

Drama discussion

Literature



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Even old plays have a significance in our world today, not just because they have a good story or a lesson to tell but because of the connection it has with what is happening in the world during the time it was written. They open up our eyes to historical content, which is not that hard to understand since we see it still in today's world. The three plays, *A Doll House*, *Othello* and *Trifles* show us how old plays are significant because of their connection with the issue of women's freedom and place on our society.

In Ibsen's *A Doll House*, the focus was on women's capability to be independent of their husbands. It is true that women should first understand and know who they are before they can accept and understand other people, most especially her husband and her kids. As the ending shows Nora leaving her narcissistic husband, it shows us how women struggle to be independent and to be understood by the society. Actually, Mrs. Linde attempted to free Nora earlier in the story when she insisted that Nora's husband find the truth about what Nora did. If her husband found out about it sooner, the sooner she would be able to see his faults.

In Shakespeare's *Othello*, the theme of manliness through acts that show strength and courage, such as being a soldier, opens us up into the world of a man's insecurities. Othello was a great warrior but he only pursued this greatness because he wanted to make a name for himself, so he can become a man. But when there is no more need for war, he became obsessed with not becoming a man that he became jealous of everything and everyone that comes close to his wife. This becomes his downfall. In this play, women are treated like objects as we can see Desdemona being treated like a trophy wife. She is only important for Othello because she was his. It shows that he became jealous not because of love, even if there may

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be love, but because Desdemona was supposed to be his. This emphasizes the objectification of women.

In Glaspell's *Trifle*, it is stressed that women have the need for freedom from a marriage that treats her like an insignificant object. The play shows how women can see through facts and hard evidence, like how Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peter understood the life the Mrs. Wright had with her husband. Women have the tendency to become more observant than men, but because of society's pressure that they be second to men, they hide this trait, similar to the women hiding the bird from the men.

The issues tackling women, feminism and independence has always been significant because of women's struggle for equality. The three plays show us that women are treated as second citizens or even as insignificant objects of affection, similar to dolls or trophies. And as always, women have always wanted to break this perspective by doing what they can, and that is leaving or killing men's point of view of them by being independent and showing that they can do whatever they want to without men's help.