

**NAME: CHIBUOKE IFUNANYA MARIA**  
**DEPARTMENT: ARTS EDUCATION (EDU/ENGLISH)**  
**TOPIC: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RENAISSANCE AND MEDIEVAL DRAMA**  
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### **MEDIEVAL DRAMA**

The medieval drama lasted from 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century which witnessed the collapse of the Roman Empire and the eventual ascension of the Christian church into power. Medieval period is also called the middle ages.

In the medieval drama, the Christian church abolished drama and categorized actors with prostitutes, thieves, and other undesirable elements in the society. It was only the jugglers, mimes and wandering minstrels that kept theatre alive during the medieval period. The medieval drama was preceded by Greek and Roman drama, and followed by Elizabethan drama. The medieval drama started from the ashes of Roman drama.

Medieval drama was described by some critics as degenerate theatre. The beginning of medieval drama could be traceable to the medieval church sermon and mass which had some dramatic characteristics. In the medieval era, there were additions of extended musical passages called tropes to the celebration of the mass. There were addition of many scenes to church services which kept to the growth of medieval drama. The medieval drama specifically rose out of the desire to propagate faith through drama, and so many things including theatricality and thought were subsumed under it.

In conclusion, medieval drama is all about religion and Christianity. It is focused on God, church and religion.

## **RENAISSANCE DRAMA**

The term renaissance is used to describe a period of great intellectual and artistic achievements. Renaissance simply means “rebirth”. This is the period of cultural rebirth.

The renaissance drama lasted from the late 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century. The major achievement of the renaissance period was the invention of the printing press. This period is also marked with a number of inventions like the invention of printing, establishment of universities and the fall of Constantinople. The renaissance age was diverse, explosive, created a host of outrageously different individuals each straining for effect. The word neo-classical was also used to depict the renaissance period.

Finally, the renaissance was a period of rebirth, re-examination of life and inventions.

### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE DRAMA**

Relationship/connection or association is similar. It is the way in which two or more people or things are connected, or the state of being connected.

The major and outstanding relationship between medieval and renaissance drama is that both of them have a contribution towards religion but medieval is more focused on religion than renaissance drama.

However, the renaissance drama emanated from medieval drama. This means that medieval drama has been into existence before the renaissance drama. It is some of the activities of the medieval drama that lead to the establishment or development of renaissance drama.

The medieval drama started from fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) century and lasted till fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) century while renaissance period took over from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century to the seventeenth century (17<sup>th</sup>) which practically shows that renaissance period originally emanated from medieval period.