

Culture War in the Theatre

by David Hamilton (April 2012)

A significant force in The Culture War was nihilist and subversive dramatists. Their technical abilities are excellent and their facility for embodying nihilism and ideology into dramatic form exemplary. An aspiring young playwright would do well to study their use of styles and genres to explicate their message. Their works were frequently televised, films were made of them and they were performed in many countries especially on Broadway.

A brief overview of drama since 1956 can not cover them all but the best known and most representative, but it is necessary to understand how we got where we are as there is now a similar dearth of quality drama as before the big change: a pregnant pause.