

Social Role of Theatre – from Antiquity to Modern Times

Abstract

In every historical period man makes attempts to gain control over the world of nature in order to create the best possible conditions for their day-to-day existence. Yet it happens that an individual's endeavours do not bring the intended and expected results. As a consequence people experience a series of difficulties they do not always find easy to deal with. In such a situation a human being looks for solutions which will allow them to find their place yet again in different fields of life, help them carry out their plans and satisfy their needs.

This text presents the ways in which people have created theatre to cater for their needs over the centuries, how they have made use of it and how it may be of help to them today in their daily lives.

Key words: *theatre, social role of theatre, to satisfy needs, theatre education.*

There is an established conviction in modern society that the times we live in are unique and special. We formulate such opinions with reference to the past, implying – sometimes unintentionally – that the past was less unique. Meanwhile, our judgement does not take into account the fact that every historical period was as unique and exceptional for the societies of the time as modernity is for us.

Such glorification of reality may be explained by means of the scale and dynamics of the ongoing transformations, progress of civilization or findings of science and technology which facilitate everyday life. Progress, which is originally supposed to lead to an improvement of the living conditions, has always been accompanied, even in the remote past, by negative phenomena, which people have tried to eliminate or whose effects they have tried to minimize. In order to do that they have