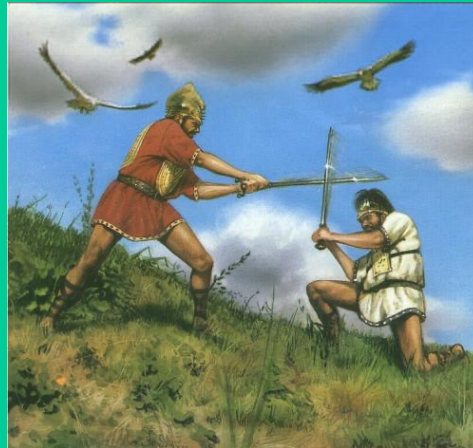


# Roman Theatre



# Founding of Rome

- Brothers: Romulus and Remus
  - Father: Mars, God of War
  - Mother: Human Woman
  - Sent Down Tiber River
    - Raised by Wolves
- Brother against Brother, Romulus wins



**Fescienne Verses**: early Roman poetry  
that developed into improvised  
performances



**Attelan Farces**: early Roman performances, consisting of 'low comedy' (*Vulgar subjects, rude jokes, slapstick*)



# Roman Tragedy

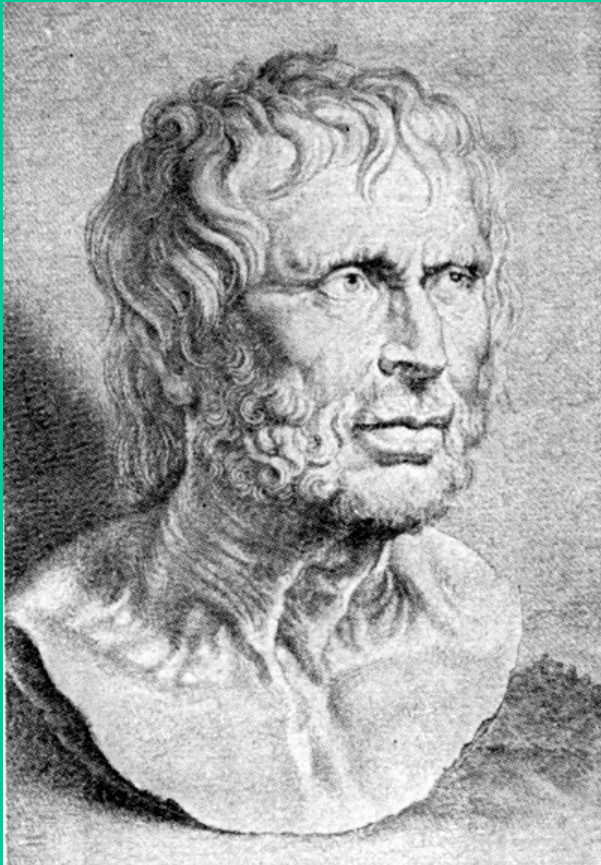
## Main Characteristics

- Nobility/Upper Class as characters
  - Violence on Stage
  - Determined by Fate
- Supernatural Elements



# Seneca (*Lucius Annaeus Seneca*)

Roman tragic playwright,  
wrote 'closet dramas'



# Slapstick:

Over the top physical comedy, very violent



# Stock Characters:

character types that do not change over time.





# Roman Comedy

## Basic Characteristics

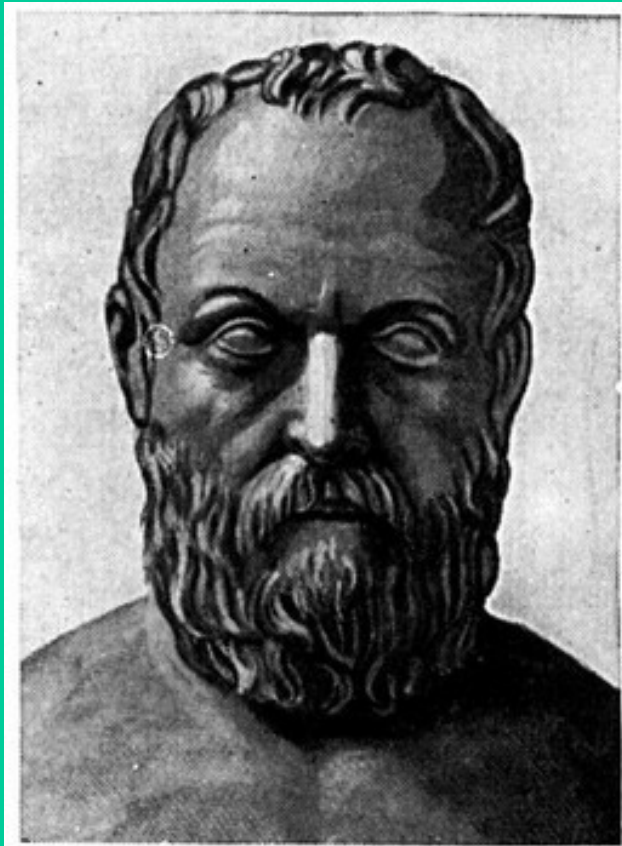
- Slapstick Comedy
- Stock Characters
- Everyday People as Characters
- No Chorus



Terence (*Publius Terentius Afer*)

comic playwright, wrote for the upper class

*Roman African, born a slave, later freed*



**Plautus** (*Titus Maccius Plautus*)

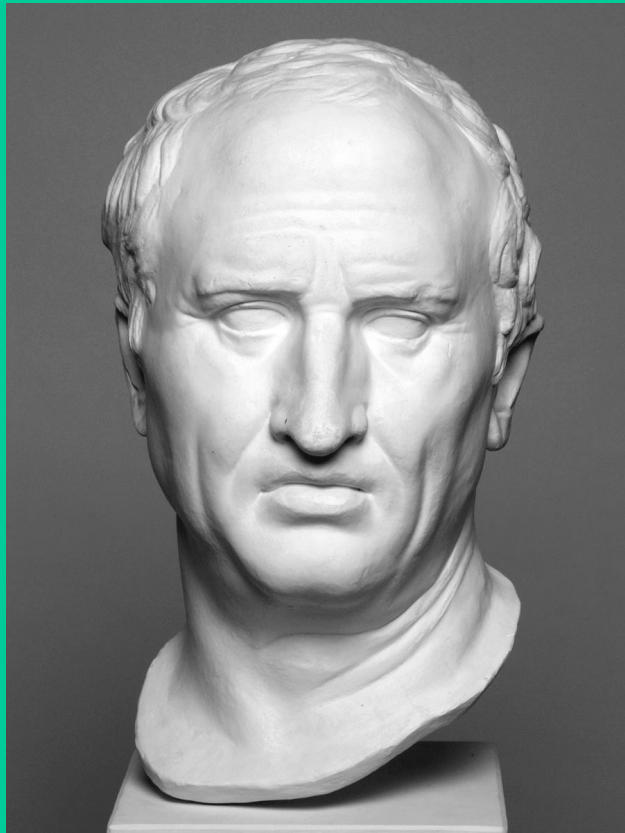
Most famous, influential comic playwright

*Work influenced many later playwrights*



# Roscius (*Quintus Roscius Gallus*)

Most famous actor in Roman Times  
*first to become wealthy as an actor*



# Horace (*Quintus Horatius Flaccus*)

Poet & drama critic, wrote ‘The Art of Poetry’

*‘Rules’ that plays followed*



## The Art of Poetry (Rules):

- Comedy & tragedy should be separate forms
  - Tragedy should use nobility as characters
- Comedy should use common people as characters
- Theatre should entertain AND teach a moral lesson



# Greek Theatres vs Roman Theatres

- Built into hillsides
- Democratic seating
- Orchestra as dancing place

Freestanding  
Seating by Class  
Orchestra as seating



# Circus Maximus

Chariot Race  
Track in Rome

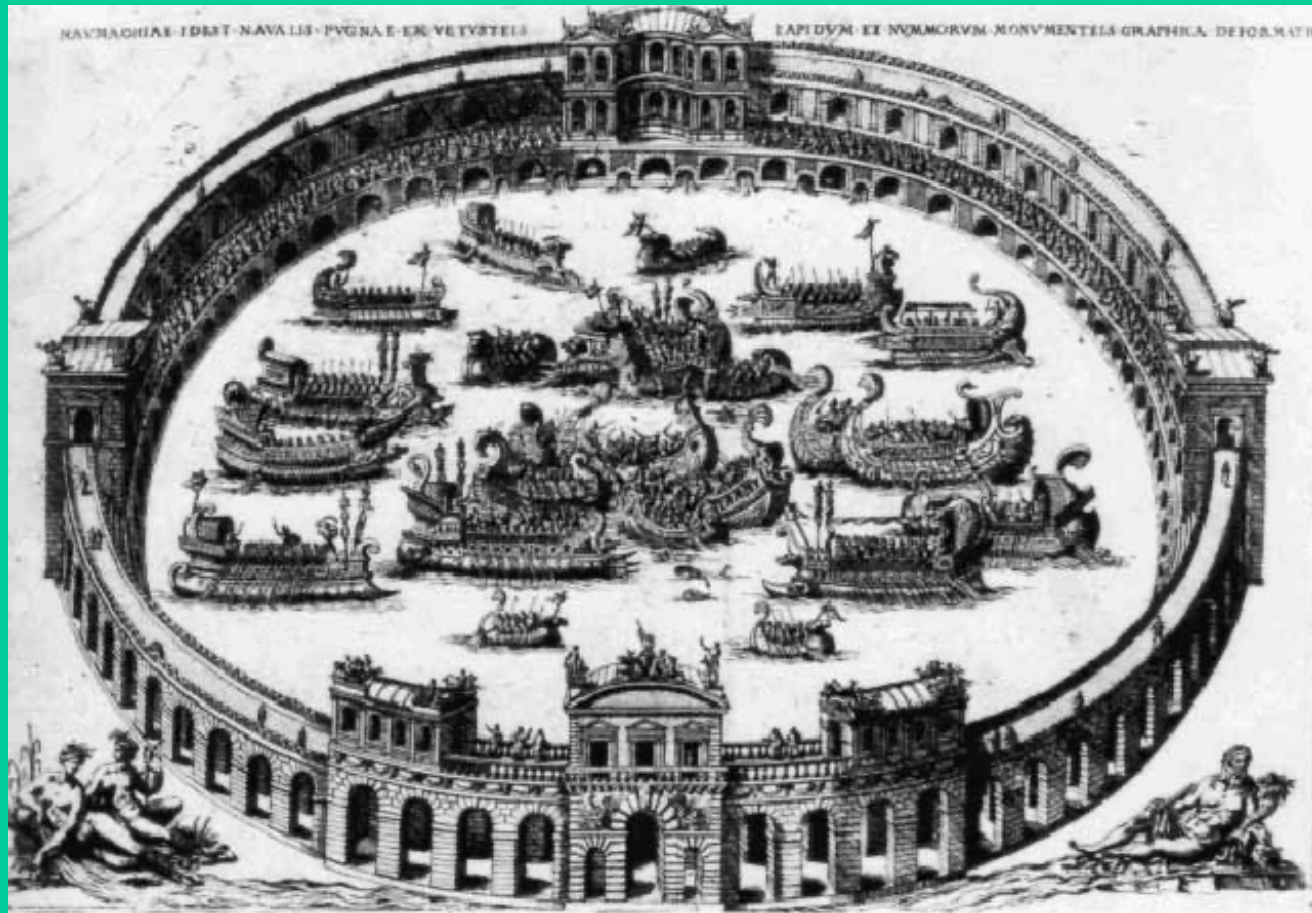






## The Colosseum:

The largest Roman  
amphitheater



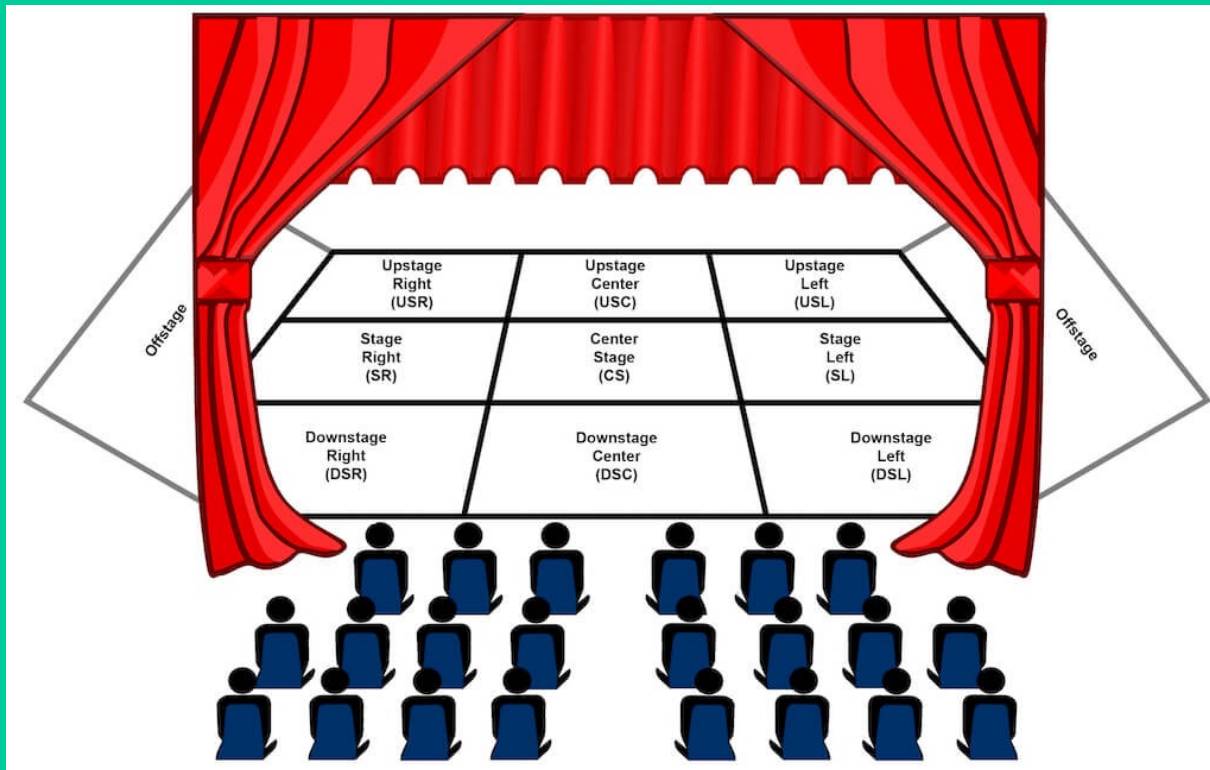
## Naumachia

Mock sea battles held in  
flooded amphitheaters

# Stage Directions:

Up Center, Down Center, Stage Right,  
Stage Left, Center Stage

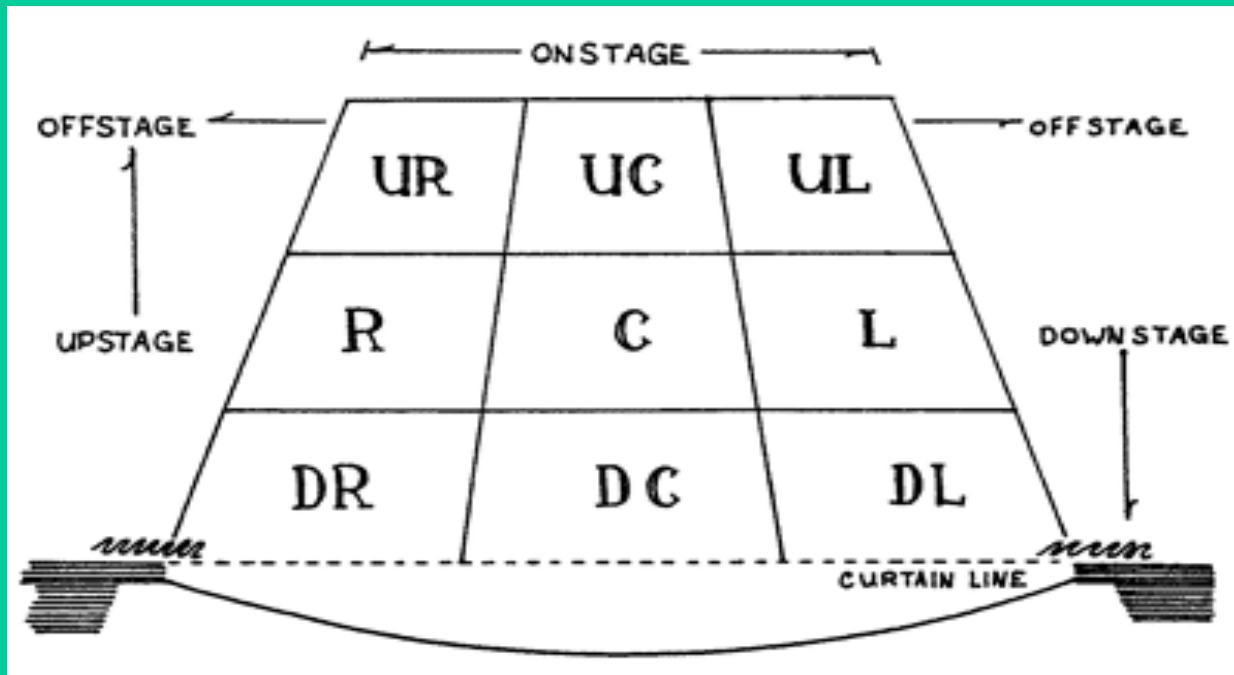
*Always from the perspective of the Actor*



# Stage Directions:

Up Center, Down Center, Stage Right,  
Stage Left, Center Stage

*Always from the perspective of the Actor*



# Stage Directions:

Up Center, Down Center, Stage Right,  
Stage Left, Center Stage

*Always from the perspective of the Actor*

