

KS3: Greek Theatre Choral Skills

Students are to develop an understanding of the Greek theatre, including the role of the chorus. They will build on their prior knowledge of vocal skills and experiment with choral vocal techniques.

The Actor's Tool Kit Vocal Acting Skills

- Pitch
- Pace
- Tone
- Accent
- Volume
- Emphasis
- Unison
- Cannon

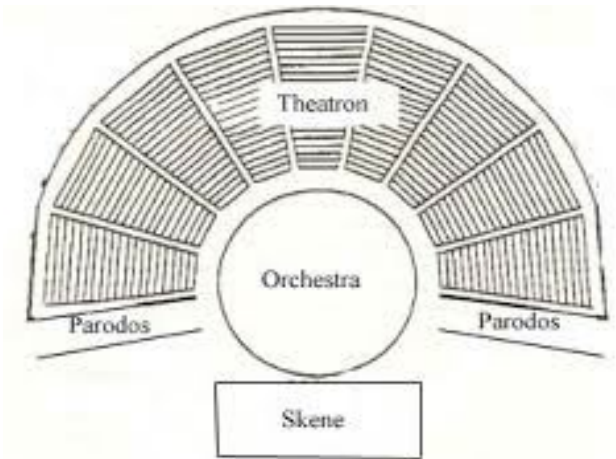
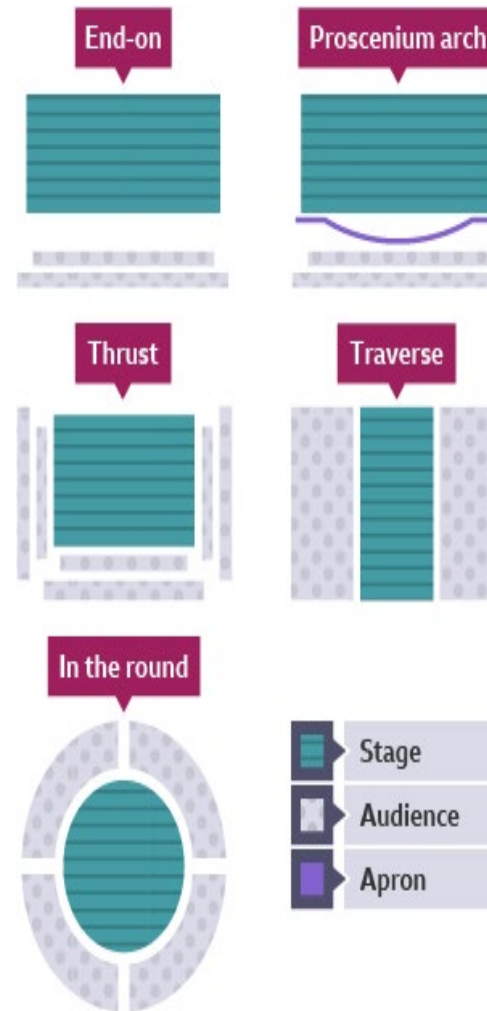


Greek Theatre

Almost every Greek city had a theatre because plays were part of many religious festivals. The Greeks enjoyed singing and dancing. At first, theatres were only used for festivals.

The theatres were built on hillsides in the open air and could often hold more than 18,000 spectators.

All the actors were men. They wore large masks that exaggerated facial features and emotions. The mouth hole was large to help amplify the voices. Greek plays were either comedies or tragedies.



Parts of a Greek Theater

Genre Conventions

Three main actors – all men

Chorus – who used unison (speaking and moving at the same time) and canon (Speaking and moving in the same way one after each other) to help comment on the action and narrate.

Year 7 Glossary

Mime	The use of movements, gestures and facial expressions to communicate an idea without words
Posture	The position a character holds themselves in when sitting or standing
Gestures	A movement made by part of the body (e.g. arms, head) to convey a character's emotion
Mannerism	A repeated physical or vocal habit that contributes to characterisation
Pitch	How high or low an actor's voice is. This can be used as a feature of a character or to show a character's emotional state.
Pace	Pace is the speed that lines are delivered
Volume	How loud or quiet a vocal performance is. This could be a feature of a character or how a character's emotions is expressed
Intonation	This is the rise and fall of a voice that created a natural pattern of speech. This can be used to create meaning, by stressing a word for emphasis
Tone	How a line is delivered, adding emotional impact to spoken words
Accent	Can signal to the audience where a character is from, social class or status
Pauses	Pauses can be used to create tension, can shape the delivery of an actor's lines and/or can add to the realism of a scene
Facial Expressions	Movement of the eyes, eyebrows and mouth, such as smiling and frowning. These movement communicate the emotional response of the character

Movement	The way an actor moves on stage can tell the audience about their character. Stillness can also be used to convey how a character is feeling.
Gestures	Gestures are movements created with parts of the body, such as the hands, arms and head. These are an effective way of conveying the character's emotions
Mannerism	These are small repeated gestures that help the audience to understand aspects of a character's personality.
Unison	The process where actions or dialogue happen at the same time and in the same way
Canon	People moving or speaking in the same way one after the other
Thrust Stage	A stage that extends out into the audience, so that they are seated on three sides
Traverse	A long, narrow stage which runs between the audience, who face the stage on both sides
Proscenium Arch Stage	A box shaped stage which is set back from the audience so that the front end is open to them, frames by the arch itself
End on Stage	A stage which has the audience on one side if the stage, facing the action
In the Round	A style of staging where the audience surrounds the action on four sides
Chanting	A chant is a short, simple series of syllables or words that are spoken with the same tone. It is usually repetitive
Narration	A character who comments on the action and the plot to the audience. can be first- person (involved in the