

## **Legends of Theatre**

- Thespis- (6th century BCE) First Actor – Greek - Tragedy**
- Sophocles- (497-406 BCE) Ancient Greek Playwright, Antigone, Oedipus**
- Aristophanes- (446-386 BCE) Comedic Playwright in Athens**
- Aristotle- (384-322 BCE) 6 elements of Theatre – Poetics**
- Lope de Vega (1562-1635) Spanish Playwright and Poet, leader of Spanish Golden Age. Fuenteovejuna, El Perro de Hortelano, El caballero de Olmedo,**
- Christopher Marlowe- (1564-1593) English Dramatist, Elizabethan playwright and actor, competitor of Shakespeare**
- William Shakespeare- (1564-1616)- English Poet, playwright and actor**
- Izumo no Okuni (c. 1572- c. 1613) - Japanese performer who is believed to have invented the theatrical art form of kabuki**
- Moliere – (1622-1673) French playwright and actor, master of comedy**
- David Garrick – (1717-1779) English Actor, famous for realistic rather than bombastic acting style**
- Ira Aldridge (1807-1867) American stage actor and playwright known for playing primarily Shakespearean roles in Europe; the only actor of AfricanAmerican descent among the 33 actors of the English stage honored with bronze plaques at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon**
- Charlotte Cushman (1816-1876) - American stage actress, known for her ability to play male and female parts**
- Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906) Norwegian Playwright, “Father of Realism” founder of Modernism, A Doll’s House, Hedda Gabbler**
- Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923) French actress, most famous female actress of all time**
- August Strindberg (1849-1912) Swedish Playwright Naturalism/Expressionism/surrealism, Miss Julie**
- George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) Irish Playwright, Socialist, focused on character rather than plot, Candida, Man and Superman, Pygmalion**
- Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) Russian Dramaturg, Modernist Theatre, The Seagull, Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters, The Cherry Orchard**
- Konstantin Stanislavski (1863-1938) Actor, Director, Acting Process, approach character from outside in and inside out.**
- Luigi Pirandello (1867-1936) Italian Dramatist, Theatre of the Absurd, Six Characters in Search of an Author**
- Edward Gordon Craig (1872-1966) English Modernist Theatre Practitioner, actor, director, scenic designer, theoretical writer**
- Antoinette Perry (1888-1946) Namesake for Tony’s, Actress, director and co-founder of the American Theatre Wing**
- Eugene O’Neill (1888-1953) Irish American playwright, introduced realism to the American stage, Ah, Wilderness, Hairy Ape, The Emperor Jones,**
- Oscar Hammerstein (1895-1960) American Librettist, Sound of Music, King & I, Rodgers and Hammerstein**
- Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956) German Marxist Poet, playwright and director, “epic Theatre” forum for political ideas, should provoke rational self-reflection, not**

**catharsis**

**Paul Robeson (1898-1976) African American Singer and actor, blacklisted during  
McCarthyism**

**Noel Coward- (1899-1973) English playwright, composer, director, actor and singer,  
Hay Fever, Blythe Spirit, Private Lives**

**Tyrone Guthrie- (1900-1971) Founded Stratford festival in Canada**

**Harold Clurman (1901-1980) American Theatre director and critic, founder of the  
group Theatre.**

**Lee Strasberg (1901-1982) Actor, director and acting teacher, founder of the group  
theatre, "Method" Acting**

**Stella Adler (1901-1992) Actress and acting teacher**

**Richard Rodgers (1902-1979) Composer, Rodgers and Hart/Hammerstein, A  
Connecticut Yankee, Oklahoma, South Pacific, Carousel, The King & I, Sound of Music**

**Cheryl Crawford (1902-1986) American theatre producer and director**

**John Houseman (1902-1988) Romanian British Actor, Collaborated with Orson  
Welles**

**Lillian Hellman (1905-1984) American Dramatist and Screenwriter, blacklisted in  
McCarthyism,**

**Agnes de Mille (1905-1993) American Dancer and Choreographer, Carousel,  
Brigadoon, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, Oklahoma**

**Sanford Meisner (1905-1997) acting coach, the reality of doing, react truthfully**

**Viola Spolin (1906-1994) Innovator in American Theatre, Improv teacher**

**Laurence Olivier (1907-1989) English actor, director and producer, one of the  
greatest actors of the 20th century, Wuthering Heights, Henry V, Hamlet, Richard III,**

**Michael Redgrave (1908-1985) English stage and film actor, director**

**Robert Lewis (1909-1997) founder of the Actor's Studio, Member of the Group  
Theatre in NYC**

**Margo Jones (1911-1955) American Stage Director and Producer, mother of regional  
theatre**

**Tennessee Williams (1911-1983) American Playwright, Glass Menagerie, Streetcar  
named Desire**

**Mary Martin- (1913-1990) American actress, singer and Broadway Star- Peter Pan,  
muse of Rodgers and Hammerstein**

**Joan Littlewood (1914-2002) English Director, mother of modernism**

**Arthur Miller (1915-2005) American Playwright, All my Sons, Death of a Salesman,  
the crucible**

**Uta Hagen (1919-2004) Actress and dramaturg, acting teacher, truthful  
performance, realism, identify with role, transference**

**Vinnette Justine Carroll (1922-2002) American Playwright, actress and theatre  
director. 1st African American woman to direct on Broadway**

**Edward Albee (1922-Present) American Playwright, well-crafted examinations of the  
human condition, The Zoo Story, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, influenced by  
Theatre of the absurd**

**Marcel Marceau (1923-2007) Mime**

**Peter Brook (1925-Present)** English theatre and film director based in France, inspired by theatre of cruelty and experimental theatre,  
**James Lipton (1926-Present)** Host of Inside the Actor's Studio,  
**Hal Prince (1929-Present)** Broadway Director with 21 Tony's. Directed Parade, She Loves Me, Cabaret, Follies, Sweeney Todd, Evita, Phantom of the Opera  
**Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965)** - playwright and writer, known for writing Raisin in the Sun, the first African-American female author to have a play performed on Broadway  
**Harold Pinter (1930-2008)** English playwright, screen writer, minimum plot, power struggles, pauses  
**Stephen Sondheim (1930-Present)** Composer and Lyricist, Company, Follies, Sweeney Todd, Into the Woods,  
**Augusto Boal- (1931-1990)** Brazilian director, writer and politician, theatre of the oppressed, image theatre  
**Jerzy Grotowski (1933-1999)** Polish theatre director, experimental theatre  
**Judi Dench (1934- Present)** English film, stage and television actress  
**Lanford Wilson (1937-2011)** American Playwright, many Broadway plays  
**Robert Cohen (1938-Present)** American playwright and drama critic, professor at Irvine, GOTE Goal, Other, Tactics, Expectations  
**Robert Cohen (1938-Present)** Playwright  
**August Wilson (1945-2005)** Pulitzer Prize winning American playwright, Fences  
**David Mamet (1947-Present)** playwright and director, Glengarry Glen Ross, known for his dialogue  
**Andrew Lloyd Webber (1948-present)** English Composer, musicals Evita, Cats, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat, Phantom of the Opera  
**Stephen Schwartz (1948-present)** American musical composer, known for Wicked, Godspell, Pippin, Children of Eden  
**Christopher Durang (1949- Present)** American Playwright, often absurd comedy, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Actor's Nightmare  
**Beth Henley (1950- Present)** American playwright and Actress, Southern US, Crimes of the Heart, Miss Firecracker Contest  
**Anne Bogart (1951-Present)** director and teacher, Viewpoints and Suzuki, improvisational ensemble building  
**Julie Taymor (1952-Present)** American director and writer of theater, opera and film; Directed The Lion King on Broadway  
**David Henry Hwang (1957- present)** Chinese American Playwright, M.Butterfly  
**Eric Morris (1977-)** Acting Teacher, developed a theory of acting- 7 major obligations