

Satire to Sensibility

Earl of Rochester

- Defined as 'the libertine'
- Satirises the aristocracy
- Was an 'atheist' of sorts
- Many poems were written in court, mocking a woman etc. and then passed round, added to and adapted whilst there was downtime in the court waiting for the King.
- Became out of favour with the King as he accidentally showed him a poem which was satirical view of the King.
- His mind turned to religion, according to Parsons, who selected his funeral sermon. Rochester identified as an atheist.
- Followed the ideas of Epicurus (341-270BC)
- Epicurian now means someone believing in the pursuit of pleasure
- Aristocrat, poet, dramatist.

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Hobbes

- Had unorthodox religious viewed
- Rochester key influence
- Leviathan was his book on philosophy
- He considered us all divine within our society
- Motion is controlled by either aversion or appetite

Restoration Theatre

Comedy of Manners - that kind of comedy in which the mores and manners of society are amusingly presented. It focuses on the love intrigues of cynical and sophisticated young aristocrats in high society; it relies heavily on verbal wit.

These playwrights wouldn't try and be too politically active as the monarchs became keen on the theatre again and thus would be watching the play very often. Women were allowed to act now within this era which differed from the Jacobean period. Plays were often adapted for their women stars, and the action would have been focused to demonstrate the sex appeal for their new profession of actresses. As the female body was now publicly available, they were often compared to courtesans. To add to this, they were often taken as lovers for the monarchs.

'The Gay Couple' - a rakish man and an intelligent, free-spirited and not necessarily chaste young woman. They engage in battles of wit and intrigue. They may, or may not, marry.

The plays were often heckled by the rich members of the audience who sat in the pit. The seating prices were much the same as they are now and attending the theatre often involved watching many of the other people who were present.

The libertines were often seen as atheist and non-Christian and this is emphasised by the incident wherein many libertines entered the streets after being in the theatre and preached blasphemy.