

GREEK PLAYS

AESCHYLUS 525-456 BC (90 plays, 7 extant) - THE PERSIANS,  
THE SUPPLIANT MAIDENS, THE SEVEN AGAINST THEBES,  
PROMETHEUS BOUND, AGAMEMNON, LIBATION BEARERS (CHOEPHORI),  
EUMENIDES

SOPHOCLES 495-405 BC (120 plays, 7 extant) - PHILOCTETES,  
ELECTRA, AJAX, WOMEN OF TRACHIS, OEDIPUS REX (TYRANNOS),  
ANTIGONE, OEDIPUS AT COLONUS

EURIPEDES 480-406 BC (80/90 plays, 18 extant) - MEDEA, ION,  
HIPPOLYTUS, HERACLEIDAE, THE CYCLOPS, RHESUS, ALCESTIS,  
HERACLES, HECUBA, THE TROJAN WOMEN, IPHIGENIA IN TAURIS,  
IPHIGENIA IN AULIS, HELEN, ELECTRA, ORESTES, ANDROMACHE,  
THE SUPPLIANT WOMEN, THE PHOENICIAN WOMEN, THE BACCHAE

ARISTOPHANES 448-380 BC (??? plays, 11 extant) - THE KNIGHTS,  
THE CLOUDS, THE WASPS, PEACE, THE BIRDS, ACHARNIANS,  
LYSISTRATA, THESMOPHORIAZUSAE, THE FROGS, ECCLESIAZUSAE,  
PLUTUS

MENANDER 342-292 BC (100 plays, 3-4 extant) - THE GIRL FROM SAMOS,  
ARBITRATION, SHEARING OF GLYCERA

"A tragedy, then, is the imitation of an action that is serious and also, as having magnitude, complete in itself; in language with pleasurable accessories, each kind brought in separately in the parts of the work; in a dramatic, not in a narrative form; with incidents arousing pity and fear, wherewith to accomplish its catharsis of such emotions... Tragedy is essentially an imitation not of persons but of action and life, of happiness and misery... The Spectacle, though an attraction, is the least artistic of all the parts, and has least to do with the art of poetry. The tragic effect is quite possible without a public performance and actors; and besides, the getting-up of the Spectacle is more a matter for the costumier than the poet..."

ARISTOTLE: POETICS, 6

Meters - iamb - funny girl with her skirts up	. / . / . /
trochee - running rhythm	/ . / . / .
spondee - spilling out of wine	/ / / / / /
dactyl - finger	! . . /
anapest - upbeat, thrust (gesture)	. . / . . /

1. Long character speeches
2. Choral speeches - strophe, antistrophe, epode
3. Stichomythia - rapid back and forth dialogue lines

Chorus was always onstage. Catastrophe always offstage, as altar of Dionysos was onstage. Messenger reports tragedy.

  
William Packard