

## **Thespian masks of Drama**



**Drama** –an exciting, emotional, or unexpected series of events or set of circumstances. Intended to portray life or character or to tell a story usually involving conflicts and emotions through action and dialogue.

**Theatre** – building or area in which plays and other dramatic performances are given.

**Play** - engage in activity for enjoyment, amusement and recreation rather than a serious or practical purpose.

The two masks associated with drama represent the traditional generic division between comedy and tragedy. Thalia was the Muse of comedy (the laughing face), while Melpomene was the Muse of tragedy (the weeping face). In English the word "play" or "game" was the standard term used to describe drama until William Shakespeare's time—just as its creator was a "play-maker" rather than a "dramatist" and the building was a "play-house" rather than a "theatre". The use of "drama" in a more narrow sense to designate a specific *type* of play dates from the modern era. "Drama" in this sense refers to a play that is *neither* a comedy nor a tragedy.

In order to tell a good story, it must include highs and lows, happy and sad, villain and hero.

In a live performance, all emotions are engaged to feel the experience of the event.

Drama is often combined with music and dance to further manipulate your total emotional assimilation.

### **Some of the most famous plays...**

Hamlet – Shakespeare

Death of a salesman – Arthur Miller

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry