

Greek theatre

In Ancient Greece, most cities had an amphitheatre- a theatre that was specially designed to amplify sound so that even the spectators that were sitting right at the top could hear every single word. They were in the open air, and usually bowl shaped and positioned on top of a hill. Some were so big that 15,000 people could fit inside to watch comedies, tragedies, political recitals and much more.

Each acting performance was usually either a comedy or a tragedy but only boys and men could act. Every performer would wear a mask depicting the face of their character- the individuals having more intricate masks and costumes than the chorus, whose masks and costumes were slightly more plain.

In classical Greek drama, the chorus could contain up to 50 men who would all speak in unison and help spell out the story. Occasionally, they will sing odes that might seem quite unrelated to the story, but will have a secret link later on. Some of the many actors in the chorus would speak solos but all would sing, dance and comment on what is happening in the main performance. It was the chorus that kept the plot moving along by reciting poems while confined to what we now call the orchestra pit. Modern readers often consider the chorus a filler, however, others count everybody in the chorus all as one, very important character as if 'The Chorus' were a name.



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