

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RENAISSANCE AND MEDIEVAL DRAMA

The renaissance drama actually came from the established medieval drama which was of the traditions of the mystery and morality plays. The medieval drama focused on the religious subjects and were generally enacted by either choristers or monks, or town tradesmen.

Examples of this medieval drama which is also known as the middle age drama is “everyman”. Looking at the text’ it has no author. This is as a result of the perspective people had on drama in the middle age but in the fifteenth century’ a new type of play appeared. It was a short play usually performed at noble households and at court, especially at holiday times. The short entertainments called ‘interludes” started the move away from the didactic nature of the earlier plays towards purely secular plays and often added comedy than was presented in the medieval predecessors. This interludes soon grew more elaborate, incorporating music and dance, and some especially those by John Heywood were heavily influenced by French farce.

Not only were plays shifting emphasis from teaching to entertainment, they were also slowly changing focus from the religious towards the political. These plays set the precedent of presenting history in the dramatic medium and laid the foundation for what would later be elevated by Marlowe and Shakespeare into the English history play or chronicle play in the later part of the century.

After a better understanding of this, one come to realize that the medieval drama and the renaissance

drama are both the rebirth of drama .The medieval drama started after the death of the Roman drama giving birth to the drama that entails religion. The renaissance drama on its own, is also the rebirth of knowledge into drama. It awakened the seek of knowledge into drama giving a new life to drama, doing to drama what one may call baptism.

Furthermore, the structure of the both are the same. Every standard literary work should be archetypal that is going to its thematic content and looking close to the both, they echo. They both leave effect on the audience.