

BEYOND THE SCORE

ISSUE THREE

EARLY THEATRE
ORIGINS
TIMELINE

ACTIVITY:
WORD MATCH!

COMMEDIA
DELL'ARTE
CHARACTER
TYPES

THE BEGINNINGS PART 2

THE RENAISSANCE

A CLOSER LOOK AT MUSICAL THEATRE

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WORDS

- ___ RENAISSANCE
- ___ STOCK CHARACTERS
- ___ PLAYWRIGHT
- ___ IMPROVISATION
- ___ PLOT
- ___ SCRIPT
- ___ SPECTACLE

TRY AND MATCH THE CORRECT
DEFINITIONS WITH THE WORDS!

(answers found on final page of newsletter)

WORD MATCH!

- A) Theatrical entertainment in which the actors are using their surroundings, the audience, and each other to create scenes without specific dialogue or a script.
- B) Someone who writes scripts.
- C) A visually striking performance.
- D) This time period occurred after the Middle Ages and is another word for “rebirth”.
- E) The main outline and story of the performance.
- F) They represent and have characteristics of certain stereotypes in society.
- G) This document or book has the dialogue and scenes written down for actors to memorize and recite on stage.

DEFINITIONS

THE BEGINNINGS PART 2

THE RENAISSANCE

THE RENAISSANCE: WHEN & WHERE?

The Renaissance is considered to be between the 14th century and 17th century, and began in Florence, Italy.

This era of “rebirth” brought new ideas, scholars, and artists to the world. There was also a rediscovery and sparked interest in classical ideals and philosophies.



What do you know about
the Renaissance?

[Click here to submit a comment!](#)

WHAT WERE MASQUES?

A masque or mask, was a form of entertainment where guests would arrive at a social gathering dressed in beautiful costumes and disguised in masks. The guests would join in dance and song, sometimes on detailed stages and very large sets. These performances were often created to be complementary to the individual who was hosting the event. These spectacles were very popular in high society and were used quite often to entertain royalty.

WHY COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE?

Commedia Dell'arte is an important part of theatre history because of two main things: improvisation and stock characters. Improvisation is the art of creating theatre on the spot by using your surroundings and the people you are performing with. There is no script and requires complete mental focus and creativity. Stock characters often represent a general “type” of person we see in several stories. For example, the rich old man, the conceited soldier, and the faithful servant, are just a few of the types of stock characters from commedia dell'arte.



WHO WAS SHAKESPEARE?

William Shakespeare was an English playwright and poet. He is admired as one of the most influential playwrights in history, and has several works still beloved and performed to this day. Shakespeare broke the barriers of stock characters and wrote more subtle, or specific, types in his works. Even though it's not the more realistic characters we see today, it was still a divergence from the commedia dell'arte character types.

EARLY THEATRE ORIGINS TIMELINE

MASQUES

A very common festival of the times where people would arrive in costume and join in music and dance. This could range anywhere from a small processional or an elaborate theatrical presentation.

COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE

Italian commedia dell'arte were performance troupes that introduced improvisation into their acting, following only an outline of the plot.

SHAKESPEARE

The modernization of theatre in Europe began to take shape with playwrights such as Shakespeare, who introduced verse form that encouraged a more natural way of speaking.

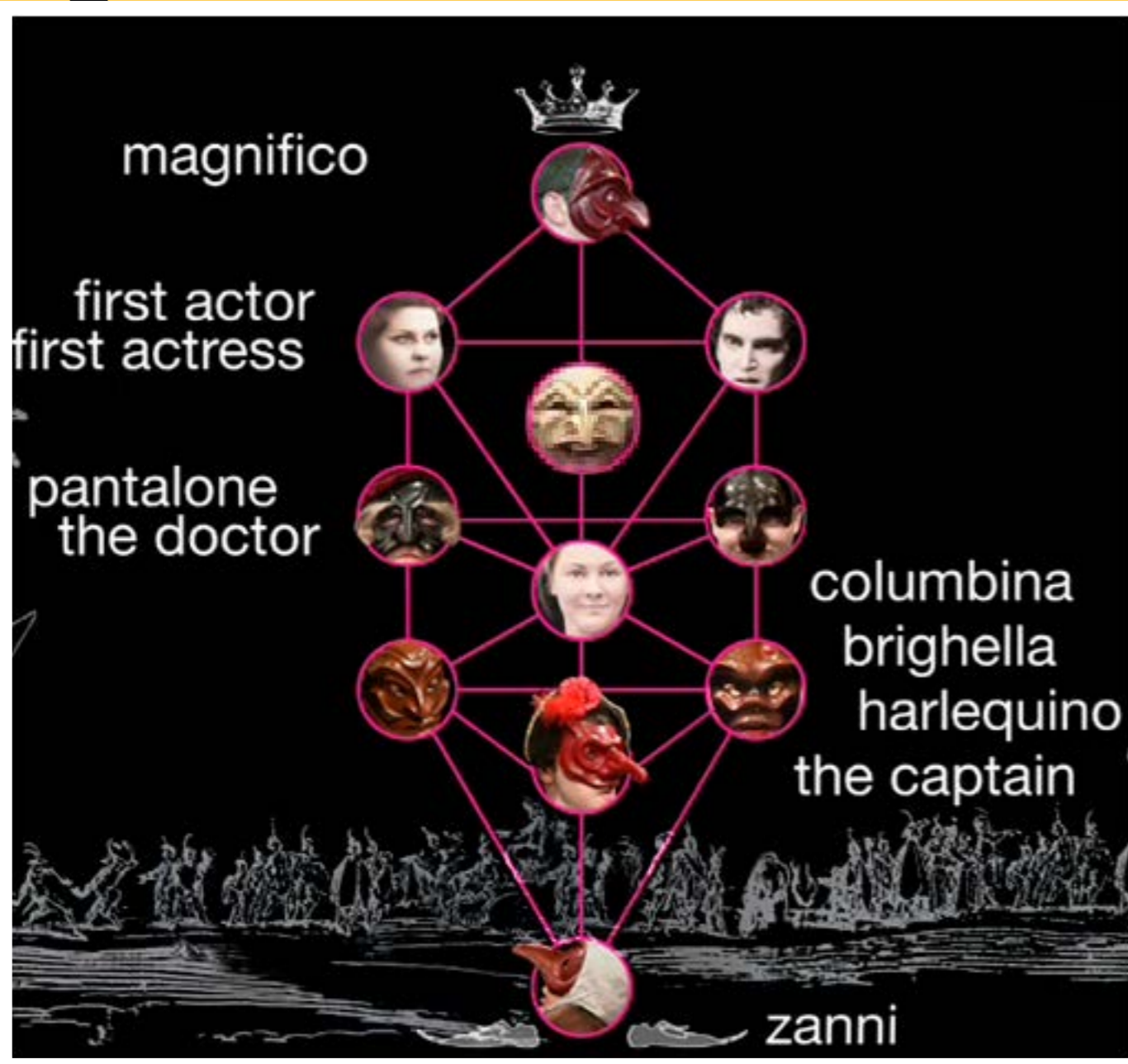
14TH CENTURY C.E.
TO
17TH CENTURY C.E.

There is so much to know about theatre history. Don't let that overwhelm you! What's most important is that you continue to learn and grow in the topics you enjoy!

THE RENAISSANCE

WATCH & CONSIDER

Watch "The World of Commedia Dell'arte" by the National Theatre by clicking on the photo to the left.



What do you find interesting about each character?

Which character would you like to try out?

Do you think that physical movement helps identify each character?

How does this relate to musical theatre today?

WORD MATCH! ANSWERS

Renaissance (D)

Stock Characters (F)

Playwright (B)

Improvisation (A)

Plot (E)

Script (G)

Spectacle (C)

COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE CHARACTER TYPES

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