's Hour* (1934), *The Little Foxes* (1939) *Watch on the Rhine* (1941)

Post Modern Times

Mainstream European Drama

Ugo Betti *The Queen and the Rebels* (1951)
 John Osborne *Look Back in Anger* (1956)
 Friedrich Duerrenmatt *The Visit* (1956)
 Vaclav Havel *Memorandum* (1965)
 Dario Fo *The Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (1970)
 David Storey *Home* (1970)
 David Hare "Plenty" (1979)
 Alan Ayckbourn *The Norman Conquests* (1983)
 Brian Friel *Dancing at Lughnesa* (1990)
 Michael Frayn *Noises Off* (1982), *Copenhagen* (2000)

Theatre of the Absurd

Albert Camus "The Myth of Sisyphus" (essay, 1943)
 Jean Paul Sartre *No Exit* (existentialist play, 1944)
 Eugene Ionesco *The Bald Soprano* (1949), *Rhinoceros* (1960)
 Max Frisch, *Biederman and the Firebugs* (1958)
 Jean Genet *The Balcony* (1956), *The Blacks* (1959)
 Samuel Beckett *Waiting for Godot* (1953)
 Slavomir Mrozek *Tango* (1964)
 Harold Pinter *The Homecoming* (1965), *Betrayal* (1978)
 Tom Stoppard *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (1967)
 Heinar Mueller *Hamletmachine* (1977)
 Edward Bond *Saved* (1965)
 Caryl Churchill *Mad Forest* (1990)

Theatre of Fact

Rolf Hochhuth *The Deputy* (1963)
 Peter Weiss *Marat/Sade* (1964), *The Investigation* (1965), *Vietnam Discourse* (1968)
 Heinar Kipphardt *In the Case of J. Robert Oppenheimer* (1964)

American Drama Since World War II

Tennessee Williams *The Glass Menagerie* (1945), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947), *Summer and Smoke* (1949), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955), *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1959)
 Arthur Miller *All My Sons* (1947), *Death of a Salesman* (1949), *The Crucible* (1953), *The Price* (1968), *Broken Glass* (1994)
 William Inge *Come Back Little Sheba* (1950), *Picnic* (1953), *Bus Stop* (1955)
 Robert Anderson *Tea and Sympathy* (1953)
 Lorraine Hansbury *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959)
 Neil Simon *Come Blow Your Horn* (1961), *The Odd Couple* (1965), *Biloxi Blues* (1984), *Proposals* (1997)
 Edward Albee "The Zoo Story," *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1962), *A Delicate Balance* (1966), *Three Tall Women* (1994), *Who Is Sylvia?* (2004)

Arthur Kopit *Oh Dad, Poor Dad...* (1960)
 LeRoi Jones/Imaru Baraka *Slave Ship* (1969)
 Sam Shepherd *Buried Child* (1978)
 Lanford Wilson *Hot L Baltimore* (1973)
 David Rabe *Streamers* (1976)
 David Mamet *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1983), *Faustus*
 (2004)
 Terrence McNally *Love! Valour! Compassion!*
 (1994)
 Marie Irene Fornes *Mud* (1988) *Fefu and her Friends*
 Beth Henley *Crimes of the Heart* (1977)
 Wendy Wasserstein *The Heidi Chronicles*
 August Wilson *Fences, The Piano Lesson* (1988)
 Tony Kushner *Angels in America* (1990)
 Henry David Hwang *M. Butterfly*
 Barbara Lebow *A Shayna Maidel*,
 Nicky Silver *The Food Chain*
 Wendy Wasserstein *The Heidi Chronicles* (1988),
An American Daughter
 John Guare *Six Degrees of Separation*
 Marsha Norman *Night Mother*
 David Feldish *Miss Evers' Boys*
 Beth Henley *Crimes of the Heart* (1979)
 Paula Vogel *How I Learned to Drive*
 A. R. Gurney *The Dining Room* (1981)
 Christopher Durang *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It*
All for You (1979) *Durang/Durang* (1994)
 Eric Bogosian *Talk Radio* (1987), *SubUrbia* (1994)