



Shri Shahu Shikshan Prasarak Seva Mandal's

# Shri Vijaysinha Yadav Arts and Science College, Peth Vadgaon

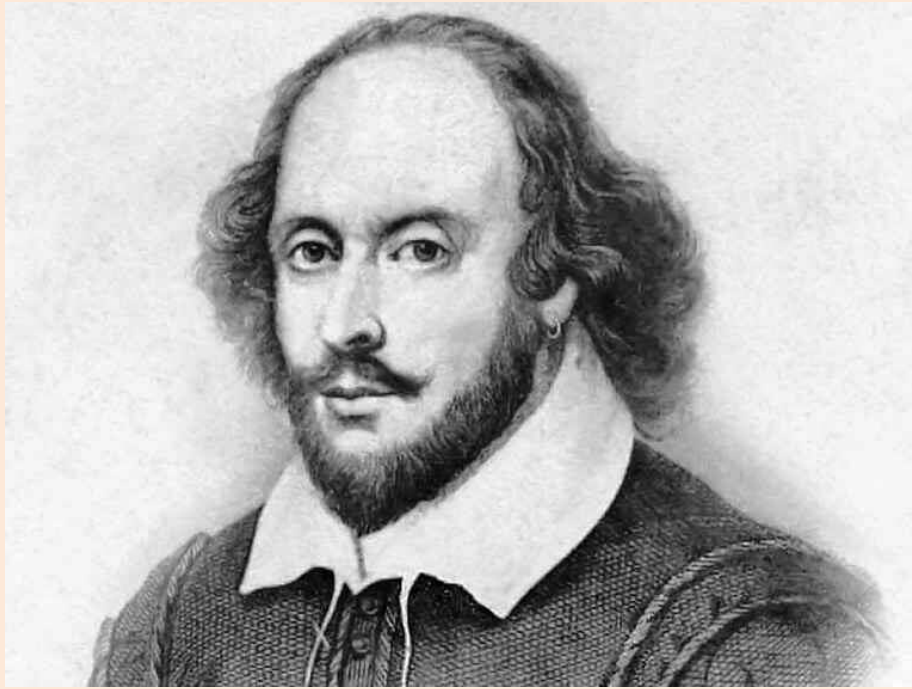
## Department of English

# VISION

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*"All days are nights to see till I see thee,  
And nights bright days when dreams do show thee to me"*

*- William Shakespeare*

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## 1) Mahesh Dattani (1958)

Mahesh Dattani is an Indian director, actor playwright and writer. Mahesh Dattani was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August in 1958 in Bangalore. He writes in English an idiom that comes “naturally” to him. He bagged the prestigious Sahitya Akadami Award in 1998 for his book of plays, final solutions and other plays. His plays have been directed by eminent directors like Arvind Gaur, Alyaue Padamsee and Lillete Dubey.

### Work:

After graduation he worked for a brief period as a copywriter for an advertising firm and subsequently with his father in business. His theatre group was formed in 1984 and he has directed several plays for them. In 1986, he wrote his first full-length play, where there is will and from 1995 he has been working full-time in theatre. In 1998 he set up his own theatre studio dedicated to training and showcasing new talents in action, directing and stage writing- the first in the country to focus on new works specifically. In 1998, he won prestigious ‘Sahitya Akadami Award, for his book of play ‘final Solutions and other’. Thus becoming the first English language playwright to win the award.

All his play address social issues not the very obvious ones, but the deep seated prejudices and problems that the society is usually conditioned to turn away from. Mahesh Dattani bares life the bones. He says, “Want to be part of society, of the main stream but we must acknowledge that it is a forced harmony”. His plays deal gender identity, gender discrimination, ‘thirty days in September tackle the issue of child abuse head on and final solutions is about the lingering echoes of the partition.

In final solutions, a play about Hindu Muslim conflict was started for Decan Herald theatre festival in Bangalore in December 1992. A week before it was scheduled to be staged, the Babri Masjid was demolished. The festival organizers fearing calamitous repercussions rejected the play.

Prejudice, guilt, dishonesty, compromise this is what Dattani’s plays comprise the stuff of life itself.

Mahesh is a Gujrati by birth, even though he was cosmopolitan outlook poetry, for him, also has great resonance. In drama, one explores the distortions of everyday speech, the weight and flow of everyday movement, and endeavors to bring to them a sense of music” Says Mahesh.

It was Alyque Padamasee who first spotted and encouraged Mahesh Dattani’s talent and gave him the confidence to venture into a career in theatre.

## **Plays as Movies:**

Mahesh Dattani himself directed *Mango Souffle* in 2002. He also wrote and directed *Morning Raga* in 2004. Starring Shabana Azmi, this movie is about a carnatic singer whose life has been traumatized by the loss of her son and her best friend in an accident. It earned Dattani an award for Best Artistic contribution at the Cario Film festival.

Mahesh Dattani is one India most successful playwrights and his plays are known for addressing issues that society tries to hide or turn its face away from. Dattani's plays are on the syllabus of many India and foreign universities and schools. He also conducts workshops in playwriting and acting at his studio in Bangalore, besides writing radio plays for BBC Radio 4. He also has his own theatre studio in Bangalore where he offers courses in acting,

**Miss Geeta Ganbavale**

**B.A.III (Department of English)**

## 2) William Shakespeare:

William Shakespeare (26 April 1564 to 23 April 1616) an English poet, playwright and actor, is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English Language and the world's pre eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet. His extant works, including some collaboration, consist of about 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and a few other verses, of which the authorship of some is uncertain. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

Shakespeare was born and brought up in Stratford upon- Avon. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children: Susanna, and twins Hamlet and Judith. Between 1585 and 1592 he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part-owner of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlains Men, later known as the King's Men. He appears to have retired to Stratford around 1613 at age 49, where he died three years later, few records of Shakespeare private life survive, and there has been considerable speculations about his physical appearance, sexuality, religious beliefs, and whether the works attributed to him were written by others. However, let us not get in to the controversies because after all, as poet Matthew Arnold says in his sonnet on Shakespeare, "others abide our question. Thou art free" The best approach to Shakespeare is to enjoy what he has given us.

### **Shakespeare's Theatre:**

When Shakespeare came up to London, sometime in the late 1580's there were already in existence two fairly well defined theatre districts. Here the Rose (1587) had been erected and as the inaccessibility of the earlier theatre section caused it to decline in popularity, here new play-houses, such as the Swan, (1595) and the celebrated Globe (1595) were built. In addition, during Shakespeare 's lifetime there were scattered about the suburbs close to London several others playhouses, like the Fortune(1600), and the Red Bull (1605) and within the city, Blackfriars, which under the guise of a "private" theatre, managed to evade the civic ordinances against playhouses. At least it is pleasant to think of Shakespeare's play as having been tailor-made for a troupe of stages who had worked together for a period of years and whose physical, mental and professional peculiarities he knew perfectly and made dramatic capital of. Since that time editions of his work have been innumerable, and the roles he created have been the goal of achievements for greatest actors.

### **Shakespeare's Sources:**

"Shakespeare's Originality" lies not in the novelty of his plots but in the fresh vigor and effectiveness of his dramatic art. He sometimes introduced realism to contrast with romance or a bit

of clowning to dull the bitter edge of grief. The mood of the material he often changed, sentimentality becoming sentiment, the cynical becoming wholesome, the immoral the moral for the original geographical setting, moreover, he had no respect if it stood in the way of his higher purpose.

Since it is impossible to do more in this brief section that suggests how Shakespeare transmuted his originals into a drama, a glimpse of his methods can be given in only three plays, a comedy, a history, and a tragedy and only a paragraph may be devoted to each, "Shakespeare changed the names of the character but not of others, thus the Duke Senior, Frederick, Orlando, Silvius and Celia of the play are respectively Gerismond, Torismond, Saladin. Rosader, Montanmus, and Alina in Lodge's story but Rosalind and thebe are the same.

Shakespeare's plays of prince Hal (HenryIV, part1&2) have a double source, Holinshed's chronicle, from which he derived to much of his material for other plays, and the famous victories of Henry the fifth, acted 1588.

### **Shakespeare's Works:**

Dowden has divided the works of Shakespeare into four periods. The development of Shakespeare's genius cannot be divided into water tight compartments. There can be no line of demarcation in the development of a writer's art.

#### **First Period: (1588-93)**

Dowden calls this period 'In the workshop.' It is the period of apprenticeship. During the period Shakespeare is trying to find his way. His imagination is unbridled. He wrote during this period Henry VI, Titus Andronicus, Love's Labor's Lost, Two Gentleman of Verona, The Comedy of Errors, Romeo and Juliet, Richard III, Richard and King John. During the period Shakespeare has imitated others. The authorship of some of the plays is doubtful.

#### **Second Period (1594-1600)**

Dowden calls this period 'In the world .This is the period of rapid growth and development. This is the brightest and most sparking period of his literary career. During the period he wrote funny romantic comedies like .The midsummer nights, Dream Much Ado About nothing, As you like it and Twelfth Night. This period includes historical dramas like Henry IV part one and two, and Henry V. The dramatist has expressed in the plays a better understanding of the world.

### **Third Period (1601-1608)**

Dowden calls this period 'Out of depth' this is the period of tragic gloom, pain and darkness. He wrote during this period soul striking tragedies like Hamlet, King Lear, Macbeth, Othello, Antony and Cleopatra, Julius Caesar and dark comedies like All's well that ends well and Measure for Measure . The management of plot in the tragedies is marvelous. Life to Shakespeare is now a battle-field where ignorant armies clash by night. Life to him is dark, evil and bitter.

### **Fourth Period (1609- 1612)**

Dowden calls this period 'on the heights' after measuring the depth of pain and suffering Shakespeare so are high to the heights of philosophic calm. The period includes Pericles, Cymbeline, The winter's tale and The Tempest. We no longer believe in the theory of serenity. There is much suffering and pain of forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption. There broods about the plays Christen-like charity. Corresponding to the changes in the tone and temper of his plays there are changes in style too. The sentences are close-packed here are rapid and abrupt urgings of thoughts, so quick that the language can hardly follow fast enough, impatient activity of intellect and fancy which having once disclosed an idea, cannot work it orderly out.

**Miss Rohita Bamane**

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### 3) Aristotle's Drama

Aristotle bust by Lisippo by mark Cartwright. Aristotle of Stagira was a Greek philosopher. Who pioneered systematic, scientific examination in literary every area of human knowledge and was known in his times as "The man who knew everything" and later simply as "The philosopher", needing no further qualification as his fame was so widespread. He literary invented the concept of metaphysics single. Handedly when he placed in book an abstract philosophical speculation of his information is collected, assimilated and interpreted, and then communicated across numerous disciplines. During the later middle ages, he was referred to as 'The Master' most notably in Dante's Inferno, where the author did not need to even identify Aristotle by name for him to recognize. This particular epithet is apt in that Aristotle wrote on and was considered a master in disciplines on divers as a biology, politics, metaphysics, agriculture, literature, botany, medicine, mathematics, physics, ethics, logic and the theatre. He is traditionally linked in sequence with Socrates and Plato in the triad of the three greatest Greek philosophers.

After the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE, when the tide of Athenian popular opinion turned against Macedon, Aristotle was charged with impiety owing to his earlier, association with Alexander and the Macedonian court. With the unjust execution of Socrates in mind, Aristotle chooses to flee Athens, "Lest the Athenians sin twice against philosophy", as he said. He died of natural causes a year later in 322 BCE.

Aristotle's writing, like Plato's have influenced virtually every avenue of human knowledge for the past two thousand years. His work were appreciated in the east where Muslim scholars drew inspiration and understanding from his works. His Nichomachean ethics written for his son, Nichamachus as a guide to good living. Is still consulted as a philosophical touchstone in the study of ethics? He contributed to the understanding of Physics, created the field and the study of what is known as metaphysics, wrote extensively on natural science and politics, and his poetics remains a classic of literary criticism.

In all this, he proved himself to be fact the master recognized by Dante. As with Plato, Aristotle's work infuses the entire spectrum of human knowledge as it is apprehended in the present day. Many scholars, philosophers and thinkers over the past two thousand years are studying the works of Aristotle. He has argued with dismissed, ignored, unquestioned and even debunked Aristotle's theories but none have argued that his influence was not vast and deeply penetrating. Establishing schools of thoughts and creating disciplines taken for granted in the present as having always just existed.

According to Aristotle, the goodness of characters depends upon his words, action and purpose. According to him completed wicked character is not field of as a tragedy on the contrary even the

minor characters must be shown with some kind of goodness. Even a wicked character must be shown in some respect. He prefers a complex character. The poet must be represented by his characters bettered and more dignified and original.

According to Aristotle, the tragic character must be appropriate. It means that a character must be true to 'type' or 'status'. For example, a woman must be shown as womanly and not mainly a slave. A slave must be presented with his appropriate status. In a woman, similarly, dignity and nobility are a slave's character. If a character is taken from a myth story, they must be true to tradition. For Aristotle, the character of a tragedy must have likeness, meaning they must be like our lives, all true to life.

According to Aristotle, the function of tragedy is to arouse the emotion of pity and fear. He should be good, but not too good or perfect, because the fall of a perfectly good man from happiness into misery would be not appropriate. His fall will not arouse pity because he is not like us. In the same way, an extremely wicked person passing from happiness to misery may satisfy our moral sense but it will lack the tragic qualities.

In the same way, a character perfectly good, a saint, would be unsuitable as a tragic hero. Because his fall will shock the audience, his martyrdom is a spiritual victory and it will be morally driven for the physical suffering. The saint is unselfish and tends to be passive and inactive. The drama should present a militant and ambitious hero.

According to Aristotle, the character must be true to their own nature and their actions must be in character. A character's fall should be actorly and impulsive. There should be no sudden changes in characters. The character must be the necessary probable outcome of his nature.

Aristotle's point is that the ideal tragic hero must be an interpreted kind of person, a man not presentably virtuous and just, whose misfortune, however, is brought upon him not by vice or depravity but by some error of judgment.

Aristotle had used the word "hamartia" for an error of judgment which a man makes. The Greek word Hamartia means missing the mark. This error may arrive from the following three ways.

First, it may arrive from ignorance of some material fact or circumstances. Second, it may arrive from a hasty or careless view of the special case. Third, it may arrive from a voluntary error as in the case of anger or passion.

**Miss Sabina Sartaj Momin**

**(B.A. III) Department of English**

#### **4) Ben Jonson**

Ben Jonson was born in 1572 London, England. He was an English play writer and poet best known for his satiric comedies.

##### **Early Career:**

Ben Jonson was special gifted with his strong sense of artistic form and control. Although an accomplished scholar, he could also write in the way everyday people spoke. It was because of this skill that he was liked by both people who were well read and by people who did not have an advanced education. Ben Jonson was born a month after the death of his father. His father was a clergyman. His father gained his position when King Henry VIII ruled England. Then when Jonson's father died his mother married a bricklayer. That way Johnson did not continue his schooling. His stepfather made him work in the more practical business of bricklaying. Jonson and his father was a minister.

##### **Major Works:**

Jonson gained fame when he wrote *Volpone*, on the fere in 1606. It was loved not only by the people in London but also by the scholars at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Ben Jonson's first major play was 'Every man in his Humour'. It was performed by a theatre group called the Lord Chamberlain's men. William Shakespeare performed the lead role. This was a major success for Jonson. After *Volpone* Jonson wrote *Epicene or the Silent women* (1609).

A year later at the Globe theatre, Jonson had his first stage success with 'Every man in his humour'. The Latin's used the word humour to mean moisture or fluid, the tradition of the medical profession used the regarding four fluids: blood, phlegm, black bile, and yellow bile.

Jonson gathered many young poets and playwrights around him, and they were eventually called the "Tribe of Ben". Among their number could be include James Shirley, Thomas Carew and Robert Hedrick. Ben Jonson was never a provident man. By 1629, he lived alone, bedridden with paralysis and without funds. After eight years of pain and penury, he died and was buried in Westminster Abbey (1637). Jonson's one of his contemporaries summed up his person for the epitaph on his tomb in Westminster Abbey: "O R are Ben Jonson".

**Miss Meera Giri**  
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## **5) Mahesh Dattani**

Mahesh Dattani was born on 7th August 1958 is an Indian director, actor, playwright and writer. He wrote such plays as final solutions dance like a man, Bravely fought the queen. He got Sahitya Akademi Award. He is the first playwright in English to be awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award. His plays have been directed by eminent directors like Arvind Gaur, Alque padmasee and lillete dubey.

Mahesh Dattani was born in Benglore to Gujarati parents. He went to Baldwin Boys High School and went on to join st. Joseph's College, Benglore. Dattani is a graduate in History, Economics and Political Science. He is a post graduate in Marketing and Advertising Management. He was also influenced by Gujarati playwright. Madhu Ray's Kulkarni Agashi and developed an interest in play writing.

### **Career:**

Mahesh Dattani began his career as a copywriter in an advertising firm. In 1986, he wrote his first full-length play. Where there a will and since 1995, he has been working as a full-time theatre professional. He has also worked with his father in the family business.

Dattani is also a film director. His debute film is Mango suffle, adapted from one of his plays. He also wrote and directed the Movie.

Bravely fought the Queen (1991)

On a Muggy Night in Mumbai (1998)

### **Award:**

Dance like a man has won the award for the best picture in English awarded by the national pa.....ma in 1998.

Sahitya Akademi Award for his book of plays final solutions and other plays.

Sahitya kala Parishad selected final solutios 1997 Tara 2000 and 30 days in September 2007 as best productions of the year directed by Arvind Gaur.

**Miss Komal Honmore  
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## 6) Drama

In literature, a drama is the portrayal of fictional or non-fictional events through the performance of written dialogue. Dramas can be performed on stage, on film or the radio, dramas are typically called plays and their creators are known as “playwrights” or “Dramatists”.

### **Definition:**

Defining drama in clear term is very difficult, for that matter, it is always difficult to define any form of literature, because literature is a living thing. The two important and qualifying qualities of a living thing are that they grow and they move. If we look at any form of literature we will find that it has grown and spread over a vast area. There are certain forms that have become obsolete (outdated & archaic) today. The immediate example that comes to mind, as far as the third quality is concerned, is the Sanskrit ‘Kadambari’ means ‘Novel’. Take an example of short story form, when it came into being, it was expected of have a gripping and powerful story. Later the introduction of psychological characterization reduced the important of plot and concentration was on the inner working characters. This technique later came to be known as the stream of consciousness technique. It was then felt that a short story need not tell any story at all and there is a large number of stories. Where practically nothing happens stories of H. E. Bates fall into this category. Now, when short story as a form was defined importance was given to the plot as well as characters. But now plot has last importance and definitions falls short as it does not cover gener (type, kind, variety) of literature. And that is why it is difficult to make a hard and last definitions of literary genre, so, let us have a couple of then and try to see what drama is in respect of these definitions.

**“Drama is a composition in prose and verse, adapted to be acted on the stage, in which a story is related by means of dialogue and action and is represented with accompanying gesture, costume and scenery as in real life”.**

**- Shorter Oxford English Dictionary**

This definition near or less covers all the important features covered in the earlier definition. But it goes beyond it and add a new but important feature that is missing in definition number one. It is costume and scenery. They are necessary atmosphere suppose the action takes place on the sea. The scenery on the stage should represent. The boat on the sea, so that we can get the good feel of the action. Similarly, the costume is also important. A beggar cannot be presented as wearing a crown simply because the necessary costume is not available. The costume and thus help the dramadist to present what he wants his spectators to see. As we all know, drama is an audio-visual art. It is be

seen in the form of a performance on the stage. The visual effect adds a lot to the audio effect when the two combine on the stage.

Drama Key Terms:

**1) Drama:**

The portrayal of fictional or non fictional events in theatre, film, radio or television.

2) **Thalia:** the Greek Muse of Comedy, depicted as one of the two Masks of Drama.

3) **Dramatic Tension:** The most basic element of drama used to stir the emotions of the audience.

4) **Melepomene:** the Greek Muse of tragedy, the other msk of drama.

5) **Comedy:** the humorous genre of drama intended to keep the audience laughing on the way to plays happy ending.

6) **Tragedy:** the portrayal of darker subjects like death, disaster, betrayal and human suffering.

7) **Opera:** the artful combination of dialogue, music, and dance to tell grand stories of tragedy or comedy.

8) **Farce:** An “Over the top” of purposely over acted and exaggerated comedy.

9) **Melodrama:** the description of simple classic characters like heroes and villains dealing with sensational romantic and often perilous situations.

10) **Docudrama:** historical or non fictional events portrayed in a dramatic fashion.

**Mr. Yunus Ismail Jamage**  
**(B A III) Department of English**