

## Postmodern elements in Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead"

The purpose of this article is to try to research the postmodern elements in Tom Stoppard's well known play and film, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" which was premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 1966. Following this an extremely successful production at the National Theatre in London in 1967 led to a debut on Broadway in the United States later that year. Many leading European and US theatrical companies have already staged this play many times since 1967. In 1990 at the Venice Film Festival Tom Stoppard received a "Golden Lion" as a director of his film "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead".

According to literary critic Bran Nicol Postmodernism is the most problematic concept in contemporary cultural criticism. The term has featured prominently in an unusually wide range of academic disciplines; literary study, visual arts and architecture, philosophy, social theory, history and cultural studies. The term post-modernism is also popular in non-academic books, TV arts programmes and style magazines where the meaning of the term is less clear.

The first half of the article will attempt to give definite meaning and characteristics of postmodernism not only in a literary level but generally in a philosophical, artistic and social level according to the works of Jean Baudrillard, Umberto Eco and many other authoritative literary critics and philosophers. The second half will examine parallels between the postmodernism era as represented by "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" by Stoppard and the Renaissance era as represented by William Shakespeare's "Hamlet".