

# Shaw as a dramatist

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Shaw was heavily influenced by the 19th Century Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen who left a deep and potent influence on his dramatic compositions. His drama *The Doll's House* is considered as the manifesto of modern drama. Nora, the heroine of the drama, refuses to remain in the house as an antique. She ensures that she must be given equal treatment in the house which was denied to her and threatens to leave the house if her grievances are not pacified. His rebellious attitude finds expression in his other dramas *The Ghost*, *The Pillar of Society* and *The Enemy of the People*.

Taking inspiration from Ibsen Shaw wrote dramas with a distinct purpose. His dramas are placed in the category of problem plays in which problems facing the society have been brought to the surface. In his successive novels the

principles of Shavian philosophy gets reflected. His characters are involved in long discursion and sometimes the dialogues run into several pages. In almost all his dramas which include Arms and the Man, The Apple Cart, Doctor's Dilemma, Mrs. Warren Profession, Pygmalion and The Man and Superman he has voiced his anger over the irregularities and disorder prevailing in English society. His anti-romantic temperament finds expression in his drama Arms and the Man in which he propagated the idea that war is no solution to the problem facing the society. Peace must be restored and love triumphs after all. In The Man and Superman he has advanced the concept of life force with which women are blessed and are capable of producing Superman whereas men are merely bread-winners for their children.