

# Drama – Brecht – Non-Naturalistic



## Who is Bertolt Brecht?

Brecht was a German playwright and theatre maker. He believed theatre should make people think about the world and how to change it, instead of just entertaining them. He believed theatre could inspire people to take action and make the world a better place. He didn't want the audience to get too emotional or attached to characters. Instead, he wanted them to stay detached and focus on the message of the play.

## Who is John Godber?

John Godber is a British playwright and director, known for writing plays about everyday life, often with a focus on working class experiences. His plays are funny, lively, and full of energy. They also explore important themes like relationships, work, and social issues.

## What is Dramatic Intention?

Dramatic intention is the reason why a play or performance is created. It's about what the playwright, director, or actor wants the audience to feel, think, or understand.

### Bouncers Dramatic Intention:

- To raise awareness for the negative side of drinking culture of the working class and 'lad culture' on a night out.
- To highlight issues of violence in the bouncer profession.
- To raise concern about mob mentality amongst men.

### Shakers Dramatic Intention

- To highlight issues of high unemployment during the 80's.
- To raise awareness of abuse and negative behaviour women dealt with from customers working in a bar.
- To highlight how women were used in the industry for their looks instead of their skills.

## Key Devices used by Brecht

**Narration:** Characters or narrators explain parts of the story to disrupt the flow.

**Placards and Signs:** Written signs or projections highlight key messages or events.

**Multi-roling:** Actors play multiple characters to show the artificial nature of theatre.

**Minimal Set and Props:** Simple staging to focus on ideas, not realism.

**Lighting:** Harsh, visible lights remind the audience they are watching a performance.

**Music and Song:** Used to comment on the action, often with jarring or contrasting tones.

**Breaking the Fourth Wall:** Actors directly address the audience to remind them they are watching a play.

## Bouncers and Shakers as Brechtian Plays

Written by **John Godber**, these plays share elements of Brecht's style:

**Multi-roling:** A small cast plays multiple characters, often switching quickly.

**Minimal Set:** Uses basic props and staging, forcing the audience to imagine the environment.

**Social Commentary:** Explores themes like class, nightlife, and gender dynamics.

**Direct Address:** Characters often speak directly to the audience.

**Exaggeration:** Movements and mannerisms are exaggerated to convey stereotypes and themes.

**Chorus:** Everyone speaking at the same time

