

# PRESENTATION

Bertolt Brecht

Life of Galileo

# **Lesson Plan**

- **Background and context of Drama**
- **Biography of Bertolt Brecht**
- **His theory of Epic drama**
- **How epic drama is different from traditional drama?**
- **Epic theatre: a theatre of the scientific age**
- **Alienation effect (use of music and lightening)**
- **Drama as a medium of reformation.**
- **Galileo is the champion of the new spirit of empiricism.**
- **Dialectal materialism**

# **Lesson Plan**

- **Traditional hero vs hero of Brecht**
- **Role of audience in Brecht theatre**
- **Discussion of whole text**
- **Debate on religion and science?**
- **Debate on truth is born of times not of authority.**
- **Major and minor characters**

# **Background and context of drama**

- **Definition of drama.**
- **Greeks as the founder of drama**
- **Emergence of drama in Europe.**
- **Role of clergy in drama**
- **Cycles of English drama**
- **Shakespearean drama**

# **Biography of Brecht**

- **Bertolt Brecht was born on Feb 10, 1898 in Augsburg, part of the German Empire (Dramatist, poet, rebel, revolutionary).**
- **His father was a catholic and mother a protestant. Whole life, his family supported him, but he disagreed strongly concerning the bourgeois lifestyle.**
- **He was a sickly child, with a congenital heart condition and a facial tic. He was educated in Latin and Humanities.**
- **By age sixteen he was writing for a local newspaper and had written his first play, The Bible. He is thought to have three mistresses.**

# **Biography of Brecht**

- **He remained part of many communist activities. During world war he openly expressed his lack of conviction for the war. He experimented with Dadaism, expressionism in his early plays, but soon developed a unique style. He detested Aristotelian drama and came with the new concept of theatre, “Epic theatre”.**
- **The chalk circle, jungle of cities, three penny opera.**
- **He received the national prize, first class, in 1951 and a Lenin peace prize in 1954.**
- **Died (August 14, 1956).**

# **Brecht's theory of Epic drama**

## ➤ **Dramatic Drama**

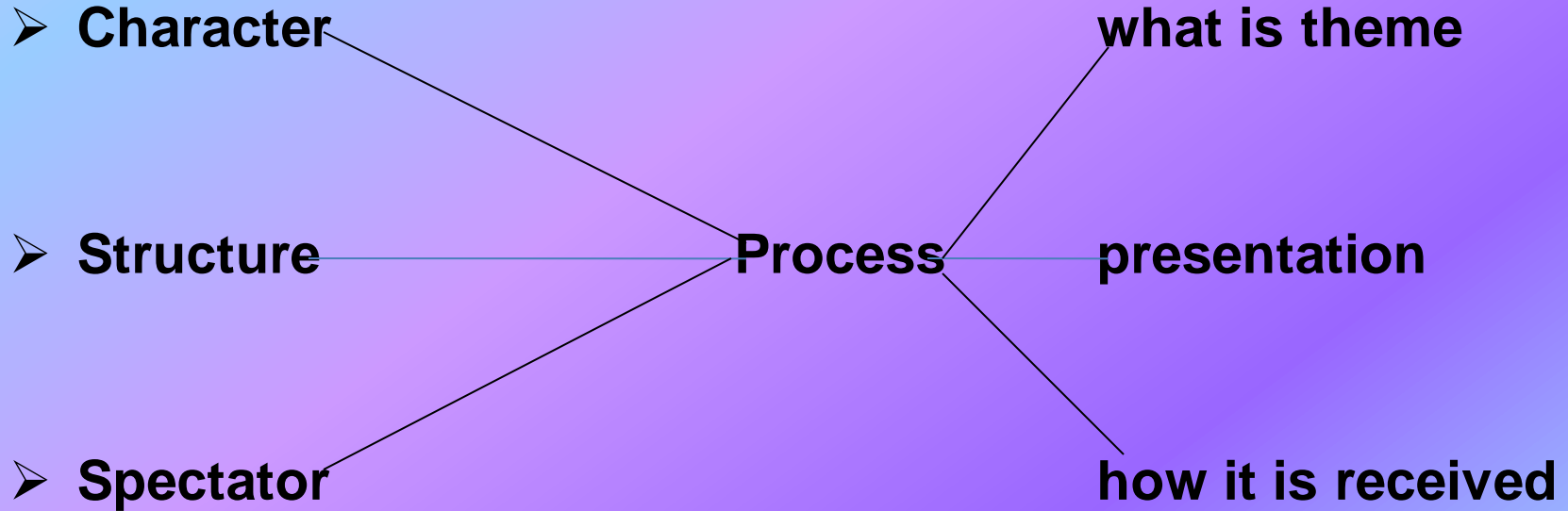
- He was against dramatic drama which relies on linear development and evolutionary determinism ensuring that one scene leads to another.
- In terms of effect it keeps the eyes on the finish, insisting on suggestion and appealing to feeling, implicates the spectator in a stage situation and wears down his capacity for action.
- In ideology of dramatic theatre where thought determines being and man is considered unchangeable.

# **Brecht's theory of Epic drama**

- **Epic theatre moves in curves and jumps and leaves each scene for itself.**
- **In terms of effects, epic theatre keeps the on the course, insists on arguments and appeals to reason. It turns the spectator into an observer and pinches him for action.**
- **In its ideology, social being determines thought and man is considered a changeable species. They are able to bring change in society.**



# Brecht's theory of Epic drama



**Nothing is fix and everything is fluid.**

# **Brecht's theory of Epic drama**

- **Hero: Mostly in Aristotle drama, hero never compromises on moral principles. Characters are fixed. They take the things subjectively.**
- **Heroes of Brecht are not traditional. They compromise on their principles for greater goods. They are dynamic and detached from audience. They approach the things objectively. They give importance to society and history. We think that protagonist will never submit to evil forces but he does.**
- **Audience is the detached observer. They are critical. Characters arose the capacity for action.**

# **Brecht's theory of Epic drama**

- **Characters have direct conversation with audience to get an audience out of illusion of reality. Audience is made rational and reasonable.**
- **In Aristotelian dramas catharsis means the release of emotions through pity and fear. But the Brecht theatre is continuously wagging us up by telling us that the performance on stage is not reality.**
- **Emotions are not released and audience feels disturbance. Audience tries to take action and bring change in society.**

# **Alienation Effect**

- **Audience is remained detached from the performance on the stage.**
- **Music, lightening and sharp effects are added to create an alienation effect.**
- **They are the critical observer of the performance and have the capacity to comment and correct the actions which are wrong in the society. We can comment at the end or during any scene to develop reasonable relation.**

# **Drama as a medium of reformation**

- **Brecht is the champion of the new age. He takes drama to reform the patterns of society. His plays are created for scientific age.**
- **He presents debates between different groups on stage and allow the audience to observe which group is on the right track and using its wit.**
- **Life is complex and art should deal with all these complexities.**

# **Dialectal Materialism**

- **The materialistic philosophy of Karl Marx and Fredric that employs reasoning to arrive at the truth by the exchange of logical arguments.**
- **It refers to the ability to view the events from multiple perspectives and to arrive at the most economical and reasonable reconciliation of seemingly contradictory information and postures.**
- **Behind our every decision there is some social factor like power, money and material.**
- **Hegel and Foucault.**

# **Traditional Hero vs Hero of Brecht**

- **Aristotelian heroes are suffering from a tragic flaw. Traditional heroes never submit and prefer to die. But with their actions no change is brought in audience or the general public because they establish relation with audience. They take subjective and emotional decision and do not act according to the situation. They are kings or powerful member of the society. They have everything from inheritance. They are fixed characters.**
- **But the hero of Brecht is a common man who achieves everything with his efforts. They are rational and objective. They submit to evil forces for the greater good of humanity**

# **Traditional Hero vs Hero of Brecht**

- **The actions of Brecht's hero give realization to the audience which group is on fault.**
- **They are dynamic characters who prefer change. They are detached from the society.**
- **After submission, the protagonist proves himself and secretly achieves his desires which are for the good of humanity. He does not sacrifice his life.**



# **Life of Galileo**

- **Discussion of whole text**
- **Debate: Religion Vs Science (text)**
- **This drama is centered on the clash of ideologies.**
- **It talks about different individuals belonging to different institutions. Interests of the churchman are same like the landowners.**
- **Brecht is persuading us to see the matters pragmatically.**
- **How church is used as a tool to exploit their own purpose.**
- **Churches use such system like Ptolemy for their benefit. Science supports heliocentric system.**
- **Church (status quo) and science (change)**
- **Hegemony and power relations**



# **Life of Galileo**

**Thank You**