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## Brecht's theatre techniques:

There are many device and techniques in epic theatre. However, the ambition of using all the device is to emphasis and convey the "v" effect. This V effect is to shorter the distance between the audience and the actor. Also this effect would break the fourth wall, the imaginary wall between the actor and audience which keep them as an observer. If the fourth wall, the audience will be engaged in the play and think of the message that the play wants to convey. The message that Brecht usually wants to demonstrate is the theme of moral, the social, the news at that time etc. The device from the "v" effect are firstly, "narration" which remind the audience they are now watching a play. Secondly, "Coming out of the role" is a clear way of reminding the audience of theatricality. Thirdly, "Direct dress" would break the fourth wall and the illusion of the audience. It would remind them they are watching a play and they have to think what is message behind. There are also some device which is different from the others from the Brechtian staging. For example, "multi rolling" could allow the audience to see clearly one actor is playing more than one role. This make them be aware of the fact that they are watching a play. "Minimal props and sets" could also remind the audience they are an observer of the play. It could lead them to think the message behind the play.

## Brecht's work/ Epic theatre have a great influence to the modern day theatre:

- Influence on Political theatre: Political theatre expresses political opinions and comment on political events which is influence by epic theatre.

- To famous play, "The death of a salesman", "Top girls", both plays above are famous plays in epic theatre style while it shows the affect of Brecht's work in modern days.

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## What is epic theatre

Epic theatre is a theory that Brecht uses starting from 1920s. He was inspired by his preoccupation with Marxism and the idea that man and society could be intellectually analysed. Epic theatre unlike the other theatre, only provide entertainment, it also provides different messages behind the play and social issue. Also, the actor in epic theatre is should not be emotional as the other, they should not give the audience an illusion that they are in the performance with all the characters. .

## How has the epic theatre relates with the society?

The epic theatre was highly related to politics during Germany's political warfare. This close relationship because of the fact that theatre is a very effective media to gain influence.

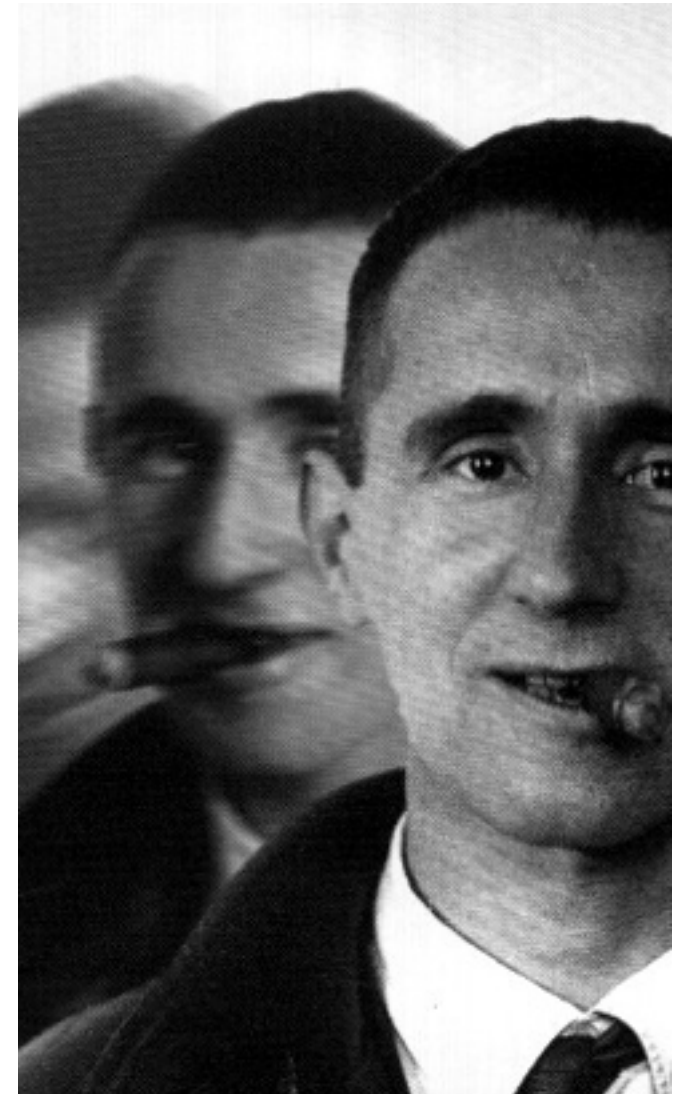
"These characteristics closely ally to politics, since they make it possible for theatre to be used as an instrument of propaganda" stated Hubner (1992). This demonstrate epic theatre have a great social influence and can become the tool of rising the awareness of propaganda with it's special techniques and stage play.

Brecht hates war, therefore, he utilise his play and theatre to reveal his anti-war emotion. He wrote "Mother Courage and Her Children" is considered the greatest play in 20 centuries and perhaps the best anti war play.

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## Epic Theatre and Brecht

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## Who is Bertolt Brecht?

- A German playwright, theatre director and poet
- Born on February 10th 1898 and died on August 14th 1956
- Almost expelled when he was 18 because he was against his country attending the war
- By 19 he went do to clerical work for the war
- Start writing plays since 1918.
- Brecht hates war and have being anti-war his whole life
- When Adolf Hitler gain power in 1933 Brecht was forced to move away, he lived in Denmark, Sweden and the Soviet Union.



## Role of Brecht's work

The original purpose of Brecht's play/work was to educate people and inform people about existing social issues. He also want to express his opinion about the issues he presents in the play and keeps the audience from being emotionally involved to the play. Brecht wanted people to think and reflect after they watched his play and turn in to "Curious critical observer".

## Why he create epic theatre

Brecht created epic theatre because of two reasons. One is to throw over the romantic dramas where the audiences only receives information from the play and being involved emotionally to the play. Brecht wants the audience to challenge his play and to really think about the moral messages behind his play.

The main reason is Brecht wants to express his opinion about social issues for example anti-war so he invented epic theatre to achieve his aim. He challenges social values at the time himself and wants audience to have their own opinion about the issue concerned in the play. Epic theatre is a tool that Brecht utilises to express his Marxism belief/ political views.

Example: Mother courage and her children

Because Brecht had experienced war in his years as a clerical, so he knew the cruelty and savagery of war. The mother courage and her children is an anti-war play, Brecht is trying to bring out the negative side of war where people lost moral value and religious principles in this piece of work. Brecht wants to opposes the rise of Nazi where it is an act of anti-war.

