

Код УГПС – 52.00.00

СЦЕНИЧЕСКИЕ ИСКУССТВА И ЛИТЕРАТУРНОЕ ТВОРЧЕСТВО

Тема 6. Выдающиеся люди родной страны и стран/страны изучаемого языка, их вклад в развитие



The Influence of Alexander Ostrovsky on Russian Theater

Alexander Ostrovsky was a Russian playwright who lived in the 19th century. He is often called «the Russian Shakespeare» because of his contributions to Russian literature and drama.

Ostrovsky was born in Moscow in 1823 and grew up in a rich family. Alexander Ostrovsky studied dancing and singing, learned French and German, later he became interested in literature and art, and in his free time he played in a drama club. Ostrovsky dreamed of becoming a writer, but his father believed that it would bring no money. Alexander studied at the Moscow State University and later worked as a lawyer, which allowed him to watch and understand the lives of common people in Russia. This experience greatly influenced his writing.



Ostrovsky's works often showed the struggles of the lower and middle classes in Russia, he also wrote about social and moral problems of the time. One of his famous plays is "The Storm". The main characters of the play are Katerina and her mother-in-law – two strong women, each of them protects her truth. Katerina's tragedy showed the changes in people's minds, the wish for freedom of personality. His other famous plays include "The Forest" and "Without a dowry", which are still performed and studied in Russia today.

Ostrovsky's plays were new in showing everyday social life and they played a great role in Russian theater. His work also helped to set national style in Russian drama. In addition to his writing, Ostrovsky also fought for the rights of artists and writers. He fought for artistic freedom and against censorship, making him an important figure in Russian cultural history.

- **struggle** – борѳба
- **freedom** – свобода
- **“Without a dowry”** – «Бесприданница» (пѳеса)
- **censorship** – цензура
- **impact** – влияние

Alexander Ostrovsky's impact is still felt today. His works continue to be studied and performed, making him a great figure in the world of drama because he created realistic characters in his plays.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you agree with Alexander Ostrovsky's father, who did not let Alexander start his writing career? Or do you think you should follow your dream even if it brings you little money?
2. Are Ostrovsky's ideas of artistic freedom still important today? Why?
3. Why is he sometimes called «the Russian Shakespeare»?
4. Which events in Alexander Ostrovsky's life greatly influenced his works?

PROJECT:

- Find information about other Russian playwrights, **choose one** and present your results in the class (3-5 minutes). Explain why you have chosen this playwright.