

19TH CENTURY

THEATRE: STARS

ACTORS/STARS

- 19th century - rise of the actor/star system
- America - inherits/influenced by England's star system
- Actors were stars nationally-even internationally
- touring from theatre to theatre, star appearances
- i.e. Sarah Bernhardt, Eleonora Duse, Ira Aldridge- African-american Shakespearean Actor

ACTING STYLES OF THE 19TH CENTURY

- Classical (eloquent, carefully planned performances)
- Romantic (emotional, outbursts, etc.) - Edmund Kean
- Delsarte (a system of acting- based on (stereotypical) facial expressions, gestures, and vocal expression)
- Melodramatic (style and genre of acting, play formats)
- Realism - connected to Naturalism- gains momentum in 19th century- championed by Ibsen- discuss in next chapter



Sarah Bernhardt

flamboyant, eccentric,
larger than life...
acting style- large,
dramatic

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=hdbmDYJCyh8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdbmDYJCyh8)

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=RbYnGJQ-
ku0&list=PL7E782ACCC0A13F8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbYnGJQ-ku0&list=PL7E782ACCC0A13F8)

A8

Eleonora Duse

Italian actress- noted for her naturalistic style, foreshadowed the realism of acting - to come, believable portrayals of characters

“Act? What a hideous word! If it was just a matter of acting—I feel I have never known how to act! Those poor women in my plays have entered so far into my heart and into my mind that while I am doing my best to make my listeners understand them, as if I wanted to comfort them ... it is they who have, little by little, ended in comforting me!” – Eleonora Duse





Ira Aldridge

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=WO4H8GFxkoU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WO4H8GFxkoU)

Ira Aldridge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dZ0Ea4YM4E>

Richard Wagner

Gesamkunstwerk =
total unified work or
“total theatre”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlmaEpw7oz0>