

PYGMALION : ANTI-ROMANTIC COMEDY

J. B. Shaw, a modern playwright, is greatly under the influence of Ibsen, an Irish playwright. Ibsen was the very first playwright who wrote unconventional dramas. He brought certain changes into the conception of dramatic art and theatre. That is, he revolutionised the dramaturgy. He compelled people to think critically. As Shaw is Ibsen's disciple, he also writes realistic plays.

J. B. Shaw is a dramatist, a novelist, a philosopher, a Fabian socialist, a literary critic and a theologian. He is a prince of heretics and is variously described as 'expert demolisher', 'iconoclast', etc. That is he breaks the romantic illusions and old images, which is clear from many of his plays. In 'Arms and the Man', he takes war to be beastly cruel and wasteful not heroic. 'The Doctor's Dilemma' displays his anti-romantic attitude towards science, which he regards as having introduced new set of superstitions in place of older religious ones. J. B. Shaw himself says — "I write plays

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with the deliberate object of converting the notion to my opinions."