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## What is the difference between roman and greek theatre

The Difference between Greek and Modern theatres Difference between Greek and Modern Theatres Theatre today as in ancient Greek times is a popular form of entertainment. Today’s theatres share many similarities with the Greek predecessors however they are also very different. There are in fact many differences for example; layout, special effects, seating arrangement, the importance of drama and religion, setting, location and architectural features. In ancient Greece festivals were mainly held at the Great Dionysia. This was the oldest theatre in Greece and many plays were performed here for example the first performance of Antigone. The patron of the theatre was the God Dionysus and there was a temple near which was dedicated in his honour. There was also a statue of the patron Goddess Athene. Today there is no link between religion and theatre, as we live in a multi-cultural society with people who follow many different faiths; therefore the theatre is secular to appeal to all people (Gill). The various aspects of ancient Greek theatre then compare with today’s modern version of theatre. Today it is widely believed that theatre first began in ancient Greece, the evidence people used to come to this conclusion was from ancient Greek plays, Greek art and architecture. In ancient Greek theatres the seating was arranged in a semi-circle and curve down into the centre following the natural shape of the hillside. There are many modern theatres which are arranged in this way however many have the whole audience directly opposite the stage like in a cinema. Seats in ancient Greek theatres would have been made from stone, with the audience expected to bring their own cushions. Today the audience sits on padded seats so the audience is more comfortable. This is because people have higher expectations today and society is generally more advanced, people would not sit on stone seats today. In ancient times audiences were much larger as they could fit more people into the theatres. The Dionysus could hold over 14000 people (Gill). This is in stark contrast to today where the average theatre holds approximately one thousand people. This could be because there are many more theatres today than in Greek times therefore there is a greater amount of choice and variety. Tickets in ancient times were made out of ivory and were needed to enter the theatre (Robinson). This is similar to modern theatres where a ticket system is also in operation. The worst seats in the theatre were at the back, this is similar to today as the seats at the back (the lords) are the cheapest. These seats were used by the lower classes. The higher your social status the better view of the play you could expect to get. Importantly women were not allowed in the theatre at any time. In today’s modern society everyone is considered equal, therefore if you have enough money you can sit wherever you like in the theatre. Also women can attend and enjoy the exact same privileges as men. This is because society has progressed and women are seen as equals in all walks of life whereas in Greek times they were very much second class citizens. Theatres in ancient Greece were built so they were open air and exposed to the elements. When being built the builders used natural curved sides for the seating area, this provided excellent acoustics and it is a technique used today. However today theatres are not open air as the weather would prohibit performances for the majority of the year therefore building them with a roof allows performances to take place all year round increasing revenue and profit. Some modern theatres today have domed ceilings which enable sound to circulate better. In ancient times theatres were often built on hills to improve acoustics however today they are almost always built in flat urbanized areas that have a high population for example London, this is because large urbanized areas have easy access because of good transport links e.g. the London underground. Acoustics are not as important today as microphones can enhance sound whereas in ancient Greek times they did not have this luxury. Today special effects in modern theatres are taken for granted by the audiences. Flashing lights, smoke, electronic sound and even microphones for actors were all not available to the ancient Greeks. In ancient times there special effects included; cranes for lifting actors into the air and ekkyklema (a trolley used to roll on stage via the central doors to carry away dead bodies. Many of these effects are not used to today as modern audiences want the play to be as realistic as possible and many of these effects would not achieve this. But today they still use wires in order to make actors appear to be flying; this is similar to the machine but more advanced to do modern technologies. At the back of the ancient Greek theatre stood the ‘skene’. The word ‘skene’ means stage building. The ‘skene’ was a wooden building where the actors could change and this building could also be used for as a house or temple or any other part of scenery (Gill). At the front of the ‘skene’ there was a large double door for the actors to make their entrance. Actors could also enter through the ‘parados’ if they were acting as characters from foreign lands or who had just arrived (University Press Inc). There were three areas where the actors could act; the platform in front of the stage building, the orchestra and the roof of the stage building. The roof of the stage building was often used for romantic scenes as it would represent a balcony (Gill). It was also sometimes used to represent the land of the Gods while the lower levels represented the underworld. The modern equivalent of the ‘skene’ would be the actors and actresses dressing rooms. However they would not directly enter the stage from here and it’s not used as scenery. Therefore the ‘skene’ is unique to ancient Greek theatres. In ancient Greek times theatre was a form of entertainment only and there was no fee to enter. However today not only is it a form of entertainment it is also a money making business. This could explain why many changes have been made since ancient times to improve the comfort and view for the audience. Therefore they can attract more people and maximize profits. Also in ancient times religion played a key part with many plays being based around the Gods and rituals often performed on stage. Today’s modern culture is far more secular with very few plays being based solely around religion. This is because religion is dwindling in Britain and plays based on it would not attract many people and therefore not make money which is the main target for all theatres (Hearst). The large numbers of people visiting ancient Greek theatres is also in contrast to today where very few attend. This is because of various other forms of entertainment open to people today for example; sports events, cinemas, television and the internet. With all this choice it is no wonder the number of people attending plays is far less than in ancient times. Special effects today are also much more advanced giving modern audiences a very different experience. However their experience cannot be describes as better as many people today often prefer more dramatic based performances with low key special effects. It is however true to say that modern theatre is more accessible to the general public especially women and the working classes. This is due to changes in modern values in society for example equality for all human beings. It is also much more comfortable today than it was in ancient times as there are plush seat with cushions instead of solid stone rows. However modern theatres have borrowed some things from their ancient Greek counter parts. For example the basic layout, as many theatres are still semi-circular today. They were built using natural curved sides for the seating area, this provided excellent acoustics and it is a technique used today. So in conclusion, although ancient Greek theatres have similarities with modern theatres the differences far out way the similarities. This is because modern theatre has changed so much from special effects to the clientele who are allowed to participate. Also in ancient times women could not act, whereas today actresses are very highly thought of. Works cited BBC, Ancient Greek: Arts and Theatre, BBC. Web. 2013. Gill, N.S. Layout of the Ancient Greek Theater. About.com Guide. Web. 2013. Hearst, William Randolph. Greek Theatre. Hellenica. Web. 2013. Netherlander-Greek, Inc. Greek Theatre facts. Netherlander-Greek, Inc. Web. 2013. Robinson, Scott R. Theatre and Drama in Ancient Greece. Web. 2000-2010. robinsons/pages/resources/Theatre\_History/Theahis\_2.html University Press, Inc. Theatre. Web. 2003-2012. 1 Greek and Roman theatreClassic theatre Greek and Roman theatre 2 Ancient Greek theatre - Is a theatrical culture, which took place in a period of time between 550 c. and 220 c. BC in the city-state of Athens -important for dramatic festivals, wich causes development of 3 main dramatic genres: tragedy,comedy and satyr play -it represents a common cultural identity, the base for Western culture 3 Characteristics of the buildingsSemi circular space composed of: -theatron - orchestra -skene -proskenion -parodos -eisodoi 4 Dramatic festivals -In honour of god Dionysus-Most plays were performed in the 5th century BC -Tragedy,comedy,satyr play -important playwrighters: Aeschylus, Sophocles(ANTIGONA,Oedipus) and Euripides 5 ROMAN THEATRE Terence !!Plautus: Miles Gloriosus, Pseudolus, Menaechmi!important Roman playwrights: PLAUTUS: !!Plautus: Miles Gloriosus, Pseudolus, Menaechmi Terence Gaius Maecenas Melissus Seneca the Younger: adaptation of Greek plays Medea and Phaedra Quintus Ennius Marcus Pacuvius 6 The structure of Roman theatre-similar to the earlier Greek theatres,with a few differences: -built upon their own foundation -basic design comes from Theatre of Pompey, the first Roman theatre --Roman Amphitheater vs. Greek Theater 7 Differences between Roman and Greek plays-most of the Roman plays was adapted and translated from the Greeks- no »typical« Roman play -Romans was less influenced by religion Roman theatre was more for aesthetic appeal Inventing codes for the audience to figure them out Woman also played the roles in plays Romans were interested in comedy,found tragedy too depressing and boring Romans wanted pure entertainment, lots of laughs and excitement Bloodthirsty entertainment= Colosseum amphitheatre stock characters 8 -its a reflection of Roman culture and habits Mime plays -its a reflection of Roman culture and habits -oud,shouting,insulting audience= plays were mimed and repetitive -performing without speaking -features included drunkenness, obscenity, dances, greed, acrobatics and jokes -development of pantomime 9 Codified dressing -Roman costumes mirrored traditional Greek garments -Actors wore a long robe called a chiton (=colored to denote character and rank) -Stock characters: a tunic and cloak -With time wearing masks was abolish 10 11 Theatre and its roots can be traced back prior to the Typical Period to the Greeks and Romans. The two kinds of theatre, while quite similar, do have a variety of differences. Classical Greek and Roman theatre, frequently combined in a sort of Ancient "Grome" fashion, are similar in the many standard however superficial elements. The most fundamental of the aspects is the reality that the height of their movements and social impact were prior to the start of the Church and its impact of the downfall of the Roman Empire. Turn in your highest-quality paper Get a qualified writer to help you with " Greek and Roman Theatre " Get high-quality paper NEW! AI matching with writer The playwrights and actors of both Greek and Roman theatre resided in an area supported financially by the Mediterranean Sea. In addition, both had efficiency spaces better attuned to acoustical perfection than existed in later durations including numerous theatres that remain in use today. Acoustics were better than the World in London which was made well-known as the home of the works of Shakespeare. As with later theatrical durations, such as the Shakespearian age, any theatre era, ladies were not allowed to act and all female parts were carried out by males. While the two had their resemblances there were distinctions too. Greek theatre was primarily developed an act of praise to Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility and child of Zeus. Theatre, as we know it today, evolved from dithyramps, or tunes of worship, carried out by the chorus. The function of the chorus ended up being smaller sized as time passed becoming lesser to the general plot. In Greek theatre, the basic number of stars was three in addition to a chorus. The design in which efficiencies were offered contained 3 awful plays that form a story and a satyr play to lighten the mood or a single comedic work. The subjects of the works were normally the rich and effective in times of great spiritual requirement. Many a time the plays were thinly veiled social and political commentaries of the world around them. Competing groups also only preformed Greek theatre during festival of Dionysus. Roman theatre removed every political and religious item from the Greek plays and left them from their own, which was similar to striping an animal to the bare bones. The stages were no longer built into hills but freestanding buildings prepped for special effects galore. The Roman audience also preferred a comedic play that did not have to be watched start to finish rather than a three play series and the satyr was removed entirely from theatre preformed. The Roman cast of characters could have numerous and actors numbering above just three. Able to be constructed in more locations, many more playhouses were built throughout Rome than in hills of Greece. Roman theatre is so very unlike the Greek in many ways, but they do also share some traits. The differences while abundant between classical Greek and Roman theatre do not make them any less similar. Yet the information that coincides has not made them any less different that Rome and Greece. Overall, what they share does not take away from what they do not. Turn in your highest-quality paper Get a qualified writer to help you with " Greek and Roman Theatre " Get high-quality paper Helping students since 2015 The Difference between Greek and Modern theatres Kimberly Legaspi February 25th, 2013 Word count: 1478 Difference between Greek and Modern Theatres Theatre today as in ancient Greek times is a popular form of entertainment. Today’s theatres share many similarities with the Greek predecessors however they are also very different. There are in fact many differences for example; layout, special effects, seating arrangement, the importance of drama and religion, setting, location and architectural features. In ancient Greece festivals were mainly held at the Great Dionysia. This was the oldest theatre in Greece and many plays were performed here for example the first performance of Antigone. The patron of the theatre was the God...show more content...Today special effects in modern theatres are taken for granted by the audiences. Flashing lights, smoke, electronic sound and even microphones for actors were all not available to the ancient Greeks. In ancient times there special effects included; cranes for lifting actors into the air and ekkyklema (a trolley used to roll on stage via the central doors to carry away dead bodies. Many of these effects are not used to today as modern audiences want the play to be as realistic as possible and many of these effects would not achieve this. But today they still use wires in order to make actors appear to be flying; this is similar to the machine but more advanced to do modern technologies. At the back of the ancient Greek theatre stood the ‘skene’. The word ‘skene’ means stage building. 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