

## **Greek & Roman Theatre**

### *Study Guide*

*Source: Living Theatre, Edwin Wilson & Alvin Goldfarb*

# **GREEK THEATRE**

## **INTRO & BACKGROUND**

### **Background: The Golden Age of Greece**

*What characterized the Golden Age of Greece? What did they give to the world at this time?*

### **Origins of Greek Theatre Emerges**

*How did theatre begin in Greece?*

### **Greek Theatre & Greek Religion**

*What role did religion play in the development in Greek theatre?*

### **Festivals and the City Dionysia**

*What happened in the annual Festival of Dionysus?*

### **Greek Theatre and Greek Myths**

*How did the Greeks use Greek mythology in their plays?*

### **The Chorus**

*What was the function of the chorus and how did it evolve over time? Who stepped out of the chorus?*

### **Aristotle & the Tragic Form**

*Be able to identify the 6 elements of tragedy according to Aristotle. What is catharsis?*

## **PLAYWRIGHTS**

*Be able to briefly describe what each playwright is known for and which plays they wrote.*

### **Aeschylus**

### **Sophocles**

### **Euripides**

### **Aristophanes**

## **GREEK THEATRE PRODUCTION**

### **The Theatre Building**

*Describe what the Greek Theatre performance spaces were like.*

### **Scenery & Special Effects**

*What types of special effects did they use?*

### **Acting in Greek Theatre**

*How many actors performed in a tragedy? In a comedy?*

### **Costumes & Masks**

*Why did the Greeks use masks in their acting?*

### **Summary**

*Be able to summarize in your own words what impact the Greeks made on theatre as we know it today.*

# ROMAN THEATRE

## **ROMAN THEATRE PRODUCTION**

### **The Theatre Building**

*How were Roman theater's different than Greek? What changed?*

### **Popular Entertainment**

*What types of popular entertainment are the Romans known for?*

### **Greek Influence**

*In what ways did the Greeks influence Roman theatre?*

### **Roman Theatre Decline**

*What happened to change attitudes toward theatre in Rome? What role did religion play?*