

APPENDIX I: BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Henrik Ibsen, the son of Norwegian merchant was born in 1828. He suffered from financial setback during the boy's childhood causing him to be apprenticed to an apothecary at the age of fifteen. In 1850 Ibsen came to Christiania, Oslo with the intention of studying at the university there, but he soon abandoned this idea in order to devote himself to writing.

Ibsen's first play, *Catiline* aroused little interest, but his second, the *Burial Mound*, was staged, but unsuccessfully. He held posts as producer and resident dramatist in theaters in Bergen and Christiania successively, but his policies in the latter post were severely criticized.

Recognition of Ibsen's true genius came after the publication in 1866 of the dramatic poem *Brand*, and he was at last awarded an annual grant by Norwegian Parliament to devote himself to writing. From 1868 to 1891 he lived mainly in Dresden, Munich and Rome, and during the period wrote most of the prose plays which established his European reputation. *A Doll's House* (1879) went through three editions within four months of publication (and was the first substantial Ibsen production in London, ten year later). *Ghost* (1881), *Hedda Gabler* (1890) also aroused storms of controversy, and the *wild duck*. It was written in Rome in 1884 and quickly staged in 1885 in Bergen, Christiania, Helsinki, Stockholm and

Copenhagen. Stylistically it differed from Ibsen's previous plays, notably in its dual use of a central symbol and the initial reaction amongst the audience and readers which probably cause a bit of confusion.

Ibsen's position as a dramatist of worldwide status was by now unassailable. He returned to live in Norway in 1891, and his seventieth birthday was the occasion of national celebrations. His literary career was terminated by a stroke in 1900, and he died on March 22nd.

APPENDIX II: SYNOPSIS OF HEDDA GABLER

The drama takes place in a Villa Christiania, Oslo at Tesman's living room and in a smaller room to its side. Hedda Gabler, the daughter of an esteemed general Gabler, was married to George Tesman because she had reached the age at which society dictates that she should get married. Hedda is from an honorable family who always wants people to show their respect to her even that is Tesman's Aunt, Miss Julia.

The conflict enters the scene when Mrs. Elvsted visits Tesman on a trip to the town looking for a guy who is scholar named Eilert Lovborg. He is considered as a competitor for Tesman's university professorship, and it makes Tesman worried about his economic condition. Hedda seems jealous with Mrs. Elvsted, who leaves her husband to stay with Lovborg and helps him to continue with the manuscript.

Judge Brack, a big man around town, arrives as soon as Mrs. Elvsted leaves, and lets the Tesman know that Lovborg has been greeted warmly, and his new book has been a major success. Until Lovborg loses his great work, Tesman finds the manuscript, and he later tells about the manuscript to Hedda. Lovborg comes to Mrs. Elvsted for breaking up with her, telling her that he tore up the manuscript, and that he does not want to see her any more.

Hedda encourages Lovborg to commit suicide with her late father's pistol after Lovborg admitted Hedda that he has lost his manuscript. Lovborg leaves and Hedda burns the manuscript to ashes. In the next morning, Mrs. Elvsted visits Tesman and finds out what has happened with Lovborg. Judge Brack comes to tell everyone that Lovborg is dead.

Mrs. Elvsted and Tesman feel quite horrible and they decide to re-write his manuscript using Mrs. Elvsted's notes. While they start working, Brack takes Hedda aside and tells her that Lovborg did not commit suicide; Lovborg accidentally got shot by a prostitute as he was passing the brothel. However, Hedda's pistol was found in the scene. Brack will keep this scandal only if Hedda does what he wants. Realizing that she is now in Brack's power, Hedda shoots herself in the temple.