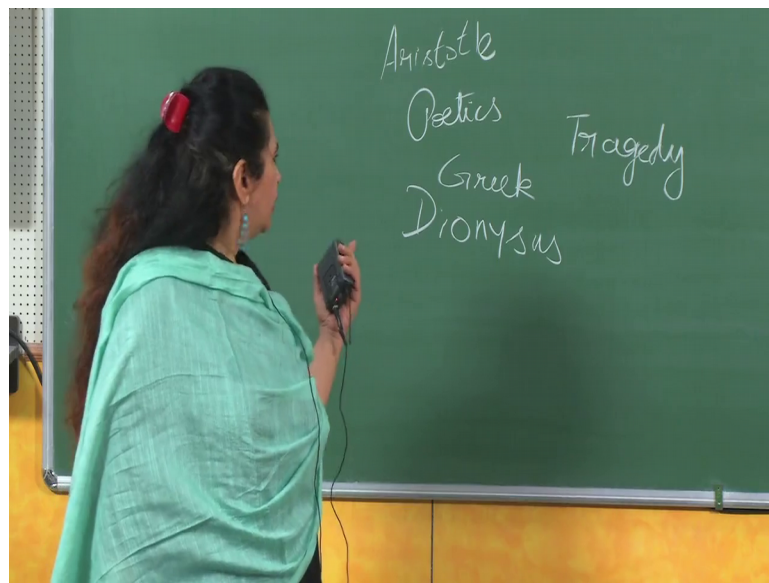


Literature for Competitive Exam
Prof. Aysha Iqbal
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

Module – 06
Lecture – 23
American Drama

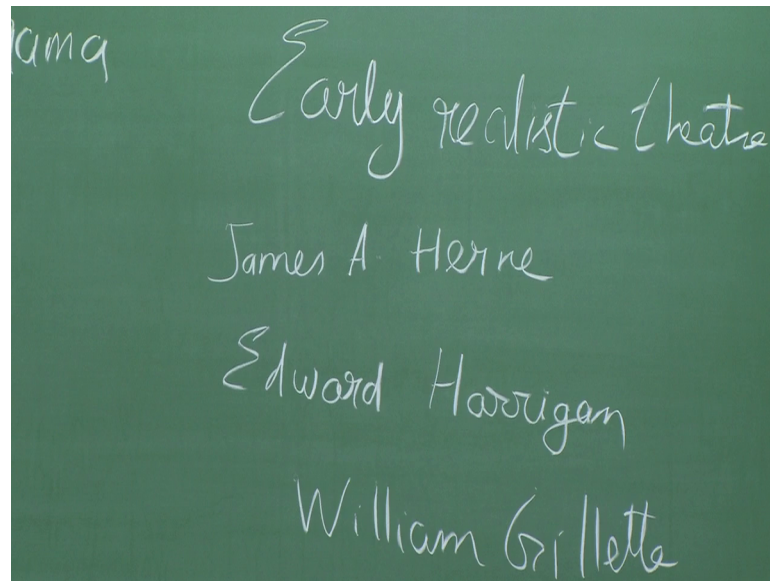
Welcome back friends. So, we are done with American poetry and today we will be doing American drama. We will be talking about the growth of American drama and the greats of American drama and of course, the masterpieces of American drama along with the practice test as we have been doing all along. So, I have written some of the terms and names here.

(Refer Slide Time: 00:55)



This is not all we are going to do, but perhaps these are some new names new concepts for you. So, you should know Aristotle and his poetics will be referring to it, we will be talking about the Greek Grecian concept of Dionysus.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:00)



And the development of tragedy there and then early realistic theater who were the exponents of realism in early American theater, people like James a Herne Edward Harrigan and William Gillette. So, these are the name that I have written just. So, that you get a better understanding of the names and terms, but there will be more. So, you should know that drama started thousands of years ago. The origin of the dramatic form can be traced back to the fourth century b c, that was the time around which Aristotle had written his poetics. Greek drama originated with coral that is chorus singing celebrations in honor of the god.

Dionysus and for a long time it was a religious pageant and the Korek element like lots of people is in a crowd standing and commenting and singing this element was used later on in the plays of many American dramatist such as Eugene Oneill, Arthur miller also Tennessee Williams and Thornton wilder. In poetics Aristotle that was in fourth century B.C, he that is what we believe that he is this is the first or foremost work on dramaturgy and he laid down his famous theory of tragedy, those of you who do not know should look it up Aristotle's theory of tragedy and his concepts of tragedy influence the drama of the western world for centuries.

So, that was the template that has been practiced by not just the American playwrights, but also the great British playwrights including Marlowe and Shakespeare the Elizabeth Andre so the Grecian model and template of tragedy. Theater in America started with

adaptations of the great British plays and also musicals farce burlesque. So, how did we reach the stage of realism in American theatre? Now in by the time when America became an independent nation that was the eighteenth century, and by mid eighteenth century oh sorry by mid nineteenth century there was a discernible element of realism in the works of playwright.

Such as and I have written the early realist James Hern, Edward Harrigan and William Gillett they were primarily influenced by the works of Henrik Ibsen and Bernard Shaw. So, Ibsen we have already touched upon; Shaw we are going to do in when we reach the last legs of or last leg of this course and these writers along with Herman sandman they were all known for their realistic playwrights. So, the budding American playwrights look toward the European models for their aesthetics. The plays of James a hern for example, and he wrote a famous play a famous for those times perhaps is no longer in fashion nowadays margaret Fleming.

It was written in 1890 was the quite close to the everyday lives of the common people. There was also a very successful production of David Belasco's romantic tragedy called Madam Butterfly which was performed in 1900 which was written with John Luther long. So, those were the early plays. So, they experimented with all genres. The European modernist movements enter the American theater just before the First World War through the little theaters founded in imitation of the independent theaters of Europe and brought to America new ideas in set design acting and also in techniques.

So, one of the first and foremost of these theaters was the little theatre and its ancillary called province town players. This organization started performing in 1915 in province town and existed till 1929, it was founded by a non theatrical group of writers and artists who wanted to come up with originally American. They see that was the buzzword that we they had to write American plays and that to experiment with various themes and techniques. The group developed the works of writers such as Eugene Oneill.

So, Provincetown theatre Oneill started his career with that and other included Edna saint Vincent Millay, Paul green and Floyd dell. Some of the other important figures included Mary Heaton Vorse, George cram cook Susan Glaspell, Wilbur Steele Robert Edmond Jones and urchins Hapgood. Now most of these playwrights I know they are no longer read, but you need to know the history of American drama. So, those were the early well

known writers successful and well known. Now theater guild was the next major organization after Provincetown players, essentially it evolved out of the Washington square players, it was founded in New York by someone called Lawrence Lenger in 1918 and was committed to produce high quality non commercial place from America and also from other parts of the world.

American playwrights whose works were produced included by then they had established Pulitzer and all and they Pulitzer Prize winners such as Sidney Howard, Maxwell Anderson, Robert Sherwood and William Saroyan, all these playwrights are still read and still performed. The theater guild contributed to American musical theater by producing place such as porgy and Bess by George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin and Dobose Heyward. So, the Gershwin's were extremely important and well known and they are still remembered with great respect especially by filmmakers such as woody Allen.

He often uses their symphonies and their sound and their music in his soundtracks. The group theater was the next important organization formed in 1931 by Harold Clurman, Cheryl Crawford and lee Strasberg all extremely influential names who went on to influence a generation of playwrights and actors. The aim was to present and this is important the group wanted to present American plays with a social message. So, plays with social relevance. A typical group production was a social protest play and often with a leftist viewpoint all these are important terminologies and you should know that.

The first attempt of the group was the production of Sergei Tretyakovs roar china followed by Paul greens house of Connelly, and next came two anti capitalist plays 1931 by Claire and Paul Sifton and success story by John Howard Lawson. All these plays had a very distinctive leftist overtone or touch the groups first major success came with Sydney Kingsleys men in white which won a Pulitzer prize it was a 1933 play men in white and the next important organization was federal theater project, the group soon gave way to WPA something called WPA the abbreviation stands for works progress administration.

F T P or federal theatre project was a project that was to have a major cultural impact in America through its various art projects for writers artists musicians and performers, it was an initiative of president Franklin d Roosevelt FDR. His purpose was to create jobs

for unemployed artists particularly theatrical people in the depression years that lasted from 1935. Started in 1929, but particularly the group and FTP they were they address the needs of the artists during 1935 to 1939. Several of the productions included classical as well as modern drama perpetual musical and also children's plays and there was also a documentary theater known as living newspaper.

FTP also estranged plays by young unknown American playwrights and also supported black American theatre. The FTP was terminated in 1939 due to the investigations led by Joseph McCarthy and his house committee on un American activities. That is the you know. So, for the first seventy eight years this is what was happening to American drama we will be talking more about the major historical landmarks in American drama, but before that let us begin with our practice test.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:40)

Practice Test: American Drama

E.H. Sothern, Richard Mansfield, and the Barrymores---John , Ethel and Lionel, were well-known

- a. Producers
- b. Set designers
- c. Playwrights
- d. Actors

So, please look at the slide here, question one E.H. Sothern Richard Mansfield and the Barrymore's John Ethel and Lionel were well known a producers; b set designers; c playwrights; d actors.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:57)

2.

In 1714 in America , the first play ever to be written and published was

- a. An adaptation of Cleopatra by an anonymous playwright
- b. Robert Hunter's *Androboros , a Bogographical Farce in Three Acts Frogs*
- c. Royall Tyler's *The Contrast*
- d. Mercy Otis Warren's *The Group*

Next question in 1714 in America the first play ever to be written and published was: a an adaptation of Cleopatra by an anonymous playwright; b Robert hunters androboros bogographical farce in three acts frogs; c royalty tylers the contrast; d mercy Otis warrens the group.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:22)

3.

- Which play was written by Maxwell Anderson and Laurence Stallings?
 - a. The Prince of Parthia
 - b. The Contrast
 - c. What Price Glory?
 - d. The Plain Dealer

Question 3: which play was written by Maxwell Anderson and Laurence stalling you know jointly written play. a the prince of Parthia; b the contrast; c what price glory; d the plain dealer.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:36)

4.

.....was a ballad opera from England, and was very popular on the stage.

- a. Tara
- b. Flora
- c. Florentina
- d. Madonna

Number four: dash was a ballad opera from England and was very popular on the stage: a Tara, b flora, c Florentine, d Madonna.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:47)

5.

The King & I and South Pacific were collaborated on by:

- a. Elia Kazan & Tennessee Williams
- b. Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein
- c. Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers
- d. Gene Kelly & Donald O'Connor

Next question 5: The king and I and south pacific were collaborated on by see these are famous musicals the king and I and south pacific later on there were great movies also based on these musicals, the king and I particularly with yul brynner. So, a Elia Kazan and Tennessee Williams; b Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein; c Fred Astaire and ginger Rogers; d gene Kelly and Donald O'Connor.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:20)

6.

- America's most influential theatre journal, was founded in 1916 to spread the new ideas.
 - a. *Theater Arts Magazine*
 - b. *Little Theatre Magazine*
 - c. *Theatre Praxis*
 - d. *Drama*

Number 6: Dash Americas most influential theatre journal was founded in 1916, to spread the new ideas new ideas of theatre: a theater arts magazine; b little theatre magazine; c theatre praxis; d drama.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:38)

7.

- Susan Glaspell's 1917 play.....is a satire on the growing popularity of Freud's theory of psychoanalysis.
 - a. *Desiring Women*
 - b. *Suppressed Desires*
 - c. *The Hospital*
 - d. *Freud & Jung*

Next one Susan Glaspell's 1917 play dash is a satire on the growing popularity of freuds theory of psychoanalysis, which play a desiring women; b suppressed desires; c the hospital; d Freud and Jung.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:55)

8.

They Knew what they Wanted is a realistic play by

- a. Arthur Miller
- b. Max Anderson
- c. Sidney Howard
- d. S.N. Behrman

Next one, they knew what they wanted is a realistic play by: a Arthur miller, b max Anderson, c Sidney Howard, d S.N Behrman.

(Refer Slide Time: 14:12)

9.

The Case of Clyde Griffiths was produced by

- a. *Theatre Guild*
- b. *Little Theater*
- c. *Provincetown Players*
- d. *Group Theatre*

Number 9, the case of Clyde Griffiths was produced by: a Theatre guild; b Little theater; c Provincetown players; d Group theatre.

(Refer Slide Time: 14:21)

10.

Robert Anderson is best remembered for his 1948 play :

- a. *Tea & Sympathy*
- b. *Another Part of the Forest*
- c. *Bound East for Cardiff*
- d. *The Case of Clyde Griffiths*

Next Robert Anderson is best remembered for his 1948 play which one. A tea and sympathy; b another part of the forest; c bound east for Cardiff; d the case of Clyde Griffiths.

(Refer Slide Time: 14:35)

11.

The Climbers (1901) and *The City* (1909) were plays by

- a. Sherwood Anderson
- b. Clyde Fitch
- c. Paul Sifton
- d. John Howard Lawson

Eleven, the climbers and the city were plays by: a Sherwood Anderson; b Clyde Fitch; c Paul Sifton; d John Howard Lawson.

(Refer Slide Time: 14:47)

12.

Which among the following plays is about cannibalism?

- a. Suddenly, Last Summer
- b. A Streetcar Named Desire
- c. Fences
- d. A View From the Bridge

Number 12, which among the following plays is about cannibalism: a suddenly last summer; b a streetcar named desire; c fences; d a view from the bridge.

(Refer Slide Time: 15:03)

13.

Which among the following plays by O'Neill has strong autobiographical tones?

- a. The Iceman Cometh
- b. Long Day Journey into Night
- c. Emperor Jones
- d. Mourning Becomes Electra

Number 13, which among the following plays by O'Neill has strong autobiographical tones: a, the iceman cometh; b long day journey into night; c emperor Jones; d mourning becomes Electra.

(Refer Slide Time: 15:17)

14. Arthur Miller

Which one of the following plays of Arthur Miller has shades of autobiographical elements?

- a. Broken Glass
- b. The Crucible
- c. After the Fall
- d. All My Sons

Number 14, which one of the following plays of Arthur Miller has shades of autobiographical or has autobiographical shades: a broken glass; b the crucible; c after the fall; d all my sons. All these are Arthur Miller plays one of them has very strong autobiographical elements which one.

(Refer Slide Time: 17:43)

15.

George and Martha are the principal characters in:

- a. Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf
- b. American Dream
- c. The Zoo Story
- d. The Price

Number 15, George and Martha are the principal characters in: a Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf; b American dream; c the zoo story; d the price.

(Refer Slide Time: 15:56)

16.

Which classic Hollywood film did Clifford Odets collaborate on?

- a. Some Like It Hot
- b. It Happened One Night
- c. On The Waterfront
- d. The Sweet Smell of Success

Next which classic Hollywood film did Clifford Odets collaborate on: a, some like it hot; b it happened one night; c on the waterfront; d the sweet smell of success. Now Clifford Odets we are going to do more of him very soon and he was one of the greatest ever American playwrights. Like most intellectuals of that time Odets also dabbled in Hollywood and had worked on quite a few films and one of his films on which he collaborated an iconic film is here.

(Refer Slide Time: 16:40)

17.

Name the dramatist who collaborated with Alfred Hitchcock on *Shadow of a Doubt*:

- a. Eugene O'Neill
- b. Clifford Odets
- c. Tennessee Williams
- d. Thornton Wilder

Number 17, name the dramatist who collaborated with Alfred Hitchcock on shadow of a doubt: a Eugene O'Neill; b Clifford ordered; c Tennessee Williams; d Thornton wilder.

(Refer Slide Time: 15:56)

18.

Which one of the following plays is supposedly based on Tennessee Williams' family?

- a. Streetcar Named Desire
- b. Sweet Bird of Youth
- c. Petrified Forest
- d. The Glass Menagerie

Next which one of the following plays is supposedly based on Tennessee Williams family: a Streetcar named desire; b Sweet bird of youth; c Petrified Forest; d, The glass Menagerie.

(Refer Slide Time: 17:10)

19. Name the author

- Launched as an artistic movement in France by*Manifesto on Surrealism* (1924), surrealism can be considered an offshoot of Dadaism.
- a. Samuel Becket
- b. Andre Breton
- c. August Strindberg
- d. Eugene Ionesco

Number 19, name the author launched as an artistic movement in France by dash you have to write the authors name, manifesto on surrealism in 1924, surrealism can be considered an offshoot of Dadaism.

(Refer Slide Time: 17:38)

20.

Name the playwright of *Come Back, Little Sheba* (1950), *Picnic* (1953) and *Bus Stop* (1955) :

- a. Edward Albee
- b. Tennessee Williams
- c. Sherwood Anderson
- d. William Inge

So, who is the author of manifesto on surrealism: a Samuel Becket; b André Breton; c August Strindberg; d Eugene Ionesco. Number 20 name the playwright of *Comeback Little Sheba*, *Picnic* and *Bus Stop*. Great plays of the fiftys: a Edward Albee; b Tennessee Williams; c Sherwood Anderson; d William Inge.

(Refer Slide Time: 17:56)

21.

- *I cannot and will not cut my conscience to fit this year's fashions.*
- *Cynicism is an unpleasant way of saying the truth.*
- *People change and forget to tell each other.*

Next one you have to identify the playwright to whom we attribute these quotes, I cannot and will not cut my conscience to fit this year's fashions. Cynicism is an unpleasant way of saying the truth; people change and forget to tell each other who said these.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:17)

- a. Elia Kazan
- b. Clifford Odets
- c. Arthur Miller
- d. Lillian Hellman

A Elias Kazan; b Clifford Odets; c Arthur miller; d Lillian Hellman.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:25)

22.

Anne of the 1000 Days, Elizabeth the Queen,
The Masque of Kings are plays by:

- a. Kurt Weill
- b. Maxwell Anderson
- c. Sherwood Anderson
- d. Robert Anderson

Number 22, Anne of the thousand days Elizabeth the queen the masque of kings are plays by: a Kurt Weill; b Maxwell Anderson; c Sherwood Anderson; d Robert Anderson.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:40)

23.

In which celebrated play do you find Grandma , Mommy and Daddy?

- a. The Zoo story
- b. A Delicate Balance
- c. American Dream
- d. The Three Tall Women

Number 23, in which celebrated play do you find grandma mommy and daddy, these are the characters and these are the names they do not have other name.

They are very archetypal characters, a the zoo story; b a delicate balance; c American dream; d the three tall women.

(Refer Slide Time: 19:02)

Identify the play:

- published and produced in 1935, this melodramatic Depression-era tale of frustrated lives and spiritual emptiness is set in a gas station and lunchroom along an Arizona highway. Gabby, the daughter of the station's owner, is unhappy with her life in the desert and longs to go to Paris to paint. She falls in love with Alan Squier, a failed author who stops at the restaurant on his way to California and proposes elopement. Everything changes when the escaped criminal Duke Mantee arrives and holds them hostage.

Next one identify the play, published and produced in 1935, this melodramatic depression era tale of frustrated lives and in spiritual emptiness is set in a gas station and lunchroom along an Arizona highway. Gabby the daughter of the stations owner is

unhappy with her life in the desert and longs to go to Paris to paint, she falls in love with Alan Squier a failed author who stops at the restaurant on his way to California and proposes elopement.

(Refer Slide Time: 19:43)

24.

- a. There Shall be No Night
- b. The Petrified Forest
- c. Awake & Sing
- d. Look Homeward, Angel

Everything changes when the escaped criminal, Duke Mantee arrives and holds them hostage. 24. a there shall be no night; b the Petrified Forest; c awake and sing; d look homeward angel.

(Refer Slide Time: 19:53)

25. Identify the play:

- 10 citizens, carted off to a detention centre, are forced to wait outside. One by one, they're summoned by a doctor for examination (the circumcised won't be released), their papers verified. As they wait, scraps of gossip are exchanged, tempers fly

Identify the play; 10 citizens carted off to a detention center are forced to wait outside one by one they are summoned by a doctor for examination the circumcised went.

Be released their papers verified as they wait scraps of gossips are exchanged tempers fly.

(Refer Slide Time: 20:14)

- a. The Crucible
- b. A Memory of Two Mondays
- c. The Iceman Cometh
- d. Incident at Vichy

Which play the choices are: a, the crucible; b a memory of two Mondays; c the iceman cometh; d incident at Vichy. Let us discuss the answers. So, the first one d first is d e h Sothern Richard Mansfield and Barrymore's that is John Ethel and Lionel they were well known actors. So, answer is d number two the answer is b first American play Robert Hunters, Androboros bogographical farce in three acts frogs the first American play.

And number three is c, what price glory. Number four is b flora was a ballad opera from England and was very popular on American states. So, flora and number five is Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein that is the answer the king and I and south pacific were collaborated on the Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein. Number 6 is a the first influential important theater journal was theater arts magazine, founded in 1916, the job was to spread awareness about theater and its ideas. Number 7 b Susan Glaspell's 1917 play suppressed desires satire on the growing popularity of Freud's theory of psychoanalysis.

Eight is c; they knew what they wanted is a realistic play by Sidney Howard and number 9 is d, the case of Clyde Griffiths which was published by oh sorry produced by group theatre, the case of Clyde Griffiths. Number 10 a Robert Anderson is best remembered for his 1948 play, tea and sympathy. Number 11 is b; the climbers 1901, and the city 1909 were played by Clyde Fitch and number 12 again is a suddenly last summer by Tennessee Williams this is a play about cannibalism. Number 13 is b, long day journey into night which is which O'Neill based on his own family his father was a great actor and the hero the patriarch of long day journey into night and their sons their family the wife they are all based on the O'Neill family.

And Arthur Miller's strongly autobiographical tones is not the crucible as many would assume, but it is after the fall. So, answer is c after the fall, the crucible is an allegory of the McCarthy period after the fall is based on his own in a family his relationship with his mother, and his women particularly his first wife Mary, Mary Slattery and also one of the most glamorous and famous women in the history Marilyn Monroe. So, after the fall is based on his relationship with Marilyn Monroe and his other family members. Number 15: a George and Martha the principal characters in Edward Albee's who is afraid of Virginia Woolf, and number 16 is d Clifford Odets collaborated on the sweet smell of success starring Burt Lancaster and tony Curtis one of the most you know iconic films of the classic Hollywood period.

Number 17 is d Thornton wilder that playwright dramatist who collaborated with Alfred Hitchcock on his shadow of a doubt. Number 18 is d the glass menagerie Tennessee Williams family. Number 19 is b, Andre Breton the answer is André Breton the author of manifesto on surrealism. Number 20 is d, come back little Sheba bus stop picnic is William Inge and he also collaborated with the great Elia Kazan on a splendor in the grass. Number 21 is d the quotes are by Lillian Hellman one of the greatest American female playwright American playwright she was a woman and number 22 all the historical plays by Maxwell Anderson b Anne of the thousand days Elizabeth the queen the mask of kings are plays by Maxwell Anderson. Number 23 c Edward Albee's American dream, grandma mommy and daddy. Number 24 is b the petrified forest by Robert Sherwood answer is b and number 25 is d incident at Vichy by Arthur miller; it is a play it is an anti Semitic play where I mean addressing the issue of anti Semitism not

an anti Semitic play, but it's a it addresses the issue of anti Semitism in the Nazi occupied Vichy which was a French territory.

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The Glass Menagerie

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDPMBDiwLOM>

Before we wind up todays class I would like you to take a look at the glass menagerie here is the link and the hero Tom and Tom's character, the sons character is played by the great John Malkovich. So, one of the greatest plays and enacted by one of the greatest actors of our time.

Thank you very much and we will meet and continue very with American dramas in our next class.