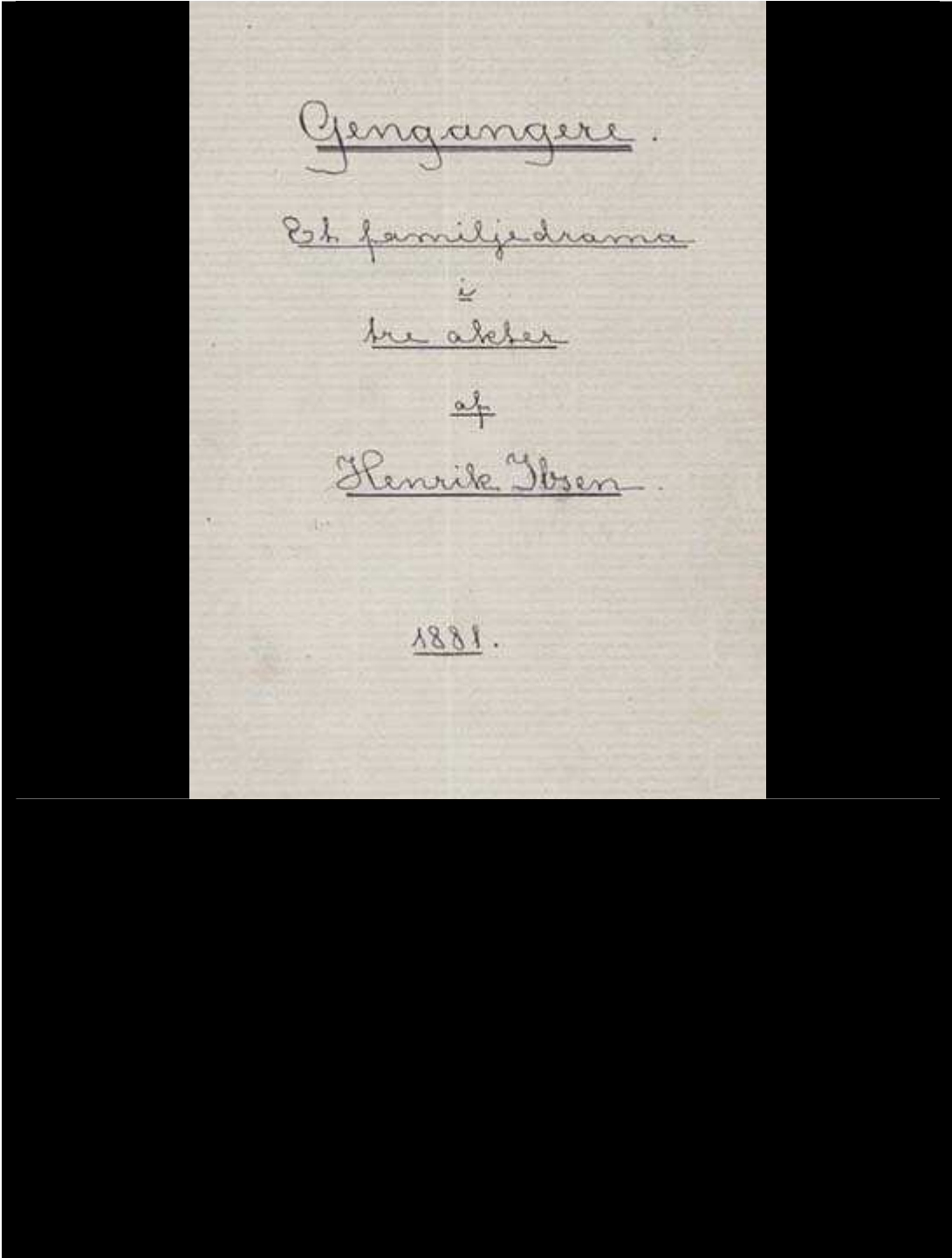


Creative process

A number of scattered notes on Ibsen's work on *Ghosts* have been preserved. These are undated, but probably date from the winter and spring of 1881. Ibsen was living in Rome when the first connected draft of the play was started at the beginning of June 1881. On June 18th he wrote to his Danish publisher Frederik Hegel.

One of the first days of this month I started to get down to the subject of a play that has occupied my thoughts for a long time, and now forced itself upon me to such an extent that I could no longer leave it alone. I hope to be able to send you the manuscript by the middle of October. I will let you know the title later; all I can do today is to call it «a family drama in three acts».



Gengangere .
Et familjedrama
i
tre akter
af
Henrik Ibsen .

1881 .

The first draft has not been preserved, but was finished on September 23rd according to a letter Ibsen sent to Hegel at the end of September. Ibsen was in Sorrento at this point. Two days later he began the fair copy. This is extant, and as can be seen from the manuscript it contains so many corrections that Ibsen very likely wrote a second fair copy. The first one, begun on September 25th 1881, is dated as follows:

	Starti ng date	Finish ing date
Act 1	Septe mber 25th	Octobe r 4th
Act 2	Octobe r 13th	Octobe r 20th
Act 3	Octobe r 21st	Octobe r 24th

The fair copy of the first act was sent to Hegel on October 16th. The second act and the first page of the third act were posted on November 4th, while the last act must have been posted a week or two later.

On November 23rd Ibsen, suspecting what was to come, wrote to Hegel: "It is reasonable to suppose that «Ghosts» will cause alarm in some circles; but so it must be. If it did not do so, it would not have been necessary to write

276

Rom, den 18. Juni 1881.

Kære herr justitsråd Hegel!

Da jeg idag mødesages til at
tilskrive Dem om penge, så vil
jeg benytte anledningen til at
meddele at der er sket en for-
andring i mine liberale planer
for sommeren. Det arbejde,
jeg hidligere har skrevet om, er
foreløbig lagt tilside og en af
de første dage i denne måned
begyndte jeg at tage fat på et
skuespilskop, som længe har be-
skæftiget mine tanker og som
nu trænge så stærkt ind på
mig at jeg umuligt længere kin-
de lade det ligge. Jeg håber at
jeg vil kunne sende Dem ma-
nuskriftet inden midten af
Oktober. Stykkets titel skal
jeg senere meddele; idag vil jeg

First performance

Ghosts was sent to a number of theatres in Scandinavia, but they all turned down the play, including Det Kongelige (Royal) Teater in Copenhagen, Nye Teatern and Dramaten in Stockholm, and Christiania Theater.

Thus the very first performance of *Ghosts* took place at the Aurora Turner Hall in Chicago on May 20th 1882, and this was the first time Ibsen had been performed on American soil. The play was done in Norwegian for an audience of Scandinavian immigrants. Mrs. Alving was played by the Danish actress Helga von Bluhme, and the other parts by Danish and Norwegian amateurs.

The first European production of the play was in Hälsingborg on August 22nd 1883, by the Swedish August Lindberg's theatre company. Lindberg directed and also played the part of Oswald himself. After the first night in Hälsingborg the production was shown in Copenhagen, Stockholm and - for the first time on

Brom, den 23. November 1881. ²⁷⁹

Kære herr justitsråd Hegel!

Overensstemmende med Deres anmodning sender jeg Dem hermed de billetter, der skal medfølge eksemplarene til de forskellige teaterdirektioner. En af dagene sender jeg lignende billetter til nogle få privatpersoner.

Det er slemt at bogen skal indkomme så sent. Afsendelsen af anden akt blev vistnok noget forsinket; men så er derimod den tredje ganske kort, og jeg tror da derfor, at det hele alligevel vilde kunne være færdigt en af de første dage af December. Jeg erindrer at andet oplag af hele den store "Kejser og Galilæer" blev gjort færdigt i omkring 14 dage. Men jeg ved jo at arbejdet naturligvis også denne gang fremmes med al mulig hurtighed, og mere kan jo ikke forlanges. I ethvert fald vil jo

Norwegian soil - at Møllergadens Theater in Christiania on October 17th 1883. The production received very good reviews and was performed no fewer than 75 times during the autumn of 1883.

