

# Drama – Brecht – Non-Naturalistic



## Who is Bertolt Brecht?

**Brecht** was a German playwright and theatre maker. He believed theatre should make people think about the world and how to change it, instead of just entertaining them. He believed theatre could **inspire people** to take action and make the world a **better place**. He didn't want the audience to get too emotional or attached to characters. Instead, he wanted them to stay detached and focus on the message of the play.



## Key Devices used by Brecht

**Narration:** Characters or narrators explain parts of the story to disrupt the flow.

**Placards and Signs:** Written signs or projections highlight key messages or events.

**Multi-roling:** Actors play multiple characters to show the artificial nature of theatre.

**Minimal Set and Props:** Simple staging to focus on ideas, not realism.

**Lighting:** Harsh, visible lights remind the audience they are watching a performance.

**Music and Song:** Used to comment on the action, often with jarring or contrasting tones.

**Breaking the Fourth Wall:** Actors directly address the audience to remind them they are watching a play.

## Who is John Godber?

**John Godber** is a British playwright and director, known for writing plays about **everyday life**, often with a focus on **working class experiences**. His plays are funny, lively, and full of energy. They also explore important themes like **relationships, work, and social issues**.



## What is Dramatic Intention?

**Dramatic intention** is the reason why a play or performance is created. It's about what the playwright, director, or actor wants the audience to feel, think, or understand.

### Bouncers Dramatic Intention:

- To raise awareness for the negative side of drinking culture of the working class and 'lad culture' on a night out.
- To highlight issues of violence in the bouncer profession.
- To raise concern about mob mentality amongst men.

### Shakers Dramatic Intention

- To highlight issues of high unemployment during the 80's.
- To raise awareness of abuse and negative behaviour women dealt with from customers working in a bar.
- To highlight how women were used in the industry for their looks instead of their skills.

## Bouncers and Shakers as Brechtian Plays

Written by **John Godber**, these plays share elements of **Brecht's** style:

**Multi-roling:** A small cast plays multiple characters, often switching quickly.

**Minimal Set:** Uses basic props and staging, forcing the audience to imagine the environment.

**Social Commentary:** Explores themes like class, nightlife, and gender dynamics.

**Direct Address:** Characters often speak directly to the audience.

**Exaggeration:** Movements and mannerisms are exaggerated to convey stereotypes and themes.

**Chorus:** Everyone speaking at the same time