

Victorian Playwrights

August von Kotzebue:

- He is considered to have written the first melodramatic play (*Misanthropy and Repentance*).
- His plays established melodrama as the dominant form of drama in the Victorian Era and 19th Century overall.
- He wrote his plays for a variety of cultures.

Rene Charles Guilbert de Pixerecourt:

- A French playwright who wrote melodramas for Victorian theatre.
- He is best known for his modern melodrama, *The Dog of Montarges*.

Oscar Wilde:

- One of the most successful playwrights of late Victorian London.
- The majority of his plays were comedic.
- Wilde's most famous plays include *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *A Woman of No Importance*.
- Wilde went against the Victorian emphasis on instructional and informative qualities in literature and other types of art, and he instead focused on aesthetics.

Douglas Jerrold:

- A playwright whose audience was largely working class.
- One of his most famous plays is *Black Eyed Susan*, a nautical melodrama featuring a sailor. It is said to be a black comedy.

