



Avant-Garde Theatre: experimental theatre began in late 19th c. It challenged the status quo through innovation and experimentation. It rejected practices and forms of bourgeois traditional theatre. Nowadays it is considered a physical-reestablishment of community. It called for the physical contact between audience and performers. They led to the appearance of the Living Theatre. Living Theatre put language under strain. Function of the character is not to tell a story, but to be there in the present.

How far Realism suited the domain of Drama ?

Drama basically involves direct observation of human behavior. Thus the need to use contemporary setting and time periods. Also, it usually deals with temporary life and problems. Common man and common situations were subjects for drama, not only the upper class elite is concerned.

Realistic drama quickly gained popularity as the everyday person is concerned and identified with the situations characters show on stage. The Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen is considered the father of modern realism in theatre. He displayed realism in a perfect way in his two masterpieces: A Doll's House and Hedda Gabler.

Naturalism, an extreme, heightened form of realism, appeared during the 19th. Century. It presents reality in as convincing and natural ways as possible so as the external details are highly emphasized. In terms of style, naturalism is an extreme form of realism. In Naturalism, stage time equals real time, costumes, sets and props are accurate and detailed.