

Theater / Drama Today

1. **Purpose:** Entertainment, Social issues, Appreciation of art and literature
2. **Content/ Subject:** Anything with entertaining content , artistic, or reflective of history or social issues
3. **Actors:** Numerous female and male of all ages well-groomed, trained, and educated
4. **Time and Audience:** Anytime of the year and mostly for privileged few
5. **Costs:** Tickets sold, producers pay for the cost of production
6. **Theatre:** Anywhere, mostly down town area, highly equipped with modern special effects acoustic surrounding, and state of the art stage design

Greek Drama (2500) years ago

1. Religious ceremony in honour of god Dionysus
2. Choral and dance performances based on stories and epics. Opening lines had make clear the identity of the charactors, place and time.
3. One actor, then 2, and Sophocles added the third and reduced the chorus from 18- to 15. Only men; teen-age boy could even represent elderly citizens. 3 actors at a time delivering lines. Ten elected judges and from them 5 elected through lottery decided the winner. First was prized by an Ivy crown.
4. Late in April. Only 3 day festival of Dionysus at sunrise. Audience took it seriously, they sat through three tragedies, a farcical play and a comedy for three days, very lively, likely burst into tears if play was powerful, hiss or whistle if they didn't like it.
5. State paid for the highly professional actors, costumes and training was shouldered by a rich citizen. There was a small charge or free for those who could not afford. Democratic regime.
6. Open air capacity of 14000, marble benches, no curtain, no lighting, no special effects, mostly props, a statue or an altar. A trumpet call gave the signal for silence and attention. Standardised masks for old, middle aged, women and men. No facial expressions obviously.