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<https://youtu.be/T4a0DpL7KbE>

Thomas Edward Bond- Aggro Effect



1. **Edward Bond** (born 18 July 1934, North London) is an English playwright, theatre director, poet, theorist and screenwriter.
2. He remains highly controversial because of the **violence** shown in his plays,
3. As a child during World War II he was evacuated to the countryside but was present during the bombings on London in 1940 and 1944. This **early exposure to the violence and terror of war** probably shaped themes in his work, while his experience of the evacuation gave him an awareness of social alienation which would characterize his writing.
4. Bond had his first real play, ***The Pope's Wedding***, staged as a Sunday night "performance without décor" at the Royal Court Theatre in 1962. This is a falsely naturalistic drama (the title refers to "an impossible ceremony") set in

contemporary Essex which shows, through a set of tragic circumstances, the death of rural society brought about by modern post-war urban living standards.

5. Bond's next play, Saved (1965) delves into the lives of a selection of South London working class youths suppressed – as Bond would see it – by a brutal economic system and unable to give their lives meaning, who drift eventually into barbarous mutual violence. Among them, one character, Len, persistently (and successfully) tries to maintain links between people violently tearing each other to pieces. The play shows the social causes of violence and opposes them with individual freedom. This would remain the major theme throughout Bond's work.

6. The Theatres Act 1843 was still in force and required scripts to be submitted for approval by the Lord Chamberlain's Office. Saved included a scene featuring the stoning to death of a baby in its pram. The Lord Chamberlain sought to censor it, but Bond refused to alter a word, claiming that removing this pivotal scene would alter the meaning of the play. Saved is now considered a masterpiece, celebrated for its role in the fight to abolish theatre censorship (which finally happened in 1968), and as a prime influence on modern playwrights.

7. Bond and the Royal Court continued to defy the censor, and in 1967 produced a new play, the surreal Early Morning. This portrays a lesbian relationship between Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale, the royal Princes as Siamese twins,

8. Bond then produced two pieces exploring the place of the artist in society. Bingo (1974) portrayed the retired Shakespeare as an exploitative landlord, an impotent yet compassionate witness of social violence, who eventually commits suicide, repeatedly asking himself "Was anything done?"

9. The Fool (1975) reinterprets the life of the rural 19th century poet John Clare. It involves Clare in the Littleport Riots of 1816, and then makes his own poetry the depository of the spirit of this rural rebellion against the growth of modern industrial capitalism. The failure of this historical class war eventually drives him

to a madhouse. In 1976 *Bingo* won the Obie award as Best Off-Broadway play and *The Fool* was voted best play of the year by *Plays and Players*.

10. *The Woman* was the first contemporary play performed in the recently opened Olivier auditorium and, though poorly reviewed, the production was acclaimed as an aesthetic success, especially for its innovative use of the huge open stage

- *The Pope's Wedding* (1961–62)
- *Saved* (1964)
- *Early Morning* (1965–67)
- *Narrow Road to the Deep North* (1968)
- *Black Mass* (1970)
- *Passion* "a Play for CND" (1971)
- *Lear* (1969–71)
- *The Sea* "a comedy" (1971–72)
- *Bingo* "scenes of money and death" (1973)
- *The Fool* "scenes of bread and love" (1974)
- *A-A-America*
- *Stone* "
- *The Woman* "scenes of war and freedom" (1974–77)
- *The Bundle*
- *The Worlds* (1979)
- *Restoration* "a pastorate" (1979–1980)
- *Summer* "a European play" (1980–81)
- *Derek* (1982)
- *Human Cannon* (1979–1983)
- *The War Plays*:
- *Jackets or The Secret Hand* (1986)
- *In the Company of Men* (1987–88)
- *September* (1989)
- *Olly's prison* (1990) (stage version)
- *Tuesday* (stage version)
- *Coffee* "a tragedy" (1993–94)
- *At the Inland Sea* (1995)
- *Eleven Vests* (1995–97)

- *The Crime of the twenty-first Century* (1996–98)
- *The Children* (1999)
- *Have I None* (2000)
- *Existence* (2002)
- *Born* (2002–03)
- *The Balancing Act* (2003)
- *The Short Electra* (2003–4)
- *People* (2005),
- *The Under Room* (2005)
- *Chair*, stage version (2005)
- *Arcade* (2006)
- *Innocence* (2008), unperformed
- *A Window* (2009)
- *There Will Be More* (2010)
- *The Edge* (2011)
- *The Broken Bowl*
- *The Angry Roads*
- *The Price of One* (2016)
- *Dea* (2016)

Aggro Effect

Aggro is a slang term meaning **aggravation** or **aggression, anger** wild almost to the point of losing control, but effective.

According to Bond (1979) ‘violence shapes and obsesses our society, and if we did not stop being violent we have no future’. His ‘aggro-effect’ therefore demanded and directed attention through **shock or revulsion** as what Robert Bolt would call ‘the slap on the face’.

He designed his plays **to disturb the audience emotionally** to involve them emotionally.

Social values are shown to us arguably in such a way that we are shocked to own them.

