

Shaw as a dramatist

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G. B. Shaw is the most influential influential dramatist after Shakespeare. He has contributed significantly to the repertoire of English drama. Actually Shaw did not aim at entertaining people through his dramas. He wrote dramas with a distinct purpose. His dramas are called propaganda drama. He wanted to convey the political ideology which he pursued to the masses and used drama as a platform to propagate the ideology of Fabian socialism. Fabian socialist is a movement which strives for a bloodless revolution to bring about a drastic change in the existing system.

Shaw's dramas were not meant for stage. His dramas are called drama of ideas. His characters are so flat characters who serve as his mouthpiece. Shaw has disseminated his political ideas using his characters as tools. They deliver long

speeches which is not possible to be performed on the stage.

Charges have been levelled against Shaw that he has given more credence to the prefaces of his dramas. He is in the habit of writing long prefaces in almost all his dramas in which he has tried to convince his people about his ideology. In reply to the charges levelled by Chesterton Shaw insisted that he would stop writing prefaces if English people would become mature enough to understand his plays.

Shaw's dramas are placed in the category of problem plays. He has borrowed immensely from the Norwegian dramatist Ibsen and wrote quite a number of plays in the style of Ibsenism to show his gratitude to him.
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