

Read H. Pinter's biography on the next page and fill in the table below.



Family and Environment

Attitudes. Interests. Influences

...a working class area in East London on 10th of October
...a hard-working Jewish tailor, probably of Hungarian
...factory and at
...litical battles
...treats, violence and tension between
...y life in 1939, when the war broke out, Harold had to
...family stayed in London and occasionally went to see his
...school and one year later he applied for a grant to study at
...the Arts. He dropped school after two terms of education
...licated as the other students. At the age of 18, Pinter
...declared himself a conscientious objector. For this he
...in 1950-52 he began his career
...had to appear in court twice and pay a fine.
...as an actor for the BBC and one year later he toured Ireland with the theatre company of David Baton. In this period he married Vivien Merchant, an actress of his company, and had a son, Daniel.
...in 1957 he wrote his first play, The Room in
...room where the characters go in and out showing
...outside. The Room was followed by The Dumb Waiter in 1958, which
...all night long... performed for the first time
...ately produced and received very good reviews.
...er, started and dates. In this play, about two brothers who are threatened by a
...writer, Pinter explores some of his later themes on personal identity, lack
...communication and nostalgic memory. In the same year Pinter produced several radio plays
...including Without Night School, and The Dumb Waiter followed by The Collection (1957).
...over (1953) and The Party (1954). The Homecoming was performed at the Royal
...years followed by The Basement (1957), Lunch and Silence (1958) and Old Times
...1972). Most of Pinter's plays deal with men's
...as abstract concepts but as everyday experiences. In 1975 No Man's Land followed
...exploring the theme of memory and Pinter's
...reconstruct the events leading to his character's
...works include Other Places and A State of Mind. Pinter's
...conscious state.
...at that he should still work and you and I, and
...one existence, not something hacked together by a bus
...and, work, sex, should not be hours and office hours. A man should not
...it your life? Savour it
...gently? In the country we shall be soon where the
...air doesn't smell of bricks and the kids can grow up
...without seeing grandparents who are continually
...shouting at each other.
...Ada, Ada.
...Ada: And no more political activity?
...Ada: No more political activity.
...Ada: I bet Dave won't agree to that. Dave fought in
...again. He won't desert humanity like that.
...Ada: Humanity! Ach!
...Ada: Listen to her! With a Labour majority in the
...house? And two of our own Party members? It's only
...at beginning.
...It's always only just beginning for the Party. Every
...defeat is victory and every victory is the beginning.
...Ada: But it is, it is the beginning. Plans for towns and
...country planning. New cities and schools and hospitals.
...umping up on chair to HARRY's face!
...ationalization! National health! Think of it, the whole

HAROLD PINTER

Harold Pinter was born at Hackney, a working class area in East London on 10th of October 1930. He was the only son of a hard-working Jewish tailor, probably of Hungarian or Portuguese origin.

Harold spent his childhood in Hackney and attended the local grammar school. In the 1930s the East End of London was a political battlefield, populated by large numbers of Irish, Jewish, Chinese immigrants. In these streets, violence and tension between fascists and Jewish militants were matters of everyday life. In 1939, when the war broke out, Harold fled to the country with other boys, while his family stayed in London and occasionally went to see him. In 1947 he left Hackney Grammar School and one year later he applied for a grant to study acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. He dropped school after two terms of attendance, because he didn't feel as sophisticated as the other students. At the age of 18, Pinter refused to join the National Service and declared himself a conscientious objector. For this he risked a prison sentence, had to appear in court twice and pay a fine. In 1950-52 he began his career as an actor for the BBC and one year later he toured Ireland with the theatre company of Anew McMaster. From 1953 to 1958 he acted in different provincial repertory theatres in Britain under the stage name of David Baron. In this period he married Vivien Merchant, an excellent actress of his company, and had a son: Daniel.

In 1957 he wrote his first play, *The Room* in only four afternoons. The play takes place in a room where the characters go in and out showing their anxieties and fears for the hostile world outside. *The Room* was followed by *The Dumb Waiter* in 1960. *The Birthday Party*, Pinter's first full length play, performed for the first time at the Arts Theatre in Cambridge in 1958, was bitterly criticized and received very poor reviews. On April 27 1960 the *Caretaker* was performed, starring Alan Bates. In this play, about two brothers who are threatened by an intruder, Pinter anticipates some of his later themes on personal identity, lack of communication and unreliable memory. In the same year Pinter produced several radio plays including *Night out*, *Night School*, and *The Dwarfs* followed by *The Collection* (1961), *The Lover* (1963) and *The Tea Party* (1964). *The Homecoming* was performed at the Aldwych Theatre, followed by *The Basement* (1967), *Landscape* and *Silence* (1968) and *Old Times* (1972). Most of Pinter's plays deal with man's fundamental anxieties and existential fears not as abstract concepts but as everyday experiences. In 1975 *No Man's Land* showed Pinter exploring the theme of memory and in *Betrayal* he adopted the flashback technique to reconstruct the events leading to his character's disillusionment and despair. Pinter's current works include *Other Places* and *A Kind of Alaska* about unconscious victims recovering a conscious state.