

# Ancient Greek Theatre

GREAT BOOKS, BIG IDEAS

Thomas A. Leibundgut, 14 October 2019

## Literary Genres (after Goethe, following Aristotle)

- Epic — Homer's *Iliad*
- Lyric — Sappho's poems
- Drama
  - Comedy — Aristophanēs' *Lysistrata*
  - Tragedy — Sophoclē's *Antigonē*

τραγωδία (tragōdía) = τράγος (trágos) "goat" + ὄδη (ōdé) "song"

## Dramatic Structure (after Aelius Donatus *et al.*)

1. πρόλογος (prologos) — prologue, exposition
2. πρότασις (protasis) — first act, introduction
3. ἐπίτασις (epitasis) — main act
4. κατάστασις (katastasis) — heightened action
5. καταστροφή (katastrophē) — final resolution

Beginning (setup)—First Plot Point—Middle—Second Plot Point—End  
Kreon's decree—Antigone's action—Conflicts—Kreon's sentence—conflict resolutions



Dionysos with Satyrs

by the Brygos Painter

Attic red-figured cup  
interior, ca. 480 BC

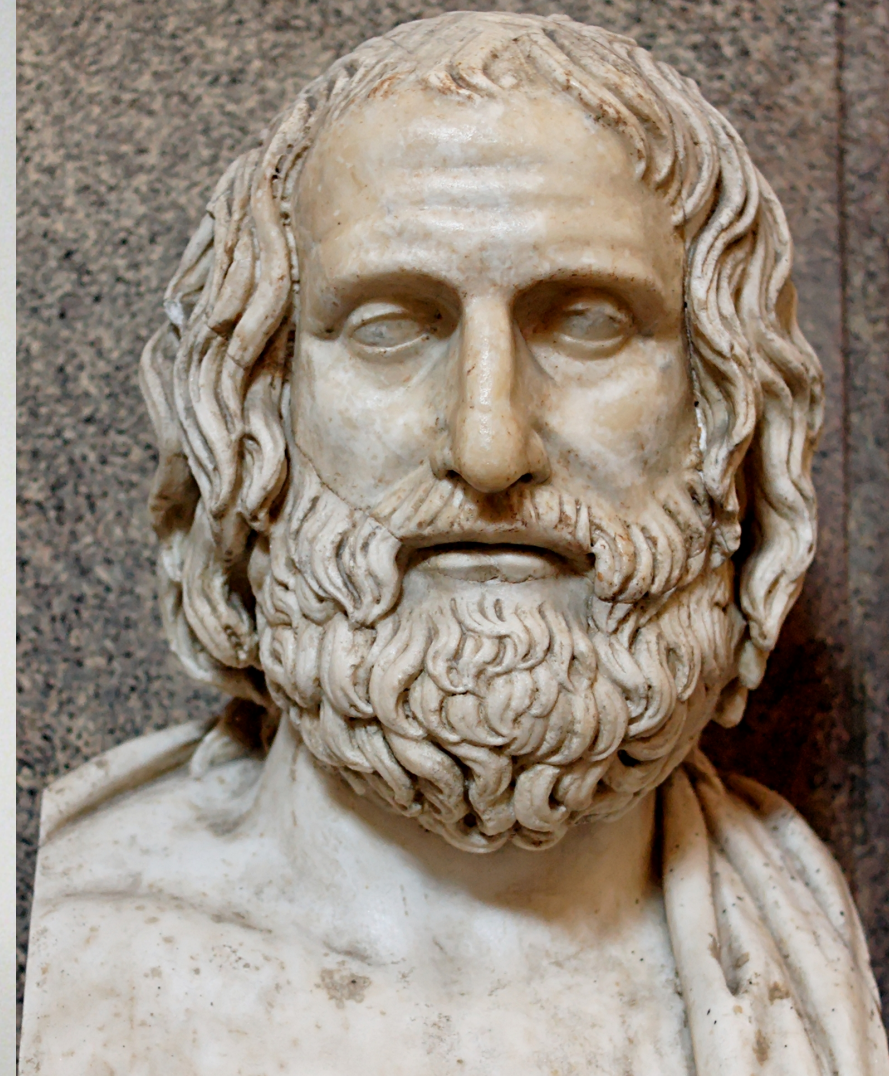
Cabinet des Médailles,  
Inv. 575 (Paris)



Aeschylos  
Αἰσχύλος



Sophoclēs  
Σοφοκλῆς



Euripidēs  
Εὐριπίδης





