

BEYOND THE SCORE

ISSUE TWO

EARLY THEATRE
ORIGINS
TIMELINE

FACT OR
FICTION?:
THEATRE
ORIGINS EDITION

SYMBOLS OF
THEATRE



THE BEGINNINGS PART 1

GREEKS - ROMANS - MIDDLE AGES

A CLOSER LOOK AT MUSICAL THEATRE

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FACT OR FICTION?

Pageant wagons were made for beauty pageants back in the middle ages.

FICTION!

Pageant wagons were outdoor stages that were on wheels. Troupes of actors would use them to portray different parts of the story they were telling.

FACT OR FICTION?

The stage was not invented until modern day.

FICTION!

Stages were a huge contribution from the Greeks. Because of their natural landscape, with uneven hills and such, they created outdoor arenas that would surround the playing area, where the actors would perform.

FACT OR FICTION?

The Romans brought us pantomime.

FACT!

Pantomime was a foundational aspect in creating theatre and dance.

What is pantomime? Pantomime is the art of theatrical gestures and movement, usually underscored with music. It is used to express emotions and stories.

FACT OR FICTION?

Music in the theatre was not seen until the 1800s.

FICTION!

Music in the theatre was seen at the very beginning with the Greeks. They had a Greek chorus and a lead singer who would sing in the background during scenes.

FACT OR FICTION?


THEATRE ORIGINS
EDITION

FACT OR FICTION?

In the middle ages, religion and the Christian calendar influenced the type of theatre produced.

FACT!

These plays, often named "morality plays", "mystery cycles", or "miracle plays", were performed in the church in a more intimate setting.



Let's take a closer look! Check out this video that shows off the incredible Epidauros theatre in Greece! Just **click on the picture!**

THE BEGINNINGS PART 1

GREEKS - ROMANS - MIDDLE AGES

THE GREEKS

5th Century
B.C.E

CONTRIBUTIONS

Greek theatre began with the festival of Dionysus. This brought about many playwrights who would showcase their new work during the festival. The most significant things that emerged from this time were the stage, tragedy and comedy plays, and the greek chorus. The greek chorus would sing in the background of scenes, something that we still see today in some musicals.



Theatre of Dionysos, Athens



An illustration of Roman pantomime.

1st Century
B.C.E

THE ROMANS

CONTRIBUTIONS

Influenced by the greek theatre, the Romans loved the spectacle and the mass appeal. Their theatres were also very big and grand. Pantomime, a central aspect of dance and theatre, was introduced at that time, as well

as recurring characterization types. This meant that many shows would have similar characters that would do and act in certain mannerisms. This is also known as a stock character.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Middle Ages were an interesting time for theatre. During big celebrations, processions would travel through the main plaza and would have several pageant wagons that would act out a different scene for the overall show. The Middle Ages were also influenced by the Christian calendar. The liturgy, or bible stories, were used to create these plays. Finally, masks were being replaced with actual face paint, a divergence from the heavily used masks in Greek and Roman times.



An example of a processional and pageant wagon.

5th Century
C.E

MIDDLE AGES

EARLY THEATRE ORIGINS TIMELINE

5TH CENTURY B.C.E

GREEKS

The Greeks gave us the stage, one of the most important symbols of theatre that we still use today.

1ST CENTURY B.C.E

ROMANS

The Romans gave us stock characters and pantomime, which has been a foundational aspect of dance in the theatre today.

5TH CENTURY C.E

MIDDLE AGES

The Middle ages brought us liturgical theatre and focused on bible stories in more intimate settings.

Learning about the history of theatre will help us better understand the origin of musical theatre.

SYMBOLS OF THEATRE

What do you do when you see a stop sign? You stop! What does it mean when someone sends you a happy face emoji? They are telling you they are happy! Symbols are used in our daily life. When we see a symbol we recognize, we may think of food, clothing, or a favorite activity. I know that when I look at the weather on my phone and see a

cloud with drops - it's going to be a rainy day! When you think about the symbols in your life you'll start to realize how often you use symbols to understand different things. This is no different with theatre! There are certain symbols that are universally recognized to help us identify theatre!

Comedy & Tragedy Mask



The comedy and tragedy masks represent the extremes of both happy and sad. This symbol comes to us from ancient Greece (who wore masks to represent characters), and is still a symbol used today to represent theatre.

The Stage



Although live theatre can be experienced in different forms, many people who first see live theatre, see it on a stage! The most common stage we see today is the proscenium stage. It has an arch that separates the audience from the play area the actors are performing on.

"THERE ARE CERTAIN SYMBOLS THAT ARE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED TO HELP US IDENTIFY THEATRE."

What are other symbols of theatre?

Comment in the "Beyond the Score" comments section found on the website!

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