

John Osborne

CC -11

Unit 2

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John Osborn was born on 12 December 1929 into a working class family of pub keepers. This was his mother's family; his father Thomas Osborne, who was a commercial artist, died of tuberculosis while Osborne was still a child. Osborne, though very attached to his father, did not spare in his play the 'genteel' middle-class to his father's family belonged. Yet he also mentions happy days spending his childhood with his paternal grandparents. He describes his mother's family thus:

My mother's parents were publicans ... and whenever they got together for some celebration, there would be plenty to drink, however hard things were; that is something middle class people find difficult to understand or forgive.... There would be battling shrieks of laughter, yelling, ignoring, bawling, way that would embarrass any middle-class observer. I've no doubt that they were often boring, but life still had meaning for them. Even if they did get drunk and fight, they were responding; they were not defeated.

(Declaration, ed. T. Maschler, p80)

Dr. Md. Shah Nawaz Alam