

Luigi Pirandello și măștile personajului. Modelul actanțial al metateatrului în piesa *Șase personaje în căutarea unui autor*

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Abstract: *In the history of universal theatre, Luigi Pirandello's Six Characters in Search of an Author stands out as one of the best known and most translated plays of the early 20th century. Despite its current popularity, the play did not have a resounding success on its debut. With what the critics called a succès de scandale, the play initially conflicted with the audience's expectations, taking into account the dramatic story of the characters, but also the unusual prospect of staging a conflict between the characters and the actors. This has probably led the Italian playwright to modify the initial text several times between 1921 and 1925. Today, 100 years after its debut, Six Characters in Search of an Author is the play that proposes Luigi Pirandello in the gallery of the great European playwrights, together with Samuel Beckett or Eugène Ionesco. In addition to the drama of the characters, long subjected to interpretation by literary critics, I consider that the play is worthy of discussion in the current context due to the innovative dramatic techniques that combine the avant-garde and the absurd. Therefore, the present paper aims to examine those peculiarities of a type of theatre that intuits the Theatre of the Absurd of the mid-20th century: the elements of the metatheatre, the self-reflective discourse, the actant model, the absurd relation between fiction and reality.*

Keywords: *Luigi Pirandello; metatheatre; play within a play; illusion; reality; characters.*