

blunders and clownish fools. In these ways Lyly set a new trend of writing drama which influenced the contemporary writers of his age including Shakespeare. No doubt Lyly is the foremost inspiration for Shakespeare's comedies.

Christopher Marlowe:

Christopher Marlowe is a man born with fierce imagination and deep thought. He has a natural talent as a lyric poet than a dramatist. He is the predecessor of Shakespeare who wrote his famous plays like

1. Dr. Faustus
2. Tamburlaine the Great.
3. The Jew of Malta
4. Edward II

In fact, these plays made him an eminent writer of his time. Through these plays he introduced blank verse to the romantic drama of the Elizabethan Stage. He sets a model of a type of drama and chronicle play for his immediate successors, Shakespeare who has been an acquaintance and a collaborator with Marlowe surely had an immense influence over him. Even the blank verse used in the early plays of Shakespeare owes much to Marlowe. Shakespeare's narrative poem 'Venus and Adonis' is modelled on Marlowe's 'Hero and Leander'. His Richard I and III are based on Marlowe's chronicle play Edward II. Even his 'The Merchant of Venice' is written based on Marlowe's 'The Jew of Malta'.