

A play should provoke  
"RATIONAL SELF-REFLECTION"  
and a "CRITICAL VIEW" of the  
action on stage

'Art is not a  
mirror to  
reflect reality,  
but a  
hammer with  
which to  
shape it'



**BERTOLT  
BRECHT**

**1898 - 1956**

Theatre as a forum  
for "POLITICAL  
IDEAS"

Remind the  
audience (spectator)  
that the play is a  
"REPRESENTATION  
OF REALITY"

"SOCIAL  
INJUSTICE"  
and  
"MORAL"  
messages

Spectators  
should "NOT  
EMOTIONALLY  
IDENTIFY" with  
the characters  
or action

Emotion  
causes the  
audience to  
become  
complacent

"DISTANCING EFFECT"  
(VERFREMDUNGSEFFECK)  
'make the familiar strange'

- Narration
- Use of white masks
- Songs interrupting action
- Breaking the fourth wall
- Visible scene changes
- Speaking in 3<sup>rd</sup> person
- Projections / signs
- Multi / split roles
- Minimal sets / costumes / props
- Fractured narrative
- Harsh / bright lighting
- Speaking stage directions
- Spass (silly comedy)
- Gestus (clear gestures)

# EPIC THEATRE

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# EPIC THEATER

*Mrs. B's*

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- INSPIRATION
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- Lines
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- Titles
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- Great Escapes

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LAMINATE AND CUT  
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