

POET, PLAYWRIGHT

Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde was one of the most celebrated writers of the late 19th century, renowned for his wit, flamboyance and lasting cultural influence. His work spans plays, novels, essays and poetry, and continues to shape literature and popular culture today.

In the early 1890s, Wilde became one of London's most successful dramatists and a leading figure in the Aestheticism movement. Often regarded as the greatest playwright of the Victorian era, he is best known for *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890), his sharp epigrams, stage comedies and stories for children.

In 1895, Wilde was convicted of "gross indecency" for homosexual acts, a charge that led to imprisonment and public disgrace.

In 2017, he was posthumously pardoned under the so-called Alan Turing law, which addressed historical convictions for acts no longer considered criminal.

In 2025, the British Library symbolically restored Wilde's library card, revoked after his conviction 130 years earlier, with the new card accepted by his grandson.

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