

## THEORY AND HISTORY OF CULTURE

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### ***Sadykhova L.G. Theatre in terms of “historical”: English melodrama***

Theatre, created by many people, is deeply imbued with its social, political, historical and psychological surrounding and thereby provides uniquely rich matter for culture studies. In particular, much is perceived by the first spectators of a theatre production in a different way comparing with subsequent times' views of the same. Theatre productions based on real events which are more or less distant from the time they are staged are of particular interest. The paper aims at determining the relations between theatre and history, by analysing the 19<sup>th</sup> century English melodrama as the epoch's most popular genre, in its cultural context, and in terms of history as an element of such melodramas. It is shown in the paper that: (i) even those theatrical productions not involving historical plots as such are enrooted in history; and (ii) history-related consciousness is a significant factor of spectators' perception.

Key words: theatre, the historical and cultural context, history as shown in theatrical productions, 19<sup>th</sup> century English melodrama.

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