Ibsen - Chronology

http://ibsen.nb.no/id/1431.0

- **1828** Henrik Johan Ibsen born on March 20th in Stockmannsgården in Skien. Parents: Marichen (née Altenburg) and Knud Ibsen, merchant.
- **1835** Father has to give up his business. The properties are auctioned off. The family moves to Venstøp, a farm in Gjerpen.
- **1843** Confirmed in Gjerpen church.

Family moves to Snipetorp in Skien.

Ibsen leaves home in November.

Arrives in Grimstad on November 29th to be apprenticed to Jens Aarup Reimann, chemist.

- **1846** Has an illegitimate child by Else Sophie Jensdatter, one of Reimann's servants.
- **1847** Lars Nielsen takes over ownership of the chemist's, moving to larger premises.
- **1849** Ibsen writes *Catiline*.
- **1850** Goes to Christiania to study for the university entrance examination.

Catiline is published under the pseudonym Brynjolf Bjarme.

Edits the Students' Union paper *Samfundsbladet* and the satirical weekly *Andhrimner*. First Ibsen staging in history: the one-act *The Burial Mound* is performed at Christiania Theatre on September 26th.

- **1851** Moves to Bergen to begin directing productions at Det norske Theatre. Study tour to Copenhagen and Dresden.
- **1853** First performance of *St. John's Night*.
- **1854** First performance of *The Burial Mound* in a revised version.
- **1855** First performance of *Lady Inger*.
- **1856** First performance of *The Feast at Solhaug*.

Becomes engaged to Suzannah Thoresen.

1857 First performance of *Olaf Liljekrans*.

Is appointed artistic director of Kristiania Norske Theatre.

1858 Marries Suzannah Thoresen on June 18th.

First performance of *The Vikings at Helgeland*.

1859 Writes the poem "Paa Vidderne" ("Life on the Upland") and the cycle of poems "I billedgalleriet" ("At the Art Gallery").

His son Sigurd is born on December 23rd.

- **1860** Writes "Svanhild" a draft for *Love's Comedy*.
- **1861** Writes the poem "Terje Vigen".
- **1862** Kristiania Norske Theatre goes bankrupt.

Ibsen goes on a study tour to the valley of Gudbrandsdalen and to the West Country to study folklore.

Love's Comedy is published (first performance at Christiania Theatre on November 24th 1873).

Is appointed consultant to Christiania Theatre.

The Pretenders is published.

Writes the poem "En broder i nød" ("A Brother in Need").

The Pretenders has its first performance at Christiania Theatre. Leaves for Italy and lives in Rome for four years.

- **1865** Writes "The Epic Brand". Revises it with the title *Brand*.
- *Brand* is published and is a success.

 Ibsen is awarded one of the state stipends for artists.
- Publishes *Love's Comedy* in a revised version.

 Writes and publishes *Peer Gynt* (first performance at Christiania Theatre on February 24th 1876).
- Moves to Dresden, where the family lives for seven years.
- **1869** *The League of Youth* is published and given its first performance at Christiania Theatre. Ibsen takes part in a meeting on Scandinavian spelling in Stockholm. Goes to Egypt and is present at the opening of the Suez Canal.
- Writes the poem "Ballongbrev til en svensk dame" ("Balloon Letter to a Swedish Lady").
- Publishes a collection of poems (*Digte*) for the first and last time.
- A large part of *Emperor and Galilean* is written.
- Completes and publishes *Emperor and Galilean*. Is a member of an international art jury at the world exhibition in Vienna.
- Visits Norway (Christiania). Goes on to Stockholm. Publishes *Lady Inger* in a new version.
- Publishes *Catiline* in a new version.

Moves to Munich, where he lives for three years.

Writes the poem "Et rimbrev" ("A Rhyme-letter").

Pillars of Society written and first staged at Odense Teater. Awarded an honorary doctorate at the University of Uppsala.

- 1878 Moves to Rome again and stays there for seven years except for several breaks.
- Writes and publishes *A Doll's House*, which is first staged at Det Kongelige (Royal) Teater in Copenhagen.
- *Ghosts* written and published (staged at the Aurora Turner Hall in Chicago on May 20th 1882).
- *An Enemy of the People* written and published (first staging at Christiania Theatre on January 13th 1883).
- Publishes *The Feast at Solhoug* in a new edition.
- Writes and publishes *The Wild Duck* (first staging at Den Nationale Scene in Bergen on January 9th 1885).
- **1885** Visits Norway (Christiania, Trondhjem, Molde and Bergen). Moves to Munich and stays there for six years.
- Writes and publishes *Rosmersholm* (first staging at Den Nationale Scene on January 17th 1887).
- 1887 Spends the summer in Northern Jutland (at Sæby). Goes on to Gothenburg, Stockholm

- and Copenhagen.
- **1888** Writes and publishes *The Lady from the Sea* (first performed at HofTheatre in Weimar and at Christiania Theatre on the same day, February 12th 1889).
- 1889 Last summer in Gossensass. Gets to know Emilie Bardach.
- **1890** Writes and publishes *Hedda Gabler* (first performed at the ResidenzTheatre in Munich on January 31st 1891).
- **1891** Returns to Norway and settles in Christiania. Meets Hildur Andersen.
- **1892** Writes and publishes *The Master Builder* (first performance at the LessingTheatre in Berlin on January 19th 1893).

 Sigurd Ibsen marries Bergliot Bjørnson.
- **1894** Writes and publishes *Little Eyolf* (first staged at the Deutsches Theatre in Berlin on January 12th 1895).
- **1895** Moves into the apartment on the corner of Arbiensgate and Drammensveien in Christiania and stays there for the rest of his life.
- **1896** Writes and publishes *John Gabriel Borkman* (first performed simultaneously at Det svenske (Swedish) and Det finske (Finnish) Teater in Helsingfors on January 10th 1897).
- **1898** 70th birthday large-scale celebrations in Christiania, Copenhagen and Stockholm.
- **1899** Writes and publishes *When We Dead Awaken* (first staged at the HofTheatre in Stuttgart on January 26th 1900).
- 1900 Suffers his first stroke.
- **1906** Dies on May 23rd.



Three of Gustav Lærum's felt-pen drawings of Ibsen walking from Arbiensgate to the Grand Café