

French Drama 17-18th centuries

Comédie Française

Spanish Drama

Golden Age 1580-1680

Commedia dell'arte

Comedy of professional players

Innamorato & Innamorata,

Vecchi,

Capitano,

Pantalone,

Dottore,

Zanni,

Harlequin,

English Restoration Drama c. 1660 - 1710

1642 – 1660 Theaters closed

- some secret performances
- theater popular on the Continent

1660 Restoration of Monarchy, King Charles II

- approves of 2 acting companies,
- New theaters built
- Women allowed to act professionally
- Women begin to write plays (Aphra Behn)
- French influence, spectacle, more visual interest
- Celebrity actors/actresses
- Moveable stage machines and scenery
- Elizabethan and Jacobean plays performed and sometimes re-written
- Shakespeare the most popular playwright
- Heroic drama fades

English Playwrights

William Wycherly, William Congreve, John Dryden,

Comedy

- urban
- upper class, lives of pleasure and boredom
- manners
- gender
- wit

Anti-theatricalism