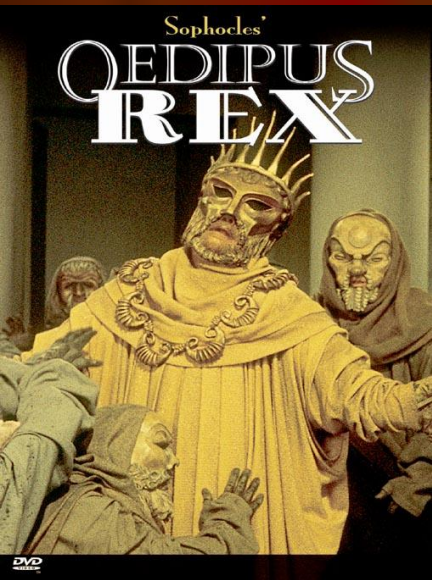


Introduction To Tragedy



Birth of Tragedy

- According to Greek tradition, the actor and playwright Thespis invented the drama when he



the chorus
dithyramb with a
masked

The word "Tragedy"

Derived from the Greek *tragos*, meaning "goat," the term tragedy may have referred to a goat as the prize or as an animal sacrifice made at the festival.

Dionysus

Dionysus was the God of:

- fertility
(main duty)



Dionysus

Dionysus was the God of:

● wine



Dionysus

Dionysus was
the God of:
● agriculture



Dionysus

**Dionysus was
the God of:**

- **sexuality**



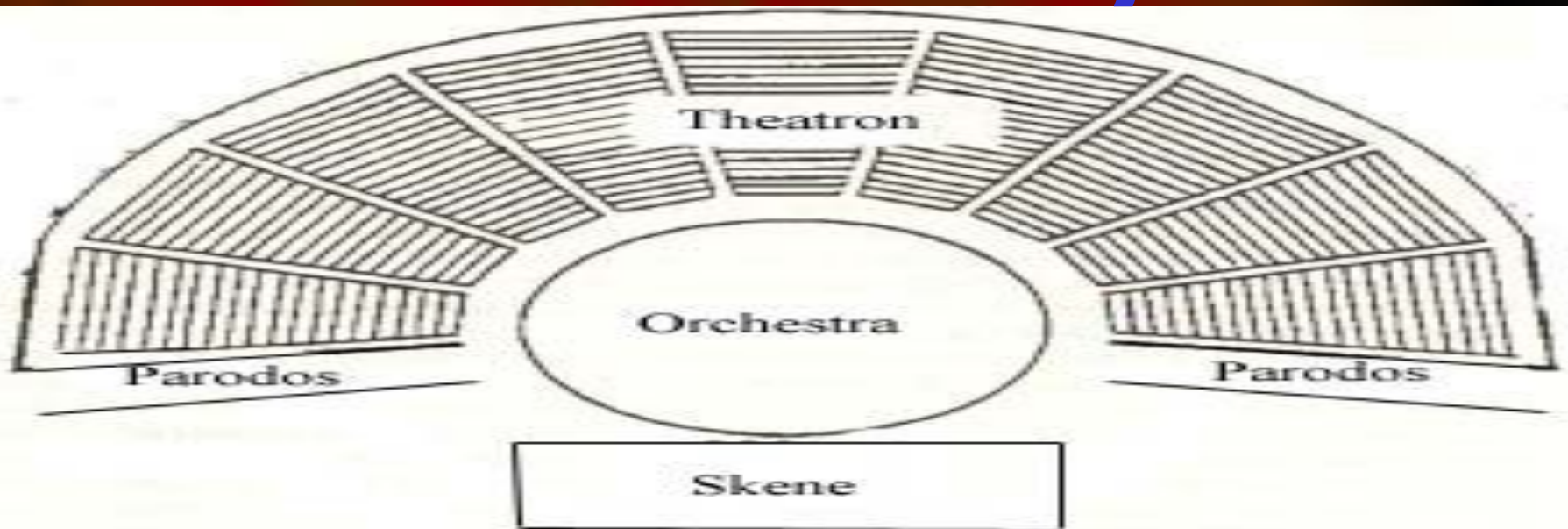
Great Dionysian Festival

during March-April

- **Thereafter, tragedies
were performed
annually as part of
the festival of
Dionysus.**



Theatre of Dionysus



Parts of a Greek Theater

Chorus

- Dominant in early tragedies



Chorus

- **Size : from 50 to 12 to 15.**



Chorus



Entered with stately march, sometimes singing or dancing in small groups, sometimes dialogued with the main characters.

Functions of Chorus

-The mouthpiece of society and morality.

-suffered along with the heroes

- **-Were used as to introduce the play, background, war, violence, bloodshed-death etc. taking place off the stage**

Greek

Tragedy-Characteris tics

- **Theme :**
Well-known to
the audience

Greek Tragedy-Characteristi cs

- **Characters: Royal & Aristocratic**
- **Strong religious base**

Greek Tragedy-Characteristi cs

- **Violence and death offstage**
- **No mixing of Tragedy & Comedy**

Greek

Tragedy-Characteristics

CS

- Usually continuous time of action (24 hours)
- Usually single place (except *Ajax*)

Catharsis

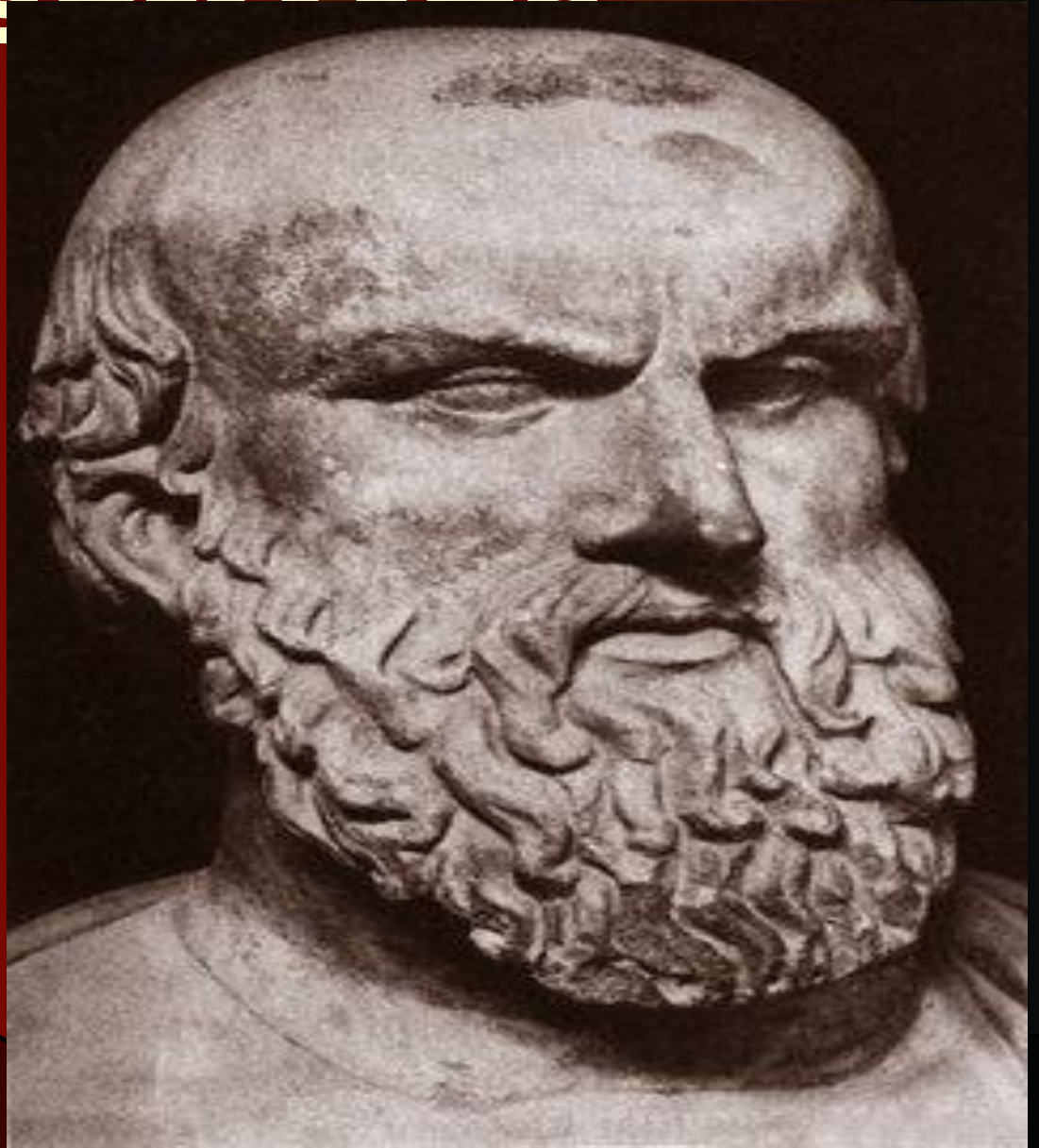
- the medical term *katharsis* - Greek:
- “purgation” or “purification”

Catharsis

- **Aristotle : the purpose of tragedy is to arouse “fear and pity” and thereby effect the catharsis of these emotions.**

Aeschylus

- 525-456 B.C.



Aeschylus

80 plays, 7 extant

- *Persians* (472)
- *Seven Against Thebes* (468)
- *Suppliant Women* (463)

- **Oresteia Trilogy:**
(458)

- *Agamemnon*

- *Libation Bearers*

- *Eumenides*

- *Prometheus Bound*
(450-425)

Characteristics of Aeschylus's plays:

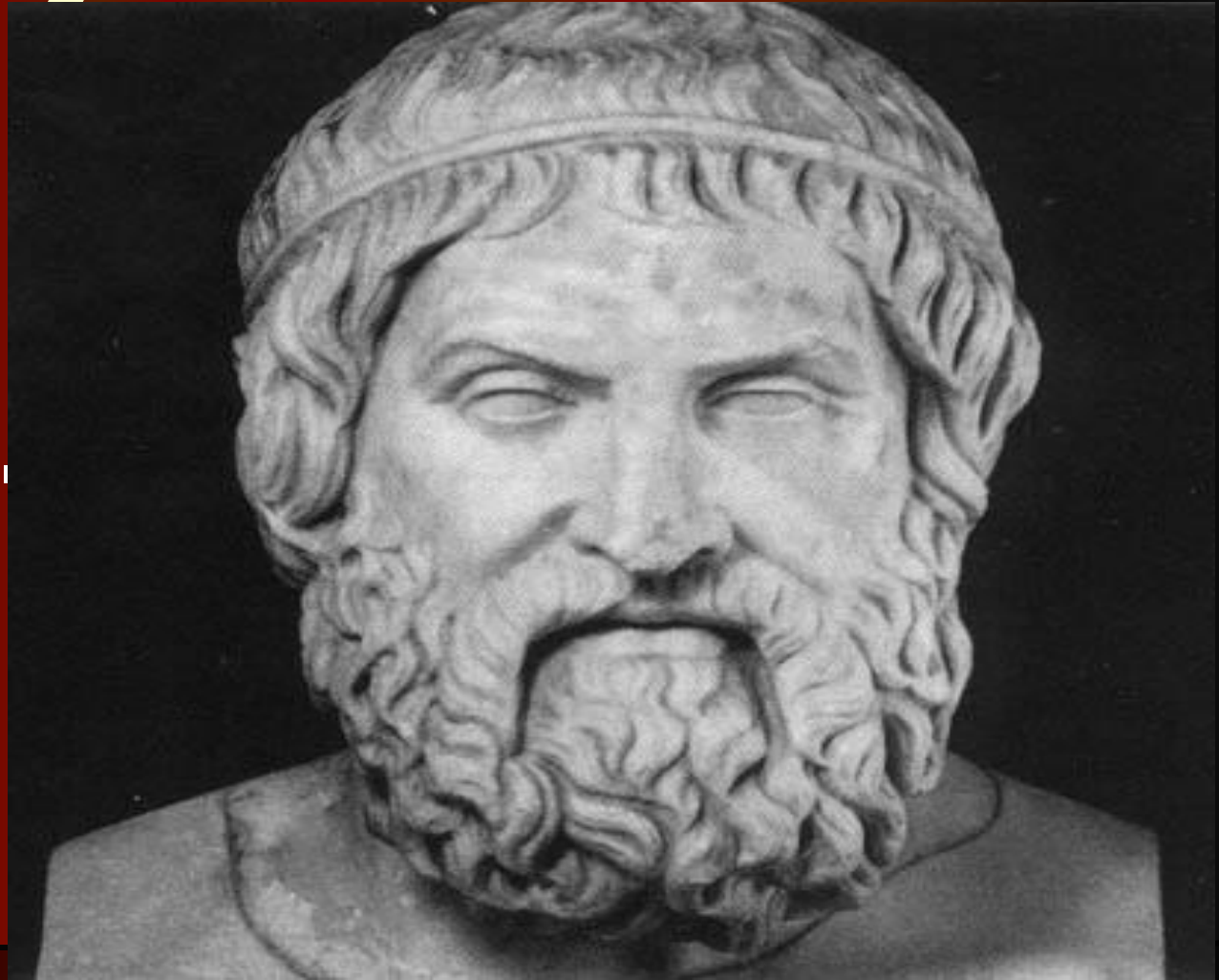
- **Characters have
Limited number of
traits, but clear
and direct**

- **emphasizes
forces beyond
human control i.e.
Fate / Destiny**

- **chain of private guilt
and punishment - all
reconciled at end**

Sophocles

495-406 B.C.



Sophocles

- **100 plays, 7 extant**
 - ***Ajax* (450-430)**
 - ***Antigone* (c. 442)**
 - ***Trachiniai* (450-430)**

Sophocles

- *Electra* (420-410)
- *Philoctetes* (409)
- *Oedipus Tyrannos*
(429-425)
- *Oedipus at Colonus* (401)

ics of Sophocles'

plays:

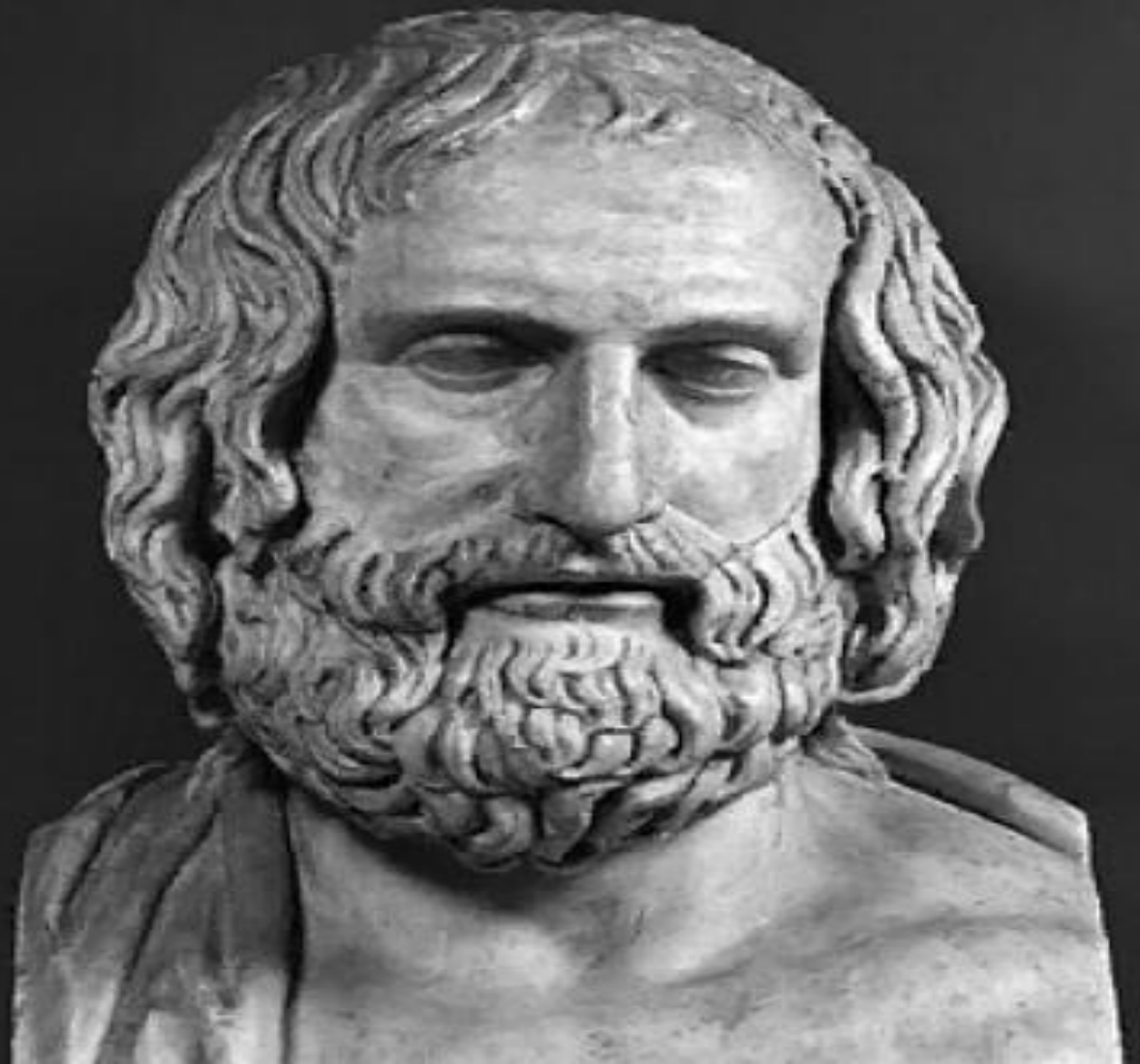
- **reduced role of chorus**

- **complex
characters,
psychologically
well-motivated**

- **Theme emphasized:
the choices of
people**

Euripides

480-406 B.C.



Euripides

- 90 plays, 18 or 19 extant
 - *Medea* (431)
 - *Hippolytus* (428)
 - *Andromache* (ca. 425)

Euripides

- *Suppliant Women* (ca. 423)
- *Electra* (ca. 420)
- *Trojan Women* (415)

Euripides

- *Iphigenia among the Taurians* (ca. 414)
- *Phoenician Women* (ca. 410)
- *Orestes* (408)

Characteristics of Euripides' plays:

- **Subjects usually
considered unsuited
to the stage which
question
edtraditional values**

Characteristics of

Euripides' plays:

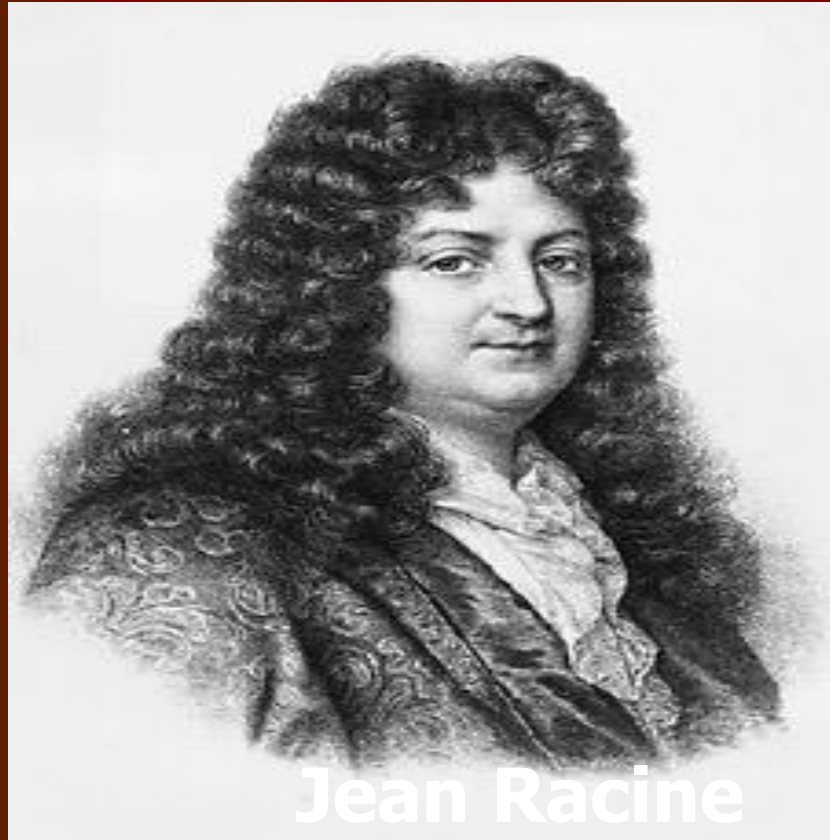
**realistic characterizations
and dialog**

melodramatic treatment.

**-theme : chance
rules world, more
concerned with
morals than gods.**

- regarded as the inspiration for 'Revenge Tragedy', starting with Thomas Kyd's *'The Spanish Tragedy'* and continuing well into the Jacobean Period.

Renaissance tragedy



Jean Racine

(December 22 (December 22, 1639
(December 22, 1639 – April 21
(December 22, 1639 – April 21, 1699)
FrenchFrench dramatist

Characteristics of Renaissance/Racine Tragedy

Phèdre a realist
drama,

- **characters were universal**
- **themes of violence and scandal**

Jacobean Tragedy



Christopher Marlowe

**26 February 1564 – 30 May
1593**

**Dr Faustus
Jew of Malta**

Thomas Kyd



John Webster

(c.1580 – c.1634)

EnglishEnglish

JacobeanEnglish Jacobean
dramatist best known for his
tragedies *The White Devil*
and *The Duchess of Malfi*,

Shakespearean Tragedy



26 April 1564 – 23 April 1616
wrote 37 plays

Characteristics of Shakespearean Tragedy

- **A Man of High Estate**

- **Multiple Characters & place**
- **Supernatural Element**

• **Soliloquy**

Conflict

- *man vs. man*
- *man vs. himself*
- *man vs. society*
- *man vs. nature*

- *The Tragic Hero/s suffer due to*

- *Fate*

- *Character flaw/Fatal flaw*

- *Combination of the two*

- **Gradual Isolation of the Tragic Hero**
- **Mobilization of the Opposition**

- **Tragic**

**Recognition
of the Flaw
by the Tragic
Hero: too late**

- **Last, Courageous
Attempt to Restore
Lost Honor/Greatness**
- **Audience Recognizes
Potential for
Greatness**

- **Death of the Tragic Hero**
- **Restoration of Order**

END of the play!

Modern Tragedy



Henrik Johan Ibsen

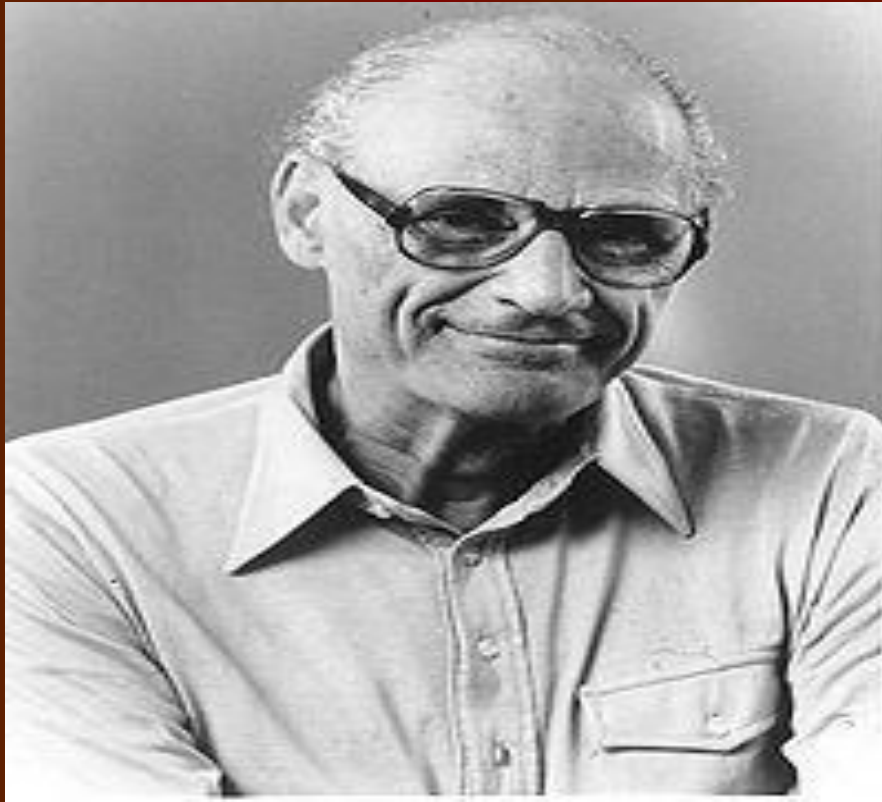
Father of Domestic Tragedy

20 March 1828 – 23 May 1906

A Doll's House

The Ghost

Arthur Miller



October 17, 1915
Death of a Salesman
All My Sons
The Crucible



Characteristics of Modern Tragedy

- - ordinary people
in tragic
situation.

- - **dark scenes,
dark faces,
everyone is
destroyed or
died.**

- - everything is simplified. People are stripped down to what is essential.

- **Social Tragedy**

- **Despaired, Gloomy,
Frustrated Heroes**

- **American
Dream**

- **"In the end,
it can't look
like acting."**

THE END