

Bertolt Brecht and the Songs in his Dramas: with special reference to Mother Courage and Her Three Children

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Abstract

Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and her three Children* which is based on Thirty Years War, is considered by the critics to be the among the playwright's best work and one of the most powerful anti-dramas in history. Also it is regarded as the masterpiece of Brecht's concept of Epic Theatre. This dramatic sub-genre, pioneered by Brecht sought to present theatre that could be viewed with complete detachment. Using the techniques like short, self-contained scenes that prevent cathartic climax, songs and card slogans that interrupt and explain forthcoming action and detached acting that wards off audience identification which is known as 'alienation effects'. He sought to present a cerebral theatrical experience unmarred by emotional judgment. He wanted his audience should think critically and objectively. Keeping this in view, he introduces the songs in the mentioned play.

Keywords: Epic theatre; Songs; Alienation; Dramatic technique; Gestus.