

ARNOLD WESKER-KITCHEN-SINK DRAMA (Neo-Naturalistic Post-War Drama)

Kitchen-Sink Drama: Deals with the life of the proletariat; their living surroundings, language, problems, emotions, thoughts and sensibility (for love, music & literature).

Wesker's Trilogy:

- 1) *Chicken Soup with Barley*
- 2) *Roots*
- 3) *I'm Talking About Jerusalem*

ROOTS

Setting: 1950s countryside

Plot: Beatie visits her family living in the country and they await the arrival of Ronie (a cook, is a member of Centre 42), her fiancée from the city. Ronie's effect on the women he plans to marry (Beatie-waitress-'his student'), who comes from the country.

BACKGROUND: The Worker's Party (1950s) disappointed the workers. *Roots* shows the disappointment of the Worker's Party, which held a belief that in order to have a powerful working class in a society they should become intellectuals. So, they started an organization CENTER 42, which aims at educating the working class (reading, listening to music, viewing art)

Conflicts in the play

- Ronie's city and the rural world.
- Beatie (in the beginning, working class non-intellectual) and Beatie (in the end), working class intellectual). Now, there is hope. She can help her family reach their self-realization.
- Reality/illusion: There is a conflict between reality and illusion, but at a point, it reaches into hope.