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ИСТОРИЯ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ТЕАТРА

Проектно-исследовательская
информационно-аналитическая работа

Учащиеся 10 класса

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Введение

Если у вас есть слезы,
приготовьтесь пролить их.

В. Шекспир

Театру, который достиг совершенства,
уже ничего не может помочь.

Н. Акимов

Данная проектно-исследовательская работа выполнена в рамках общешкольного проекта «Предметные недели» в соответствии с «Положением о проектной деятельности учащихся школы». Проект был запланирован к «Неделе иностранных языков», посвященной театру стран изучаемого языка.

Во все времена театр являлся источником культурных ценностей народа и отражал события, происходившие в обществе. Для изучающих английский язык большой интерес всегда представляют искусство и культура Англии. В данной работе анализируется проблема истории развития английского театра. Авторами выдвинута гипотеза: **«Ход развития английского театра в очень большой степени зависел от исторических событий, происходивших в обществе, а также от конкретных исторических личностей».**

Над проектом работала группа учащихся. Необходимо было изучить большое количество материала по истории Англии на английском языке. Было решено систематизировать полученный материал, разбив всю историю страны на пять периодов. В дальнейшем каждый член группы работал над отдельным историческим периодом, анализируя зависимость развития театра от исторических событий, происходивших в стране в конкретный период её существования.

Особое внимание в работе уделено истории возникновения отдельных театров, а также значению конкретных исторических личностей, повлиявших на ход развития театра.

Основное содержание и презентация работы выполнены на английском языке. По структуре работа состоит из пяти глав, включающих в себя материалы исследования по пяти историческим периодам.

Презентационная часть работы включает музыкальное оформление. Музыка подобрана в соответствии с представляемой исторической эпохой.

History of the English Theatre

Periods:

- I. Late 15th – 16th century. **The Tudor Era.** English Renaissance Theatre.
- II. 17th century. **Stuarts Period.** Theatre Royal Drury Lane.
- III. 18th – early 19th century. **Georgian Period.** Hay Market Theatre.
- IV. 19th century. **Victorian Era.** The Golden Age of British Theatre.
- V. English Theatre In the 20th century. Royal Opera House.

Late 15th -16th century. The Tudor Era. English Renaissance Theatre.

The English Renaissance, a cultural and artistic movement in England that lasted from 16th to early-17th century paved the way for the dominance of drama in the country. Queen Elizabeth I ruled during the period, when great poetry and drama were produced. The renowned playwrights of this time included William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson and John Webster. The dramatists wrote plays based on themes like history, comedy and tragedy. While most of the playwrights specialized in only one of the themes, Shakespeare emerged as an artist who produced plays based on all the three themes.

«English Renaissance theatre», also known as «Early Modern English Theatre», refers to the theatre of England, largely based in London. «English Renaissance Theatre» is sometimes called «Elizabethan theatre». The term «Elizabethan theatre», however, properly covers only the plays written and performed publicly in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1558–1603). «Elizabethan theatre» is distinguished from «Jacobean theatre» (associated with the reign of King James I, 1603–1625), and «Caroline theatre» (associated with King Charles I, 1625-1642). «English Renaissance theatre» or «Early Modern English Theatre» refers to these sub-classifications taken together. Most famous plays were written and performed during the Elizabethan era.

Renaissance theatre derived from medieval theatre traditions, such as the mystery plays that formed a part of religious festivals in England and other parts of Europe during the Middle Ages. The mystery plays were complex retellings of legends based on biblical themes, originally performed in Cathedrals. Companies of players, attached to households of leading noblemen, performed seasonally in various locations existed before the reign of Elizabeth I. These became the foundation for the professional players that performed on the Elizabethan stage. The tours of these players gradually replaced the performances of the mystery and morality plays by local players. The establishment of large and profitable public theatres was an essential enabling factor in the success of English Renaissance drama.

The first theatre in England was called «The Theatre». «The Theatre» was constructed in Shoreditch in 1576 by James Burbage with his brother-in-law John Brayne (the owner of the unsuccessful Red Lion playhouse of 1567). «The Theatre» was rapidly followed by the nearby «The Curtain Theatre» (1577), «The Rose» (1587), «The Swan» (1595), «The Globe» (1599), «The Fortune» (1600), and «The Red Bull» (1604).

The public theatres were built three stories high around an open space at the centre.

Usually built of timber, lath and plaster and with thatched roofs, the early theatres were vulnerable to fire, and were replaced (when necessary) with stronger

structures. When «The Globe» burned down in June 1613 it was rebuilt with a tile roof; when «The Fortune» burned down in December 1621 it was rebuilt in brick. One distinctive feature of the companies was that they included only males. Until the reign of Charles II, female parts were played by adolescent boy players in women's costume.

Costumes were often bright in color and visually entrancing. Costumes were expensive, however. Usually players wore contemporary clothing regardless of the time period of the play. Occasionally, a lead character would wear a conventionalized version of more historically accurate garb but secondary characters would nonetheless remain in contemporary clothing.

Tragedy was a popular genre. Marlowe's tragedies were exceptionally popular, such as «Dr. Faustus» and «The Jew of Malta». The audiences particularly liked revenge dramas, such as Thomas Kyd's «The Spanish Tragedy». The four tragedies considered to be Shakespeare's greatest («Hamlet», «Othello», «King Lear», and «Macbeth») were composed during this period, as well as many others.

Comedies were common, too. A sub-genre developed in this period was the city comedy which deals satirically with life in London. Examples are Thomas Dekker's «The Shoemaker's Holiday» and Thomas Middleton's «A Chaste Maid in Cheapside».

This period is closely connected with the name of William Shakespeare. William Shakespeare (baptised 26 April 1564; died 23 April 1616) was an English poet and playwright, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist.

He is often called England's national poet and the «Bard of Avon». His surviving works including some collaborations consist of about 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

Shakespeare was born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon. At the age of 18 he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith. Hamnet died of unknown causes at the age of 11.

Between 1585 and 1592 he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer and part owner of a playing company called the «Lord Chamberlain's Men», later known as the «King's Men». He appears to have retired to Stratford around 1613 where he died three years later. Few records of Shakespeare's private life survive and there has been considerable speculation about such matters as his physical appearance, sexuality, religious beliefs, and whether the works attributed to him were written by others. Shakespeare produced most of his known work between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were mainly comedies and histories.

Shakespeare was a respected poet and playwright in his own day, but his reputation did not rise to its present heights until the 19th century.

From 1594, Shakespeare's plays were performed only by the «Lord Chamberlain's Men», a company owned by a group of players, including Shakespeare. It soon became the leading playing company in London. After the death of Queen Elizabeth in 1603 the company was awarded a royal patent by the new king, James I, and changed its name to the «King's Men». «The Lord Chamberlain's Men» was a playing company for whom Shakespeare worked for most of his career.

In 1599 a partnership of company members built their own theatre on the south bank of the River Thames, which they called «The Globe», the first playhouse built by actors for actors.

«The Globe» was opened in autumn 1599 with «Julius Caesar». Most of Shakespeare's greatest post-1599 plays were written for «The Globe», including «Hamlet», «Othello» and «King Lear».

«The Globe Theatre» was built in 1599 by Shakespeare's playing company, the «Lord Chamberlain's Men». It was destroyed by fire on 29 June 1613 during a performance of «Henry the Eighth». A second «Globe Theatre» was built on the same site by June 1614 and closed in 1642. A modern reconstruction of «The Globe» named «Shakespeare's Globe» was opened in 1997 approximately 230 meters from the site of the original theatre.

William Shakespeare's famous contemporaries were Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson and John Webster. Marlowe was born in Canterbury to a shoemaker John Marlowe and his wife Catherine. His date of birth is not known, but he was baptised on 26 February 1564 and likely to have been born a few days before. Thus he was just two months older than his contemporary Shakespeare. «Dido, Queen of Carthage» was Marlowe's first drama. Marlowe's first play performed on stage in London was «Tamburlaine» (1587). It was about the conqueror Timur who rises from shepherd to warrior. It is among the first English plays in blank verse, and, generally is considered the beginning of the mature phase of the Elizabethan theatre. «Tamburlaine» was a success and was followed with «Tamburlaine. Part II».

Marlowe's plays were enormously successful. Shakespeare was heavily influenced by Marlowe in his work. Ben Jonson's well known play «Every Man in His Humour» was performed in 1598 by the «Lord Chamberlain's Men» at «The Globe» with William Shakespeare in the cast. Jonson became a celebrity and there was a brief fashion for 'humours' comedy, a kind of topical comedy involving eccentric characters, each of whom represented a temperament or humor of humanity.

John Webster (1580 – 1634) was an English Jacobean dramatist best known for his tragedies «The White Devil» and «The Duchess of Malfi» which are often

regarded as masterpieces of the early 17th-century English stage. He was a contemporary of William Shakespeare. Webster's major plays «The White Devil» and «The Duchess of Malfi» are still frequently staged today. Webster has received a reputation for being the Elizabethan and Jacobean dramatist with the most dark vision of human nature. Webster's tragedies present a horrific vision of mankind.

17th century. The Stuarts Period. «Theatre Royal Drury Lane».

During the period of Interregnum the Puritans closed English theatres for their own religious purposes and ideological reasons. However, the theatres in London were reopened soon after the 'Restoration of the Monarchy' in 1660. With the support of Prince Charles II the theatres continued to flourish in the country. The topical writing of the dramatists and the introduction of professional female actors to drama (until then all the female characters were played by men) gained the attention of the audience.

The Restoration gave rise to the inclusion of new genres in drama, such as heroism and Restoration comedy. George Etherege's «The Man of Mode» (1676), William Wycherley's «The Country Wife» (1676), Aphra Behn's «The Rover» (1677) John Dryden's «All for Love» (1677) and Thomas Otway's «Venice Preserved» (1682) were some of the popular plays of the period. Sexual explicitness was the highlight of the comic plays during the Restoration. Prince Charles II and the aristocratic ethos of his court encouraged such plays.

The famous «Theatre Royal Drury Lane» was founded during that period.

- 1 First theatre: 1663
- 2 Second theatre: 1674
- 3 Third theatre: 1794
- 4 Modern theatre: 1812

After the eleven year long Puritan Interregnum which had seen the banning of pastimes regarded as frivolous(such as theatre) the English monarchy was restored to the throne with the return of Charles II in 1660. Soon after, Charles issued Letters Patent, licensing the formation of new acting companies. One of these went to Thomas Killigrew whose company became known as the «King's Company» and who built a new theatre in Drury Lane.

The first theatre on the location was built at the behest of Thomas Killigrew in the early years of the English Restoration . It was destroyed by fire in 1672. Killigrew built a larger theatre in the same spot designed by Sir Christopher Wren. It was renamed the «Theatre Royal in Drury Lane» in 1674. This building lasted nearly 120 years. Larger theatre was opened in 1794.

Nowadays the « Theatre Royal Drury Lane» is a West End theatre in Covent Garden, in the City of Westminster

It is very interesting to know about Drury Lane Theatre Royal Ghosts. «Drury Lane» has been called one of the world's most haunted theatres. The appearance of the handful of ghosts signals good luck for an actor or production. The most famous ghost is the Man in Grey, who appears dressed as a nobleman of the late 18th century: powdered hair beneath a hat, a dress jacket, riding boots and a sword. Legend says that the Man in Grey is the ghost of a knife-stabbed man whose skeletal remains were found within a walled-up side passage in 1848. The ghosts of actor Charles Macklin and comedian Joe Grimaldi are supposed to haunt the theatre. Macklin appears backstage, wandering the corridor which now stands in the spot where in 1735 he killed his fellow actor Thomas Hallam in an argument over a wig.

18th –early 19th century. Georgian Period. «Hay Market Theatre».

The Restoration comedy in England which had started in the later half of the 17th century faded away with the advent of the 18th century. Theatre which had been so popular under the Stuart Restoration became a little too loud for the taste of the city authorities. Domestic tragedy and sentimental comedy became the new flavor of the period. Musical entertainment also flourished during the period, suppressing the popularity of English drama.

A series of satires were staged at the «Theatre Royal Haymarket».The «Lord Chamberlain» was given the power of censorship over all public theatre performances. This power was not revoked until 1968.

«Hay Market Theatre».

The «Theatre Royal Haymarket» or «Haymarket Theatre» or the «Little Theatre» is a West End theatre in The Haymarket in the City of Westminster which dates back to 1720, making it the third-oldest London playhouse still in use. It was the first theatre to perform during the daytime, establishing a custom soon followed in theatres everywhere.

The «First Haymarket Theatre» or «Little Theatre» was built in 1720 by John Potter. It was the third public theatre opened in the West End. The theatre cost £1000 to build, with a further £500 expended on decorations, scenery and costumes. It opened on December 29, 1720, with a French play «La Fille a la Morte» performed by a company later known as «The French Comedians». The theatre's first major success was a 1729 production of a play by Samuel Johnson «Hurllothrumbo» or «The Supernatural» which ran for 30 nights – not as long as John Gay's «The Beggar's Opera» (62 performances), but still a long run for the time. In 1730 the theatre was taken over by an English company, and its name changed to the «Little Theatre in the Haymarket». Among the actors who appeared there before 1737 were Aaron Hill, Theophilus Cibber, and Henry Fielding.

During the season of 1793–94 when Drury Lane Theatre was being rebuilt, the Haymarket was opened under the Drury Lane Patent. The season was notable for a «Dreadful Accident» which occurred on 3 February 1794, when twenty persons unfortunately lost their lives, and a great number were dreadfully bruised owing to a great Crowd pressing to see his Majesty, who was that evening present at the performance. Amongst the dead was John Charles Brooke.

19th century. Victorian Era. The Golden Age of British Theatre.

Queen Victoria ruled for the longest period in the English history and influenced the development of British Theatre. Victorian Era is famous for flourishing of British Theatre. The years 1880-1920 are called «The Golden Age of British Theatre».

20th century.

The most famous English theatre in the 20th Century is «**Royal Opera House**».

The «Royal Opera House» is an opera house and major performing arts venue in the London district of Covent Garden. The large building is often referred to as simply «Covent Garden». It is the home of The Royal Opera, The Royal Ballet and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. Originally called «The Theatre Royal» it served primarily as a playhouse for the first hundred years of its history. In 1734 the first ballet was presented. A year later Handel's first season of operas began. Many of his operas and oratorios were specifically written for Covent Garden and had their premieres there.

Заключение.

Проведённая проектно-исследовательская работа позволяет сделать вывод, что пути развития английского театра во многом зависели от конкретных исторических событий страны. Отдельные исторические личности сыграли особую роль в развитии театра. Так, в период междуцарствия с 1642 по 1660гг. все английские театры были полностью закрыты и запрещены. И только с приходом на престол Чарльза Второго театр получил поддержку королевского двора и вновь стал процветать. Подъем английского драматического театра в конце 16 века связан с творчеством Шекспира. Однако, не меньшую роль в развитии английской драмы сыграли и его талантливые современники-драматурги, поддерживаемые Елизаветой I. «Золотой век английского театра» связан с именем Королевы Виктории.

Авторы работы полагают, что она имеет теоретическую и практическую значимость, а также культурную и научную ценность.

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