

POST-WAR DRAMA

Drama produced after 1st WW, during the interwar period, after 2nd WW)

- ❖ S. Beckett → Theatre of the absurd
- ❖ J. Osborne → The angry young man

They share some elements:

- Innovative works (Thematically + stylistically)
- Influenced by historical events + avant-gardes

BECKETT

Beckett's aim is to remove any traditional form from his dramatic production (also what Shaw and Wilde had done). Philosophically, Beckett was influenced by the existentialism of Sartre and Camus. He feels that there is not much meaning in life, and yet he keeps looking for a meaning in whatever actions and words he refers to in his play *Waiting for Godot* (first written in French because he was living in France when he wrote it. He felt that since French was not his native language, he was forced to use language in a more effective way. Then he decides to translate it into English). Vladimir and Estragon are the 2 characters waiting for Godot, who will never come. The other 2 characters are a couple Pozzo and Lucky, who also wait for Godot, who will never come for them either.

The storyline of the play is really uneventful, cause not much happens. The plot proceeds just through the dialogues, the questioning of V. and E., there will be lots of monologues, but there is not much movement or scenery → there is just a tree and a barren road. The simplicity of the scenery and the questioning of the characters, who generally find no answers to their questions, tends to reproduce B's idea of existence. He highlights **the boredom and pointlessness of life**. The only element that would save them from the desolation of life would be the coming of Godot, but Beckett chooses not to make it come. B. also focuses on the **drama of the un-word (communication lies to it)** → his characters, by not pronouncing words, express their thoughts. It is the opposite of Virginia Woolf.

Happy Days → long monologue of a lady in her fifties covered by the ground till the neck. Her husband only appears sporadically, but she is still lively.

OSBORNE