

# Acting

18th Century

# Acting as a profession

- still “suspect” members of society
- Italy- women were not allowed to perform
- predominant acting style- bombastic, declamatory
- oratorical skills emphasized
- possession of a “part”

# Innovators

- Charles Macklin- English- brings more “lifelike” style to roles
- David Garrick- English
- Adrienne Lecouvreur - French (1692-1730)
- Clairon - French
- Henri-Louis Lekain - French
- Friedrich Schroeder - German

# Innovations to style

- less declamatory
- more naturalistic
- less sing-songy
- creation of individual characters
- rehearsal process
- development of “craft”

# Companies

- English Companies headed by “actor-manager”
- French “approved” theatre headed by the government but run “democratically” by the company
- French boulevard theatre headed by entrepreneurs

# Emergence of The Director

- overseer of all the production elements
- “modern” director
- David Garrick, Wolfgang von Goethe
- unifying all the elements on stage- including what the actors are doing
- debate over who the first “director” was

# David Garrick

- 1717-1779
- leading performer/became a manager/partner at Drury Lane
- introduced/championed a more naturalistic style of acting
- argued for careful preparation and process to rehearsals
- spectators removed from the stage
- attempts to create “historically accurate” costuming
- attempts to “hide” stage lighting

The Great Garrick  
(1937)

<http://www.tcm.com/mediaroom/video/472246/Great-Garrick-The-Movie-Clip-The-Rest-Is-Silence.html>



# German Theatre

18th century

# Goethe

- 1749-1832
- theatrical director, playwright, critic, philosopher, poet, minister of the court
- expected actors to work as a unified ensemble
- not an advocate of “naturalistic” style
- promoted a “morality” for both the company, acting, and personal lives of actors
- wrote- “Rules for Actors”
- unified stage German (no variety of dialects)
- introduced the withholding of applause- a decorum for audience

Faust- summary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uIWIK6g-hk>

Lego-Faust

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIY6xO7A7Qw>