

MAHESH DATTANI

- Mahesh Dattani was born on 1958 and he is one of the most celebrated playwright of India. His plays are well-known for addressing issues that society tries to hide or turn their face away from. In his plays he talks about homosexuality, he talks about HIV positive people, talks about physically challenged people and touching these radical themes like gay, child abuse, homosexual, he is expanding the new horizons for Indian English Drama. He used theatre as a medium to manifest the calls of the underprivileged section of the society. He talks about the people who are not given due respect in the society. He also created a theatre group named Play Pan in 1984.
- We can categorize his plays into three categories which are 1. Stage plays, 2. Radio plays and 3. Screen plays. He was mostly influenced by the American playwrights Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller. Though he was influenced by American but still he used Indian dramatic device and techniques in his plays. He was the first playwright in English who was awarded Sahitya Akademi award.
- His notable works-
 - **Where There's a Will** (published in 1986, it is an example of Black Comedy)
 - **Dance Like a Man** (1989, it deals with patriarchy)
 - **Tara** (1990, it deals with gender discrimination)
 - **Bravely Fought the Queen** (1991)
 - **Final Solutions** (1993, it deals with partition, communal violence)
 - **On a Muggy Night in Mumbai** (1998)
 - **Seven Circles Round The Fire** (1998, it was radio play for BBC)

- **30 Days in September** (2001, it deals with child abuse)
- **The Girl Who Touched The Stars** (2007)
- **Brief Candle** (2009)
- **Where Did I Leave My Purdah** (2012)
- **The Big Fat City** (2012)