

عنوان المحاضرة: بيرانديللو ومسرحية ست  
شخصيات باحثة عن مؤلف

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كلية الآداب

القسم: اللغة الانكليزية

Luigi Pirandello. *Six Characters in Search of an Author*

The play discusses the search for an identity, which appears as the most decisive concern mimicking the absurdity of life or the existence of human being. In this play, the characters think that the right method to search for their identity is to go to the theatre where they can meet a director. He is, according to them, the only one capable of creating identities to them.

Pirandello merges real actions, characters and dramatic elements with illusory ones. Such is the way through which he makes his masterpiece more inventive in the world of drama. Pirandello does not only break the fourth wall between audience and performers, but also manipulates the minds of the spectators through employing reality and illusion as a core theme in the play.

Pirandello insists on the incompleteness of the characters' identities by presenting them with no real names. This is due to the fact that these characters are basically in need of an author to give them identities. The moment they gain this identity they will turn into somebody. Hence names turn to be given to them in reference to their existence.

One of the play's main concerns is the reference to reality and illusion, or life and art, in the sense that art almost seems detached from reality. The absorption of reality and illusion is a key topic in the play. The play starts with a bare stage in order to mystify the spectators between the real actions and the inventive illusion.

Pirandello's characters wear masks to prevent them from any social integration. They find themselves defined by their original author in a way that is never pleasant to them. The characters suffer from depression that motivates them to search for an alternative. They have an internal conflict between their real personalities and their essential needs. The play is meta-theatre. It is an allegory of theatre. Pirandello mixes reality and illusion to create a new genre of writing drama: the meta-theatrical drama.