

DRAMA

first half of the Victorian Age = non existent

Why? ...➔

- audience's request for farces
- star system (Edmund Kean, Sarah Siddons = great actors, who asked for high salaries)
- new theatres (more pretentious but smaller)
- realistic staging + stage lighting

very expensive

no new "risky" plays
but only better known
successful works

last quarter of the century = first signs of revival

impulse from abroad:



France = Eugène Scribe (1791- 1861)

perfect style, theatre = place for amusement ...➔ Oscar Wilde
- Henry Becque (1837- 1899) - naturalistic theatre

Russia = Anton Chekhov (1860- 1904)

replaced action with characters' psychology

Sweden = August Strindberg (1849- 1912)

penetrating study of women

Norway = Henry Ibsen (1828- 1906)

introduction of the PROBLEM DRAMA
social commitment from the stage
realism in characterisation and language

...➔ G.B. Shaw