

Chekhovian Naturalism as Reflected in 'The Seagull' (1895)

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The aim of this paper is to examine Chekhovian Naturalism as reflected in *The Seagull* written in 1895. Considered the dramatic manifesto of Anton Chekhov [1860-1904], the play enabled the theatre to realise a cluster of clearly defined aesthetic objectives for the first time. Focussing on the theme of art, his naturalism found its fullest expression in the text which heralded a new era on the Russian National Stage, then, part and parcel of the pre-revolutionary period of gloom with its severe lack of inspiration and inertia. Apart from being the straightforward clarion call announcing innovative techniques on stage, it did much to bring the reader and the spectator closer to the fairly simple themes