

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov was born in 1860 in Taganrog. In 1876 he went to Moscow, where he studied medicine.

While in college, Chekhov wrote humorous sketches to support his family. Later he was able to develop his own style. Though he never gave up writing comic stories, he began working in a more serious genre. In 1887 "*Ivanov*", his first play, established Chekhov as a dramatist.

Chekhov was seriously ill and had to leave Moscow for the countryside. He spent 5 year there and wrote some of his best stories, including "*Ward #6*", several comedies and two of his serious dramas, "*The Seagull*" and "*Uncle Vanya*".

"*The Cherry Orchard*", his last play, was produced in 1904. Soon after this Chekhov died. He was 44.

