

History of Educational Drama

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Egypt

- The Ramesseum Dramatic Papyrus is our major source of information of the origin of Egyptian Drama. It
 - accurately documents the diversity of ceremonial theatrical performances, which included religious rituals and story-telling dramatic performances.
 - depicts a religious drama during the Horus Festival .
 - includes instructions for actors and actresses to follow
 - Contained staging instructions detailing how props and statues should be used or placed.

Egypt (Continued)

- There were no special venues built for plays; ancient Egyptians performed shows for the general public on the streets.
- Dramas were often performed in temples.

Egypt (Concluded)

- Examples of drama performed are:
 - Isis and the Seven Scorpions
 - The Triumph of Horus that was performed during the Festival of the Victory at Edfu, celebrating her multiple victories.
 - the Osiris Passion Play
 - Satyrs
 - Contending of Horus and Seth ridiculed the council of gods who took more than 24 years to decide who should inherit from Osiris, Seth or Horus.

Greece

- The classical Greek valued the power of spoken word
- Greek tragedy as we know it was created in Athens around the time of 532 BC
- Thespis was the earliest recorded actor.
- The creation of a tragedy competition and festival in the City Dionysia created roughly around 508 BC.
- all tragedies were unique pieces written in honour of Dionysus and played only once.
- Later, comedy was introduced into the competition.

Greece (Continued)

- Examples of Greek plays at this time:
 - we have a small number of complete texts by the tragedians Aeschylus Sophocles and Euripides, the comic writers, Aristophanes and, from the late 4th century, Menander.
 - Aeschylus' historical tragedy The Persians is the oldest surviving drama, although when it won first prize at the city Dionysia competition in 472 BC, he had been writing plays for more than 25 years.

Rome

- Rome encountered Greek drama
- the year 240 BC marks the beginning of regular Roman drama
- The Roman comedies that have survived are all *fabula palliata* (comedies based on Greek subjects) and come from two dramatists: Titus Maccius Plautus (Plautus) and Publius Terentius Afer (Terence).
- Re-working of the the Greek originals.

Medieval

- Churches staged dramatised versions of biblical events, known as liturgical dramas,
- Morality plays (a modern term) emerged as a distinct dramatic form around 1400 and flourished in the early Elizabethan era in England.

Jacobean/Elizabethan

- Renaissance theatre
- In addition to Shakespeare, such authors as Christopher Marlowe Thomas Middleton and Ben Jonson were prominent playwrights

Modern Drama (19th and 21st Century)

- The works of playwrights are, in their different ways, both modernist and realist incorporating formal experimentation etatheatricality, and social critique
- 19th-century Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen and the 20th-century German theatre practitioner Bertolt Brecht dominate modern drama

Africa

- To me Africa, drama is religion, art, politics, education, economy folklore,
- historical and traditional forms of art.
- sacramental performances, dramatized stories, modern combinations of theatre scenario which characterized by a traditional technique of performance.
- demonstration of African values
- these texts were stored in memory
- Africans tried to demonstrate their political and social events in their theatre. they showed their relationships with the government, nature, within the family