James M. Barrie was a Scottish dramatist, best known for writing the play Peter Pan. Born on May 9, 1860, in Kirriemuir, Angus, Scotland, he was the seventh child to David Barrie, a hand-loom weaver, and Margaret Ogilvie, the daughter of a weaver. His family was modest and his childhood was not especially privileged. His parents were strict, and he felt isolated and often lonely.

Barrie's early career included work as a journalist and writer for various publications, including The Scottish Observer and The Horn Book. He was also involved in the theater, working as an actor and playwright. It was during this time that he wrote his first play, The Little Minister, which was a critical and commercial success.

Barrie is best known for his work on Peter Pan, which he first conceived in 1904. The play was first performed in London in 1904 and has since become one of the most beloved children's stories in the world. The inspiration for Peter Pan came from J. M. Barrie's acquaintance with a boy he met in Kensington Gardens in 1889 and his subsequent obsession with the boy model for Peter Pan.

The inspiration for Peter Pan also came from Barrie's relationship with the du Maurier family. He began writing the play in 1904, and the first performance was on December 20, 1904, at the Duke of York's Theatre in London. The play was an instant success and has been performed in many languages and countries around the world.

Barrie continued to write and perform throughout his life, including works such as The Admirable Crichton, What Every Woman Knows, and The Man of Property. He was made a baronet in 1907 and a knight in 1913. He died on June 19, 1937, in London, England. Barrie's legacy continues to this day, with Peter Pan remains one of the most beloved children's stories in the world.