

## **CORE PLAY-READING LIST FOR THEATER STUDIES MAJORS**

Before graduating from St. Mary's College of Maryland, TFMS theater studies majors should read the following **65 plays**, which exemplify the historical and cultural variety of dramatic literature. The list includes plays that are representative of significant dramaturgies and will provide a basis for further reading in these periods and cultures.

### **CLASSICAL DRAMA (GREECE AND ROME)**

Aeschylus (525-456 BCE)

***The Oresteia*** (includes: *Agamemnon*, *The Libation Bearers*, *The Eumenides*)

Sophocles (c.496-406 BCE)

***Oedipus Rex***

Euripides (c.485-406 BCE)

***The Bacchae***

Aristophanes (c.448-c.380 BCE)

***The Birds***

Plautus (c.254-c.184 BCE)

***The Twin Menaechmi***

Seneca (c.5 B.C.-65 CE)

***Thyestes***

### **DRAMA OF EASTERN CULTURES**

(as recorded by Valmiki in *The Ramayana*, c. 400-200 BCE)

***The Reincarnation of Rama*** (a Javanese shadow puppet play, in *On Thrones of Gold*, trans. James R. Brandon, 1970)

(Indian Hindu epic, c. 350 CE)

***The Mahabharata*** (see also: Peter Brook film of the same)

Shudraka (Indian Sanskrit, 8<sup>th</sup> C.)

***The Little Clay Cart (Mrcchakatikâ)***

Tang Xianzu (Chinese Kunqu play, 1598)

***Peony Pavilion***

Namiki Sosuke (Japanese kabuki play, 1751)

***The Chronicle of the Battle of Ichinotani***

(Japanese noh play, 1753)

***Dojoji***

## **MEDIEVAL DRAMA**

Hrotsvit von Gandersheim (10th c. German-Saxon nun)  
*Dulcitius*

Anonymous  
*The Second Shepherd's Play* (in the Wakefield Cycle, 15th c.)  
*Everyman* (c.1500 A.D.)

## **ITALIAN COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE**

Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527)  
*The Mandrake*

## **ELIZABETHAN AND JACOBAN DRAMA**

Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593)  
*Doctor Faustus*

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)  
*Henry IV, Part I*  
*As You Like It*  
*King Lear*  
*The Tempest*

Ben Jonson (1573-1637)  
*Volpone*

John Webster (c.1580-c.1630)  
*The Duchess of Malfi*

## **SPANISH GOLDEN AGE DRAMA**

Lope Felix de Vega Carpio (Lope de Vega, 1562-1635)  
*Fuente Ovejuna*

Pedro Calderon de la Barca (Calderon, 1600-1681)  
*Life is a Dream*

## **FRENCH NEO-CLASSICAL DRAMA**

Molière (Jean Baptiste Poquelin, 1622-1673)  
*Tartuffe*

Jean Racine (1639-1699)  
*Phaedra*

## RESTORATION AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ANGLO-EUROPEAN DRAMA

John Dryden (1631-1700)

*All For Love*

Aphra Behn (1640-1689)

*The Rover*

William Wycherley (1640-1715)

*The Country Wife*

George Lillo (1693-1739)

*The London Merchant*

Carlo Goldoni (1707-1793)

*La Locandiera (The Mistress of the Inn, a.k.a. Mirandolina)*

Pierre de Beaumarchais (1732-1799)

*The Marriage of Figaro*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)

*Faust, Part I*

## MODERN ANGLO-EUROPEAN DRAMA

Georg Buchner (1813-1837)

*Woyzeck*

Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906)

*Peer Gynt*

*Ghosts*

August Strindberg (1849-1912)

*A Dream Play*

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

*Heartbreak House*

Anton Chekhov (1860-1904)

*The Three Sisters*

Luigi Pirandello (1867-1936)

*Six Characters in Search of an Author*

Alfred Jarry (1873-1907)

*Ubu Roi*

Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956)

*The Good Person of Setzuan*

Samuel Beckett (1906-1989)

*Waiting for Godot*

Jean Genet (1910-1986)

*The Maids*

Peter Weiss (1916-1982)

*Marat/Sade*

Friedrich Durrenmatt (1921-1990)

*The Visit*

Harold Pinter (1932- )

*Old Times*

Caryl Churchill (1938- )

*Cloud Nine*

Naomi Wallace (1960- )

*One Flea Spare*

#### **DRAMA OF AFRICAN CULTURES**

Athol Fugard (South African, 1932- )

*Blood Knot*

Wole Soyinka (Nigerian, 1934- )

*Death and the King's Horseman*

#### **DRAMA OF AMERICAN CULTURES**

Eugene O'Neill (1888-1954)

*Long Day's Journey into Night*

Sophie Treadwell (1891-1970)

*Machinal*

Thornton Wilder (1897-1976)

*The Skin of Our Teeth*

Arthur Miller (1915-2005)

*Death of a Salesman*

Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965)

*A Raisin in the Sun*

Maria Irene Fornes (1930- )

*Fefu and Her Friends*

Luis Valdez (1942- )  
*Zoot Suit*

August Wilson (1945- )  
*Fences*

Henry David Hwang (1957- )  
*M. Butterfly*

Holly Hughes (1955- ), Peggy Shaw (1945- ), and Lois Weaver (1950- )  
*Dress Suits for Hire*

Tony Kushner (1956- )  
*Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches*

Anna Deavere Smith (1950- )  
*Fires in the Mirror*

Suzan-Lori Parks (1963- )  
*Venus*

**Compiled by J. Klein, 11/91; revised by the TFMS department, 5/05**