

Artist Statement  
Ibsen vs. Chekhov

Most modern playwrights trace their heritage to Henrik Ibsen, the so-called father of realism. But the problem with these realistic plays is that they aren't based in reality. Realism, along with romanticism and melodrama, depict a world populated by characters with Freudian self-knowledge. Characters who know precisely what they want, how to get it, and are willing to take action because they know that through their efforts success, catharsis, and perhaps even happy endings are achievable. Oh, if only real life were anything like realism.

Other playwrights take a road less traveled - I like to count myself in this group - and draw inspiration from Anton Chekhov. Chekhov wrote about characters that stumble through life with little self-knowledge. Characters that more often than not have no idea what the hell they want, and if they do, they have no fu#@ing idea of how to achieve it. In this Chekhovian world, success and happy endings are chance events. And the only possible catharsis is laughter - if not for the characters, at least for audiences.