Introduction to Greek Tragedy
簡介

- Greek Theatre
- Costume
- The Origin of Greek Tragedy
- The Structure of a Greek Tragedy
- Aristotle’s Definition of Tragedy
- Three Greek Tragic Dramatists
Greek Theatre

- Festival of Dionysus, Temple of Apollo
Greek Theatre

- Plan of a Greek theatre
Skene (scene)

The earliest SKENE was a simple shed or even a "tent" for actors' use, but had no SCENIC function...
A circular playing space is one of the earliest theatrical areas...

The performers are viewed from all sides and a scenic background is not considered...
Scene building

The early scene building was made of wood, and was brightly painted & decorated. Partly due to a great interest in painting of landscape and perspective...

Doorways at the rear allowed entrances and exits at various “houses” or locales...

Open areas of the colonnade were eventually filled in in various ways to suggest certain “scenic backgrounds”.

A conjectural reconstruction of the fifth-century skene. No longer a “hut” but not yet a marble building (that was to come a century later), this structure served as a basic background area for all productions. Later versions of the skene were
Scenic machines and other features of the skene.

A revolving eccyclema was another possibility.

Possible version of the eccyclema, "something which is rolled out..."

Doors were richly decorated and symbolized house.

Periaktoi were used as a scenic indication... turned on a pivot to reveal different sides...

Panoramas or scenic panels filled in openings, for "deor"
Theatre, Epidaurus
Costume

- **The Chiton**: The basic dress, worn long by women, short by men.
  - Tied extra and shorn-in.
- **A large patterned cloak**: The Himation was draped over the shoulder.
- **Most costumes**: Very colorful, with many decorative patterns.
Costume

The Chlamys
...a very short cloak sometimes tied under the arm

Head dress, hair style (onkos) and footwear (kothurnoi) also had theatrical significance

Some representative costumes. Paid for by the choregos. Greek costumes were
Costume: Satyr

Satyr performance included specialized comic-demonic dance forms.
THE MASK

THE MASK WAS BUILT OF WOOD, PLASTER, AND PAINTED LINEN...

THE GREEK TRAGIC MASK PROJECTED A STRONG FACIAL EXPRESSION...

SUITED TO A LARGE THEATRICAL SPACE...

THE MASK COVERED THE WHOLE HEAD AND REQUIRED "OVERSIZE" VOCAL AND GESTURAL STYLE...

It is only speculation to say the mask amplified the actor’s voice: the larger mouth openings were expressive and were clear of simple acoustical projection lines...
A female mask... one of several types.

The mask was built of wood, plaster, and painted linen.

Comic actor in mask... parody of the tragic hero...

Actor holding a tragic mask...

It is only speculation to say the mask amplified the actor's voice: the large mouth openings were expressive, and were clear of simple acoustic.
Mask
Scene from comedy
Masks for Comedy
Masks for Tragedy

Masks with exaggerated expressions, padded noses (or 'chitons'), thick-waist belts ('cadumia') ensured an actor's character, emotions, movements were clearly seen from the most distant seats.
The Origin of Greek Tragedy

- Dithyramb: choral song hymns sung in honor of the wine god, Dionysus

- tragedy -- Greek = tragoidia
  - = tragos + oide
  - (goat) (song)

- dithyramb = the choral hymn, with mime describing the adventure of Dionysus. It was introduced into Greek in the 7th century BC
The Origin of Greek Tragedy

- Dionysus Zagreus—death + rebirth
- Seasonal change
- Apollo + Dionysus
- Tetralogy = one satyr play + a trilogy (three tragedies)
Scene from a Satyr Play
The Structure of a Greek Tragedy

1. Prologue (開場白) = setting forth the subject
2. Parodos (歌隊進場) = the song accompanying the entrance of the chorus
3. Episode (場景) = scene in which one or more actors take part
4. Stasimon (歌隊評唱) = song of the chorus
   Stasima are originally reflection or expression of the emotion evoked by the preceding episode.
5. Exodos (終場及歌隊退場)
The Structure of a Greek Tragedy

- Prologue → Parodos
- 1st Episode → 1st Stasimon
- 2nd Episode → 2nd Stasimon
- 3rd Episode → 3rd Stasimon
- Exodos
Aristotle’s Definition of Tragedy

- Tragedy is the imitation of an action
- that is serious
- and also having magnitude, complete in itself;
- in language with pleasurable accessories, each kind brought in separately in the parts of the work;
- in a dramatic, not in a narrative form;
- with incidents arousing pity and fear,
- wherewith to accomplish its cartharsis of such emotions.
Aristotle’s Definition of Tragedy

- Imitation of an action: *mimesis*
- The action = plot = the downfall of a noble hero
- Complete: beginning, middle, ending
  beginning → *in medias res*
- Different parts: Structure of tragedy
- *Catharsis*: psychological effect of tragedy
The Tragic Plot

- A causal, inevitable sequence of events connected intimately with the personality of the tragic hero.
- Harmartia = tragic flaw
- Hubris = excessive pride

*Reversal of fortune
* Alatheia: unconcealment of the truth
Three Tragic Dramatists

Aeschylus (525–456 BC)
Oresteia Trilogy:
1. Agamemnon
2. The Libation Bearers
3. The Eumenides

Sophocles (496–406 BC)
Oedipus Trilogy:
1. Oedipus Rex (Oedipus the King)
2. Oedipus at Colonus
3. Antigone

Euripides (c. 484–406 BC)
1. The Medea
2. The Suppliant Women
3. Helen
4. Iphigenia in Taurus
5. Bacchae