

IRISH DRAMA

Prepared by: Dr. Syeda Umme Tasnim

- One of the first Irish dramatist was George Bernard Shaw.
- By the late nineteenth century, the Irish Literary Renaissance had introduced to the stage the resources of Ireland's long-neglected cultural tradition. The father of this movement was the poet William Butler Yeats.
- Under the influence of John O'Leary, a revolutionary and *littérateur*, the young Yeats turned from a career begun in the spirit of late Victorian English letters to the folklore of the west of Ireland and the heroic legends of Celtic literature that were, by the end of the nineteenth century, becoming available in contemporary English translation.



- In the company of Lady Augusta Gregory , a folklorist and folk dramatist, and Edward Martyn , a landed gentleman, Yeats founded the Irish Literary Theatre in 1899, which within several seasons became the showpiece of the national literary movement: Dublin's Abbey Theatre.
- Irish theatre brought a sense of enthusiasm for its native land among the audience.

- There were character interactions in the native dialect
- Plays were full with symbols, images and superstitious beliefs, and playwrights highlighted the excessive dependence of the Irish life on these superstitions.
- Irish drama used the one-act where the daily issues of primitive peasant folk were charted.