

Society and Drama at the turn of the century (19C to 20C)

- 1) Miscellaneous
- 2) The Dreyfus Affair (l'Affaire Dreyfus)
- 3) "Cyrano de Bergerac"

Cyrano de Bergerac, 1897

1. Written by Edmond Rostand
 - a. Romanticism began to decline in 1860s
 - b. Neo-Romanticism
 - c. Genre: a blend of comedy and tragedy
 - d. Setting: 17th Century France
 - e. Alexandrine verse:
 - i. Each rhyming line has 12 syllabus
 - 1) Create harmony and perfection
 - ii. The aligned 2 by 2
 - iii. 25700 lines
 - iv. The play was largely classical due to this
 - v. But the plot is typically romantic
2. Producer and actors were skeptical at the beginning
 - a. But the audience were so moved
 - b. 300 consecutive nights
 - c. Another trail for romantic drama
 - i. A huge success in Europe and America
3. The Nose Monologue
4. A perfect example of brilliant and dashing French drama
5. Adaptations
 - a. "Roxanne" 1987
 - b. "The truth About Cats and Dogs" (1996)
 - c. A little misleading and simplistic
6. In French culture
 - a. A brilliant hero unrecognized
 - b. Humor, freedom of speech, pride,
7. A play written in 1897 by ..
 - a. Right in the middle of the Affair
 - b. The writer is the supporter for Dreyfus

Miscellaneous

1. Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi
 - a. Liberty Enlightening the World (1885)
 - b. The Statue of Liberty
 - i. Statue presented to America by the people of France: July 4, 1884
 - ii. Statue dismantled and shipped to US: Early 1885
 - c. In memory of American Independence
2. Gustave Eiffel, The Eiffel Tower (1889)



- a. Eiffel: German immigrant
 - i. Also participate in the construction of Statue of Liberty
- b. Commemorate the French revolution
- c. Remain the tallest building in the world for 41 years
- d. A revolution in civil engineering and architecture design
- e. A tower of iron: never heard of before..
 - i. Barbaric
 - ii. Artists united to protest the construction ugly tower
 - 1) Maupassant hate it
 - a) One day, a friend of Maupassant found him lunch there. "The only place in Paris to avoid seeing it"
- f. The Paris Opera House



- g. Gaston Leroux (French Novelist and Journalist) 's Comment
 - i. "The Phantom of the Opera"
3. French society in the last years of French society

The Dreyfus Affair (1894-1906)

1. A political crisis
 - a. 12 years
 - b. Begin as a legal case
 - i. But it change the phase of French society and French politics
2. Captain Alfred Dreyfus
 - a. Jewish
 - b. Unjustly accused of selling military secret to Germany
 - c. Committed as "??"
 - d. Degradation of Captain Dreyfus (1894)
 - i. Traitor
 - ii. Dreyfus protested "I am innocent, long live France"
 - iii. That time, 20 years after the France-Prussian War
 - 1) Public receive this with anger
 - 2) And Dreyfus is Jews...
 - 3) Sentence to prison to French Guyana
 - 4) 5 years in complete isolation
 - a) Small island: Devil's Island
 - b) Hot and humid
 - c) No sunshine
 - iv. Mug shots of Alfred Dreyfus
 - 1) Innocent
 - 2) Sadness
 - e. The real traitor was Ferdinand Walsin-Esterhazy
 - 1) Gambling: very costly hobby
 - 2) So sell military info for money
 - i. Discover later
 - 1) And the officer won't be let this open to the public
 - 2) Won't be looked ridiculous
 - ii. One officer: Georges Picquart
 - 1) Decided to denounce the cover-up
 - 2) Began the Dreyfus Affair
 - a) First focus on innocent problem
 - b) But soon the corrupt of the high level
 - f. Divide the country to two factions
 - i. Dreyfusards
 - 1) Anticlericals, liberals and left-wing intellectuals
 - ii. Anti-Dreyfusards
 - 1) Right-wing, anti-Semites, Catholics, nationalists and conservatives
 - iii. Existed some exceptions:
 - 1) One lawyer defend for Dreyfus was conservative
 - iv. Why?
 - 1) The gap separating different political factions
 - a) Supporter for republic and monarchy
 - b) More than 80 years to the democratic ideal of French revolution
 - 2) 1870: a long battle for democracy
 - a) not everyone support the republic
 - b) The conservative are waiting to establish a less democratic government
 - 3) Before that affair, France was still intellectually divided
 - a) Catholic Church: want to go back
 - b) Liberals: move forward, reject the role of church and religion
 - c) Rightist: seems increased democracy as decadence
 - i) Value a form of nationalist
 - ii) Support evadication of foreign people
 - d) All the conflicts...background
 - i) Growing
 - ii) Just needed a major crisis to ignite all the things.
3. A case of a Jews officer that accused by rightists
 - a. Reveal all the weakness of the French society
 - b. All the social and political tension emerged to the surface, as well as the corruptions
 - c. Equality and Justice for all French citizens
 - d. The Dreyfus Affair soon becomes "The Affair"
 - i. It was hard to remain neutral



- 1) And people need to choose to for or against him
 - ii. "A Family Dinner" (1898)
- e. Soon many high-rank officers are involved to the scandal
 - i. Some forge evidence to prove that Dreyfus was guilty
 - ii. The real traitor was acquitted in less than 1 hour
 - 1) The army is behind him
 - iii. A shock for Dreyfus
- f. Emile Zola
 - i. A passionate supporter for Dreyfus
 - ii. Jan, 13, 1898
 - iii. An open letter "J'Accuse..." (I accuse)
 - iv. On newspaper L'AURORE
 - v. 30,000 mails and telegram of encouragement
 - vi. Zola: one year of prison
 - 1) So fleet to the England
 - 2) And live in extreme poverty
- g. The affair shake the fundamental of the whole republic
 - i. France was in a chaos
 - 1) The officer who forge evidence suicide
 - 2) Many posters, articles to express the opinions of two sides
 - ii. A moral civil war
 - 1) Mass historian
 - 2) One lawyer defending Dreyfus was attracted on the street
 - iii. A new trail for Dreyfus
 - 1) Guilty again
 - 2) Association created all over the world to support Dreyfus
 - 3) Many the Jews in Russian
 - 4) Queen Victoria: ask the German King...never reply
 - iv. Cartoons, musical pieces
 - 1) In honor of Dreyfus
 - v. Amazing number of Jews suicide
 - vi. Many family agonies
 - vii. Finally, a third trial and Dreyfus was announced innocent
 - 1) A reverse verdict
 - 2) Several countries send congratulations to France
 - 3) Meant the triumph of democracy in France
 - a) Many people in the republic are not really republicans
 - 4) Ceremony Reinstating Dreyfus (1906)
 - a) After 12 years
 - b) 12 years with amazing courage and a remarkable family
 - c) 20,000 "Long live Dreyfus, Long Live Justice"
- 4. One of the most important reform
 - a. The complete separation of church and state
 - b. The beginning of a new era in the history of French Republic
- 5. A lot of French people sacrifice their lives and reputation, and work to fight for Justice
 - a. 1902: Zola died at home due to carbon dioxide fumes
 - b. "Paul-Marie Dupuy, Born 1856-died 1948, and old Dreyfusard"
 - i. Real passion
- 6. Use of the phrase "J'Accuse" today
 - a. French Social Justice Organization
 - b. Journal article
 - i. Kosovo
 - c. An English TV Show
 - d. Leica
 - e. Shows the impact of this phrase