

WHAT IS
THEATRE?



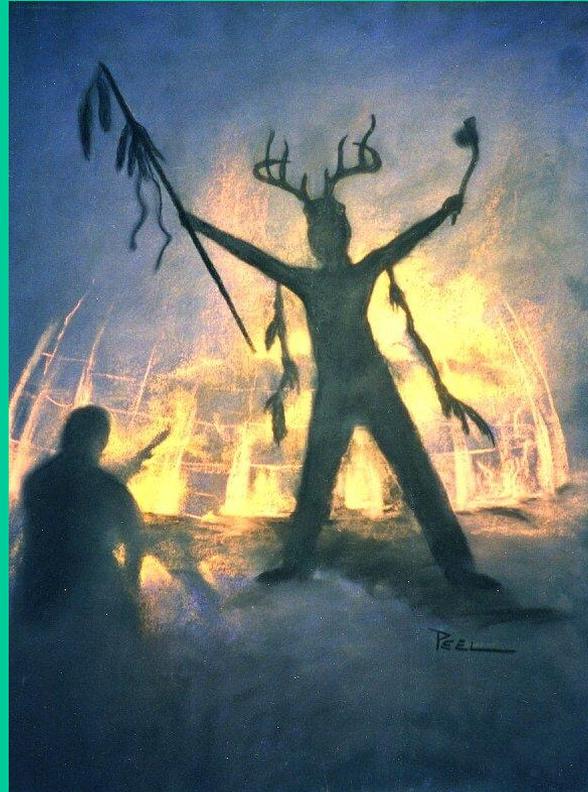
Theatre

- is a story
- told on a stage
 - by actors
- in front of an audience.

Where did theatre come from?

- **Ritual**

- A set of actions or ceremonies performed on a regular basis.



- What type of rituals do we have today?
- Why do people perform rituals?
- 3 Basic Concerns of Ritual
 - Power
 - Pleasure
 - Duty

Greek Theatre



Dionysus



Greek god of wine,
revelry, and fertility.

Dithyramb

- Song and Dance worshipping Dionysus.



Maenad

Female follower
of Dionysus



Satyr

Male follower
of Dionysus



Chorus

- A group of masked singers and dancers



Thespis

- First person to step away from the chorus (first ‘actor’)

Thespian

- Modern term meaning ‘actor’

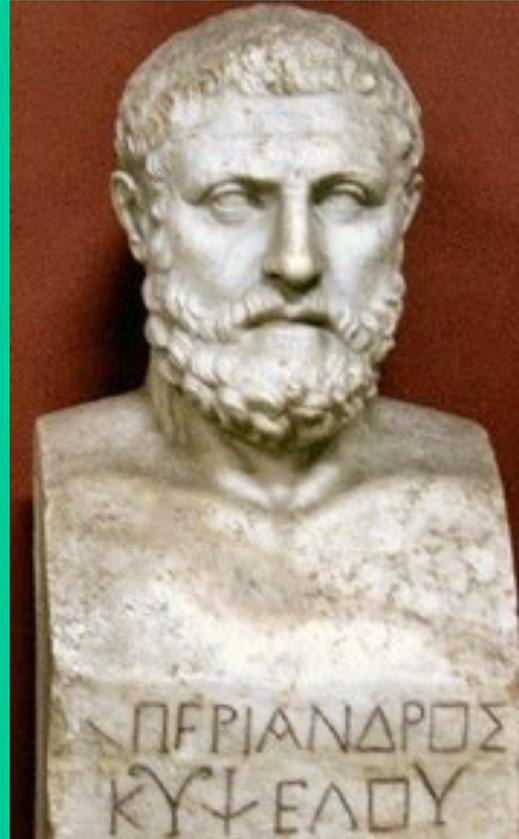
Tragedy

- Early Greek play, based on the forces of **fate.**



Pisistratus

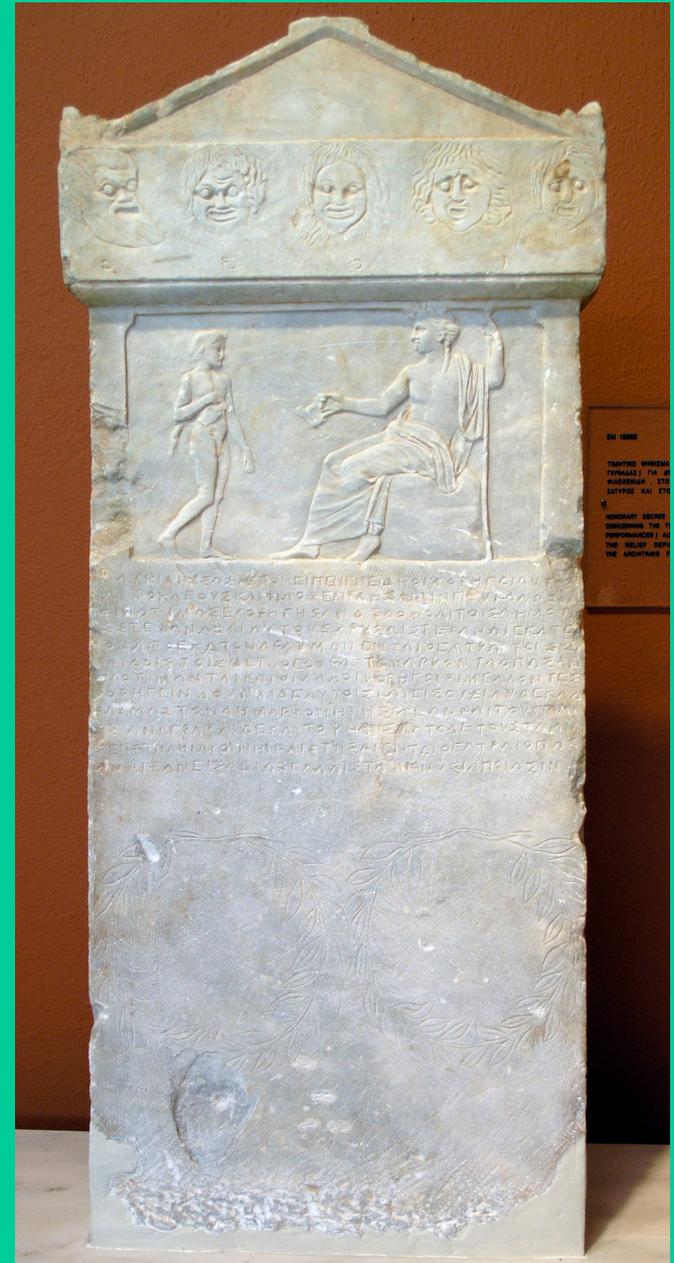
- Greek Ruler,
made drama a
government
sponsored
event



- **Archon:** Greek official responsible for organizing Dithyramb Festivals

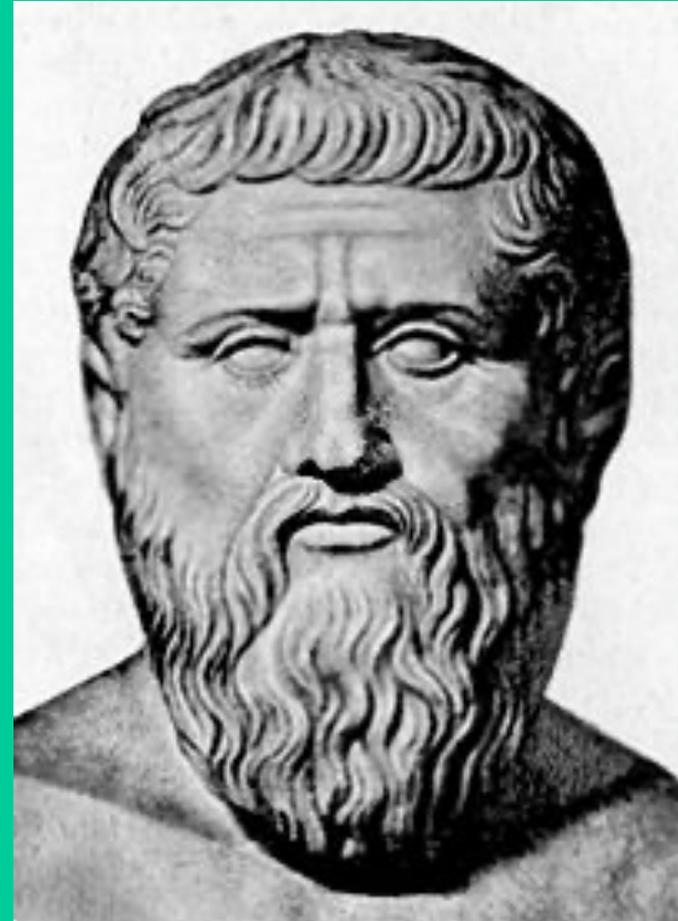


Choregus: Greek citizen appointed to pay for Dithyramb Festivals (*producer*)



Theatre Criticism

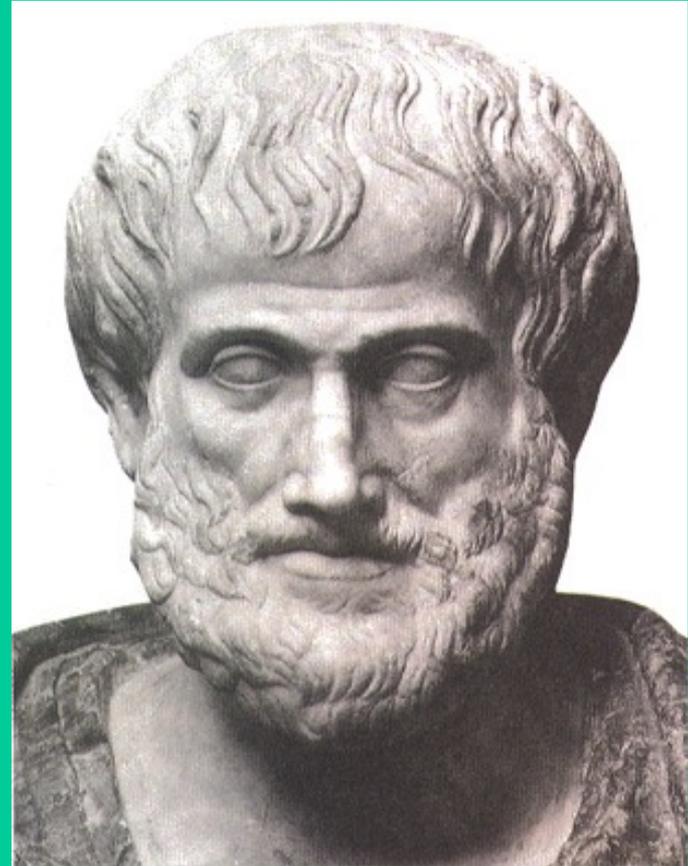
- Plato Theatre critic, believed theatre was a bad influence on society.



Aristotle: Theatre critic, believed that theatre was a good influence on society.

Catharsis:

emotional release



Crash Course Theatre History:

Thespis/Athens (first section, Thespis, Dithyrambs), 1:25 through 3:55



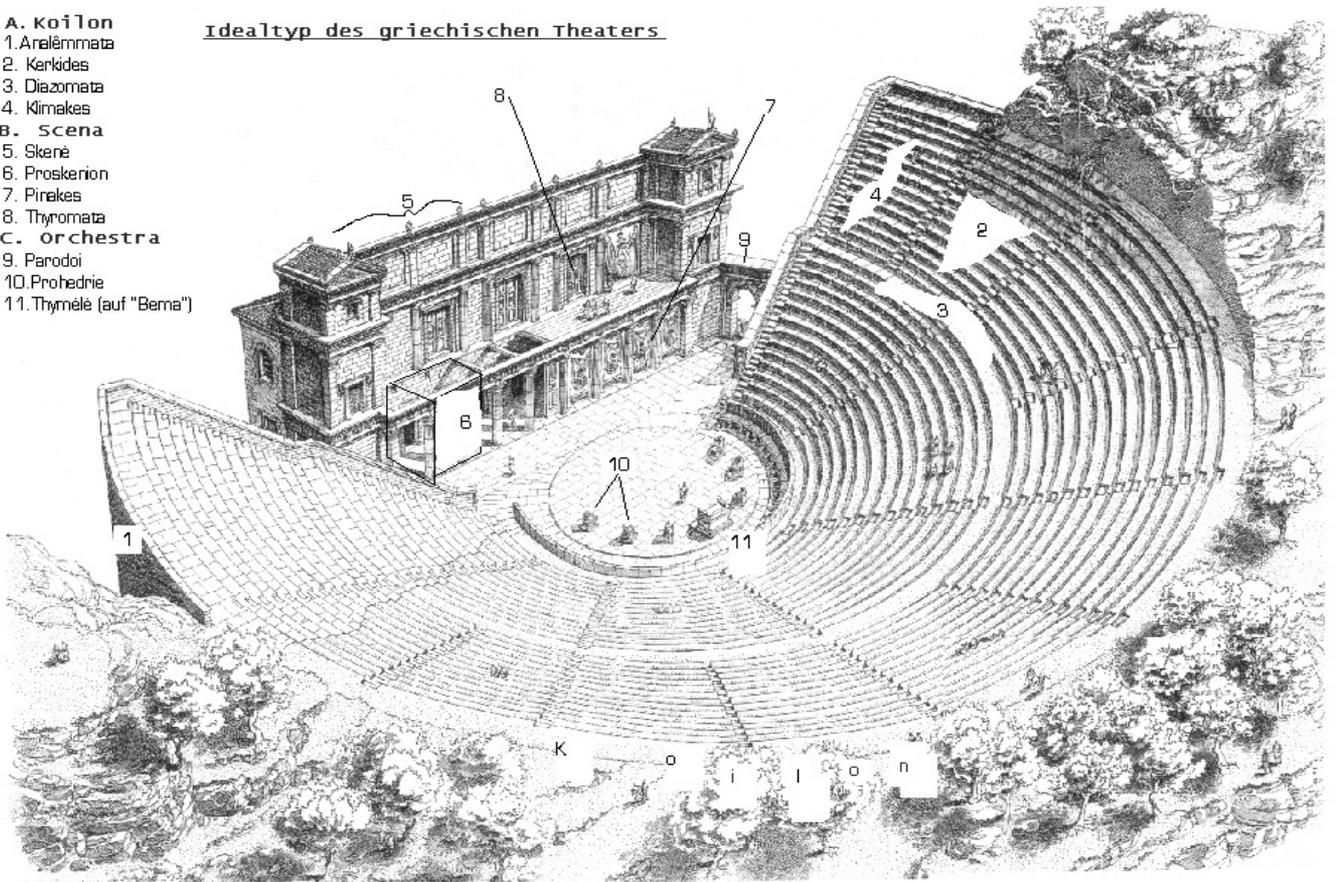
The Greek Stage



Orchestra: Circular space where the chorus sang and danced “dancing place”

- A. Koilon
- 1. Anelëmmata
- 2. Kerkides
- 3. Diazomata
- 4. Klimakes
- B. Scena
- 5. Skenè
- 6. Proskenion
- 7. Pirakes
- 8. Thyromata
- C. orchestra
- 9. Parodoi
- 10. Prohedrie
- 11. Thymèle (auf "Bema")

Idealtyp des griechischen Theaters



Logeion: “speaking place” the stage of a
Greek theatre

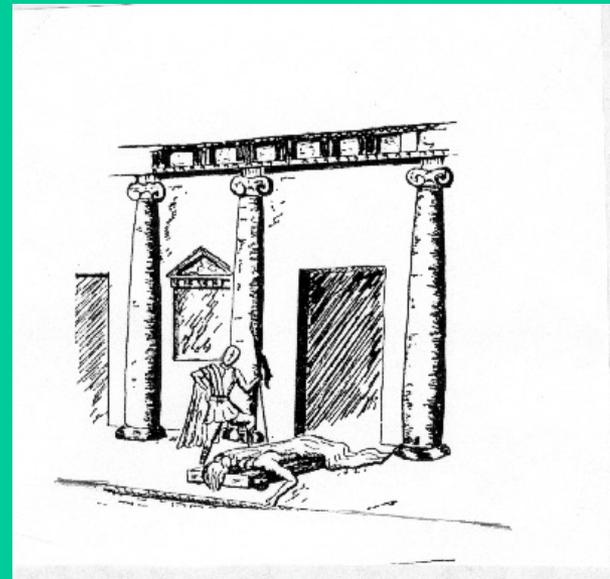
Theologeion: “speaking place of the gods”



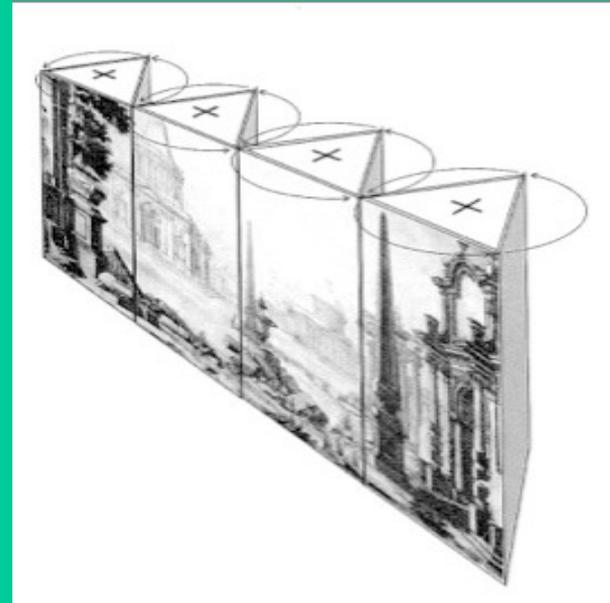
- **Theatron**: ‘seeing place’
audience seating area of
Greek Theatre
- **Skene**: Scenic building
behind Logeion



- Eccyclema: Rolling Platform

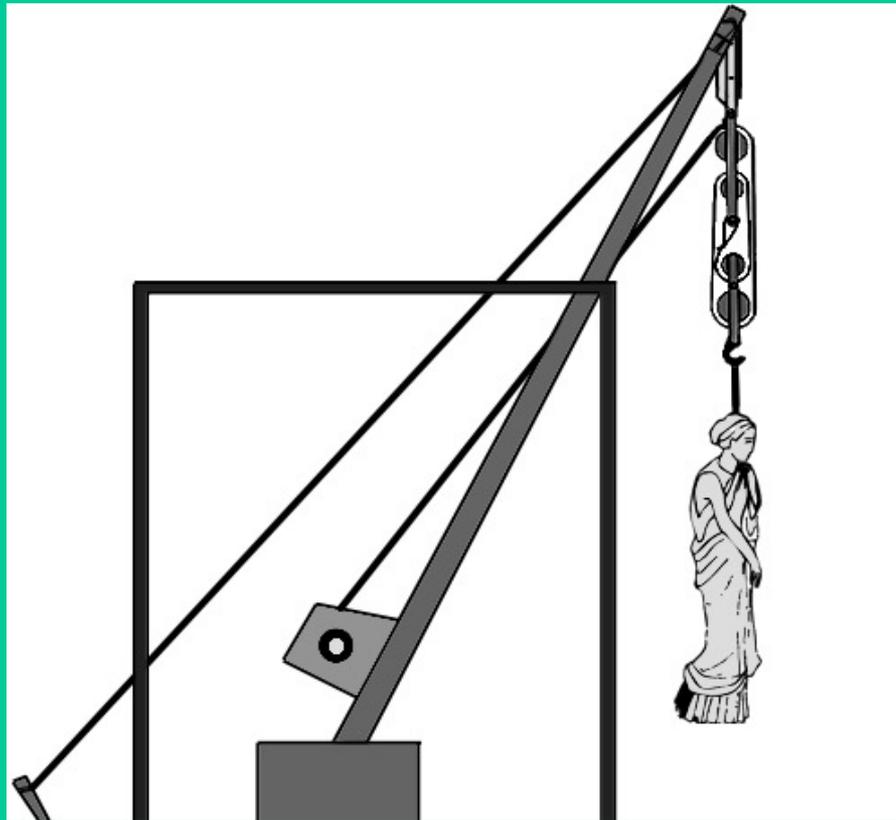


- Periaktoi: Three sided revolving column



Deus ex machina: a god would be brought in
at the end of the play to help a character

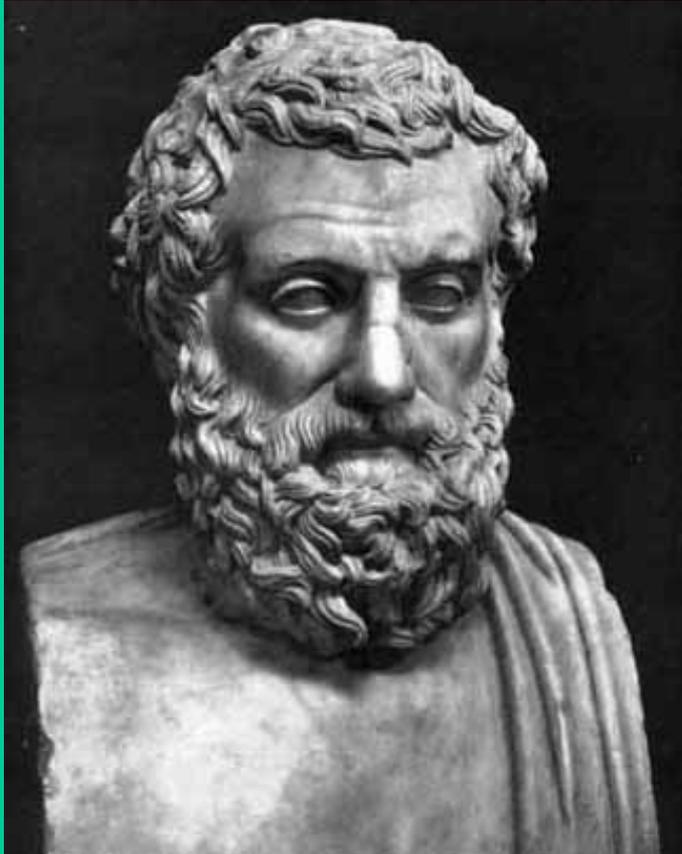
Mechane: a crane used in Greek theatre to
bring a god character onto stage



Crash Course Theatre History:
Thespis/Athens (second section,
playwrights: 7:00 through 9:30)



Aeschylus: earliest playwright whose plays survive, wrote **Agamemnon**
(a 'playwright' is a person who writes plays)



Sophocles: Playwright, wrote **Oedipus Trilog**y, made actors more important



Euripides: Playwright, wrote **Medea**, used scenery and machinery on stage

