

# SMASH

By Jeffrey Hatcher



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Jeffrey Hatcher, born in 1958, grew up in the small town of Steubenville, Ohio. This town is known for police corruption charges and unlawful arrests. In Steubenville, he became inspired by his teacher, Glenda Dunlope, who was the head of the theatre and drama program at his school. After high school, Mr. Thatcher went to Denison University in Granville, Ohio. He later moved to New York City and Minneapolis. He is married to Elizabeth McNaught Stevens and has one son. He is a member of The Playwright's Center, which is a professional guild for Minneapolis playwrights.

Some famous pieces written by Jeffrey Hatcher include:

- *Neddy* (1987)
- *Smash* (1995)
- *Scotland Road* (1998)
- *The Turn of the Screw* (1999)
- *Compleat Female State Beauty* (2000) \*
- *Good'N'Plenty* (2000)
- *Tuesdays with Morrie* (2001)
- *Never Gonna Dance* (2003)

He also wrote the screenplays for *Sarah*, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty* and he co-wrote the screenplay for *The Duchess*.

\*Yes, that's how he spells it.

# Edwardian Era

The Edwardian era took place from 1901-1910 (though is often extended through 1918), during which time King Edward IV was ruling England. This time was very new and exciting for people all around the world.

Here are some things that happened in the world of science and technology:

- The Wright brothers accomplished the first airplane flight in 1903 with their model called the *Flyer*
- Louis Blériot also accomplished an amazing feat with aircraft when he flew over the English Channel on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1909.
- Einstein proposed his *Special Theory of Relativity* in 1905. In this, he posited his famous formula  $E=mc^2$
- Sigmund Freud attended The First International Psychoanalytical Congress in Salzburg, Vienna in 1908.
- The first Nobel Prizes were given in 1901 for Chemistry, Literature, Peace, Physiology and Physics.
- The *RMS Olympic* made its maiden voyage on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1911
- The *Olympic's* sister ship, the *RMS Titanic* sunk ten months later, on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1912

The political scene was also booming:

- The Second Boer War was coming to an end in 1902. It started in 1899, when waves of Boers migrated away from the Cape Colony, which was ruled by Britain.
- The United Kingdom and France signed the *Entente Cordiale*, intended to end the almost millennium-year-old conflict between the two nations.
- Theodore Roosevelt was elected as President of the United States in 1901.

Industrialization became common in the Edwardian Era. Factories were popping up everywhere and skilled, adaptable and cheap labor was more widely available.

- Great Britain was the first country to industrialize in the world.
  - The British Agricultural Revolution gave way to new technology for farmers. This required more people to help build the machines than to farm the actual land.
  - As more wealth was accumulated, more money was invested into the development of new technologies, thus furthering and encouraging the industrialization process.

The Arts and Crafts movement also inspired new types of art:

- It inspired artists to take more pride in their work and to create more complicated and delicate-looking pieces of art.
- Many participants of the movement rejected the use of machinery brought on by industrialization and stuck to working with their hands.
- In Great Britain, particularly, there were some socialist feelings within the movement. Craftspeople were encouraged to love what they do.

# History of *SMASH*

- Originally commissioned by and presented at Carleton College in Northfield, MN on Feb 22, 1995.
  - Directed by Tom Szentgyorgyi
  - Set design-Walter F. Wojciechowski
- World premiere at Intiman Theatre in Seattle, Washington on Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, 1996.
  - Directed by Victor Pappas
  - Set design-Robert A. Dahlstrom
  - Costume design-David Zinn
  - Lighting design-Steven M. Klein
  - Production dramaturg-Denise Koschmann
  - Stage manager-Karen Quisenberry

## Capitalism

Capitalism is the founding economic theory the U.S. It can also be called a Liberal Market or Free Enterprise economy. It developed in the 1500-1700s and is still used today. In England, the cloth industry started to grow, and their supply of metals was increased. This made prices of products rise while wages stayed about the same. The richer people who owned private companies benefitted as well as the states becoming stronger. This allowed policies to be put into place like money and legal codes.

All the money from previous centuries gave rise to the Industrial Revolution in England in the 1700s. This helped along the production of new machines for agriculture, travel, luxury, canals, textiles and many more. The second Industrial Revolution was also influenced by money from capitalism. Steam powered ships, electrical power and combustion engines were among the things developed in this time.

Some features of a Capitalist economy include:

- A *laissez-faire* approach to the economy.
  - *Laissez-faire* literally means “Let it be.” In the economy, it means that the state will not interfere with any economic issues or matters.
- It is a free market, which means that people can make a profit through goods and services without intervention from the state.
- Usually encourages economic growth.
- Maximizes productivity and efficiency.

# Socialism

Developed by Henri de Saint-Simon, Charles Fourier, Robert Owen and many others, Socialism is commonly defined as an economic theory centered around the worker. This means that the whole society or economy is focused on the well-being of everyone, not just the rich. It advocates public ownership and control of property and natural resources.

Socialism is a common theme in philosophy, especially Plato's *Republic*. He pictures a society or town in which everyone shares everything they have, even their children and spouses. Even in biblical times, a form of socialism was practiced within small Christian communities.

Some features of a Socialist society are:

- Common ownership and control of property and natural resources.
- Criticism of capitalism is common, usually concerning the allocation of resources (usually money) to the few instead of the many.
- Societies can be Utopian or Practical:
  - Utopian: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels believed that any socialist goal or ideas in society must be Utopian. Utopian socialist communities are usually depicted with no money, greed, crime, poverty or ignorance. They may have a sort of military group that serves the peoples' best interests.
  - Practical: A Socialist society in which people may own more things personally, even farms and medium-sized businesses.

# Communism

Communism may seem a lot like Socialism, but is in fact quite different. They do have the same principles concerning public ownership of property and resources. However, Communist ideals also call for the control of production of goods. It also calls for a society without classes or states, to further the egalitarianism of the society.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, being involved in Socialism as well, were also very influential in Communism. Together, they wrote possibly one of the most well-known Communist books, *The Communist Manifesto*. They formed the first openly Communist political groups in the mid 1800s. They believed that Communism was the final evolutionary step of society, coming after Capitalism and the transitional stage of Socialism.

Some common traits of a Communist society include:

- Egalitarianism-the equality of all persons, whether in politics, economics, society or rights. It can also include the equality of people by means of removing economic inequalities.
- Classless, stateless, common ownership of properties and the control of means of production.
- Concern for the struggle of the working class.

# Tidbits and References in *SMASH*

- Maximilien Robespierre is one of the best-known and most influential figures of the French Revolution. He was instrumental in the period of the Revolution commonly known as the Reign of Terror, which ended with his arrest and execution in 1794.
- Prestidigitation, also known as sleight of hand, or *légèreté des mains* (from the French for "lightness of hand"), is the set of techniques used by a magician to manipulate objects such as cards and coins secretly.
- A portmanteau is a bag or case used to carry clothing.
- A daguerreotype was the first publicly announced photographic process, in which the image is exposed directly onto a mirror-polished surface of silver, without the capacity for duplication.
- Athos and Porthos are two of the title characters from Alexandre Dumas's novel *The Three Musketeers*.
- Croquet used to be called *paille maille* and then *pall mall* in reference to the Latin words for ball and mallet.
- *Das Kapital* (or *Kritik der politischen Ökonomie*) was written by Karl Marx and published in 1867 as a critique of capitalism.
- *Tristan und Isolde* is an old German opera by Richard Wagner. The composition is largely based on his romance with Mathilde Wesendonck.
- Schools in the Edwardian era taught mostly reading, writing and arithmetic. Women were also taught how to cook, clean and run a household. These schools were only available to the higher classes.
- Today, £5 is about \$8.18 USD.
- "Sanctuary" (as an expression) was a term used long ago to be protected from arrest in the presence of a church or temple.

## Sources

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