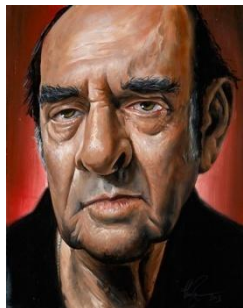


Harold Pinter (1930 - 2008)

Biography



Playwright Harold Pinter was born in Hackney, London, on 10 October 1930. He was educated at Hackney Downs Grammar School and trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and Central School of Speech and Drama. Harold Pinter was married to the writer Lady Antonia Fraser and lived in London.

Harold Pinter's plays include *The Room* (1957), *The Birthday Party* (1958), *The Dumb Waiter* (1959), *The Caretaker* (1960), *The Lover* (1962), *The Homecoming* (1965), *No Man's Land* (1975), *Mountain Language* (1988), *Moonlight* (1993), *Ashes to Ashes* (1996) and *Celebration* (2000), first performed with *The Room* at the Almeida Theatre in London. His adaptation of Marcel Proust's novel *Remembrance of Things Past* was performed at the National Theatre in London in 2000. He directed many productions of his own plays as well as plays by other writers, including James Joyce, Noel Coward, Tennessee Williams, David Mamet and Simon Gray, and acted on stage, film, television and radio.

Pinter adapted many of his stage plays for radio and television and he wrote the screenplays to a number of films including *The Servant* (1963), *The Quiller Memorandum* (1965), *The Go-Between* (1970), *The Last Tycoon* (1974) and *The Comfort of Strangers* (1989), adapted from Ian McEwan's novel. He also wrote *War* (2003), a collection of eight poems and one speech inspired by the subject of conflict.

Pinter was awarded a CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) in 1966, the German Shakespeare Prize in 1970, the Austrian State Prize for European Literature in 1973, and the David Cohen British Literature Prize in 1995, and he held honorary degrees from the Universities of Reading, Glasgow, East Anglia and Bristol, among others. In 2001, he was awarded the S.T. Dupont Golden PEN Award by the English Centre of International PEN. In 2005, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Pinter died in December 2008.¹

¹"Harold Pinter", *Contemporary Playwriters*,
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