

A Note on Ibsen
And
Nora's Doll Life

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Introduction

Ibsen's naturalistic dramas have greatly influenced modern dramatists. According to the great Norwegian master art should be a source of insight and inspiration for those who search new paths for progress. Ibsen and the modern dramatists who followed him had the conventions that the purpose of drama was to take up social issues in order to bring about reform for social establishments. Ibsen found a chasm between the Victorian ideology and practice, a contradiction between appearance and reality. For Ibsen reality was a shared experience between readers and writers. The Victorian society under the mask of liberty had the strong elements of tyranny. Ibsen entered into his own times concrete reality. He believed in justice, truth, and freedom as the highest

values for living. Ibsen rebelled against the hypocrisy of his time and the contradiction between 'what is' and 'what should be'. Ibsen's battleground became his challenges with the social conditions including; marriage, the role of the sexes, religion, and all of the restrictions which were the direct results of the patriarchal conventions.

He focused on the bourgeois family as the main unit of society. The family was a micro-society that reflected the essence of the macro-society. The patriarchal conventions within the structure of the family, as the smallest unit, were a reflection of the limitations in the whole society.

The weight of public opinion which was directed by the past norms had ruined the individuals' rights. Individuals consciously or unconsciously followed the conventions without knowing the mischiefs, for example Torvald Helmer's cruel reaction to his wife. The individual's destiny was Ibsen's medium to show how the contemporary conventions thwarted individuals and how a hostile society was against the individuals. Ibsen announced that kind of society could not satisfy the natural demands of the individuals.

A Doll's House is rich with many complex issues; the title becomes a metaphor to show the condition of women in society. *A Doll's House* is a marriage drama, in which Nora plays a game of deceit in order to keep her marital life. Nora left the artificial life in order to experience a real one. The female was chosen by Ibsen to announce the revolution of the human soul in this drama. Ibsen recognized women's rights as the dominant social problem at that time, because women could not behave as they needed. For Ibsen women's exhaustibility was society's problem and it should be solved alongside with the other problems. Ibsen defended equality and justice without minding genotype, phenotype, sex, or race. Ibsen defended a natural life in a natural way without any obstacle.

Ibsen like the Romantics believed that individuals should experience a happy life. For Ibsen the great sinners were those who ruined the joy of life.