

Italian Renaissance



14th Century

15th Century Northern Europe

15th Century Italy

Crash Course

Theatre History:

Italian Renaissance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U96m8inKt24>

(from about 6:00 on)



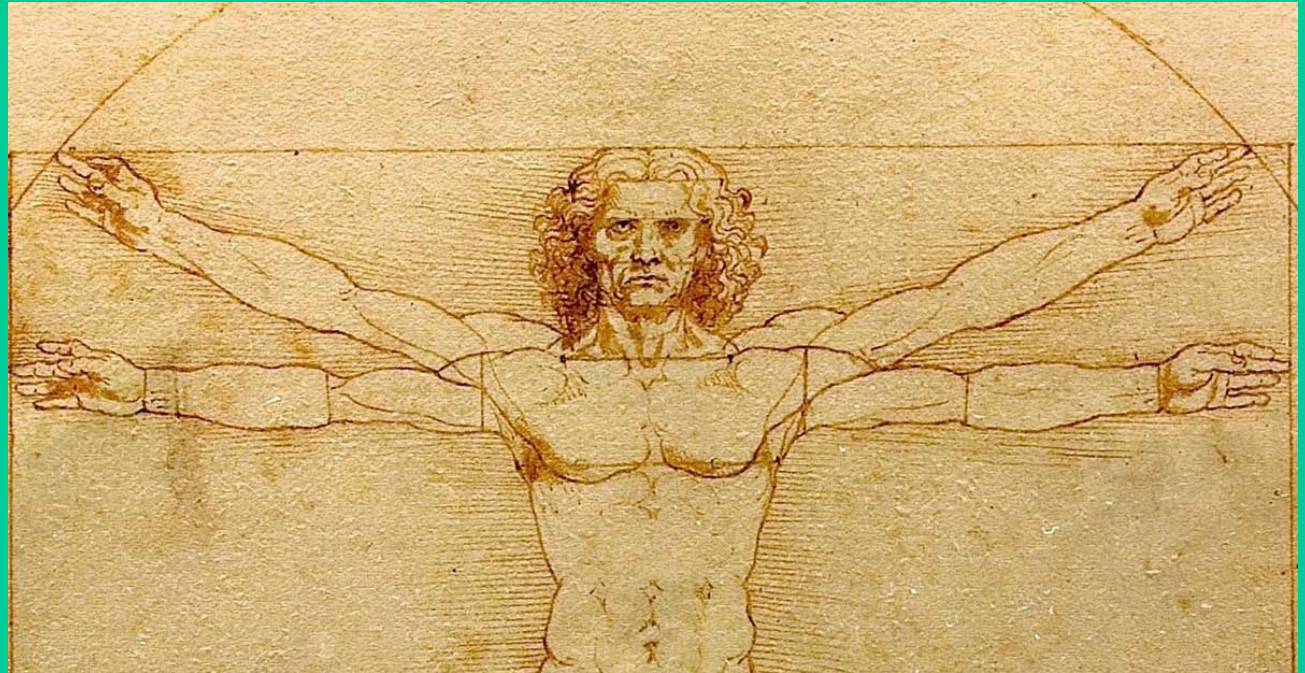


Renaissance: Cultural ‘rebirth,’ an artistic and intellectual revival

Renaissance Man:

Well rounded man, well
educated in many fields

“jack of all trades”





Baldassare Castiglione: Author of The Book of the Courtier, developed the idea of the *Renaissance Man*



Neoclassicism: ‘The new classic,’
a style of art and theatre in the Renaissance
based on the Greeks and Romans



Commedia Erudita: ‘educated comedy,’
form of theatre that followed scripts
based on Roman authors

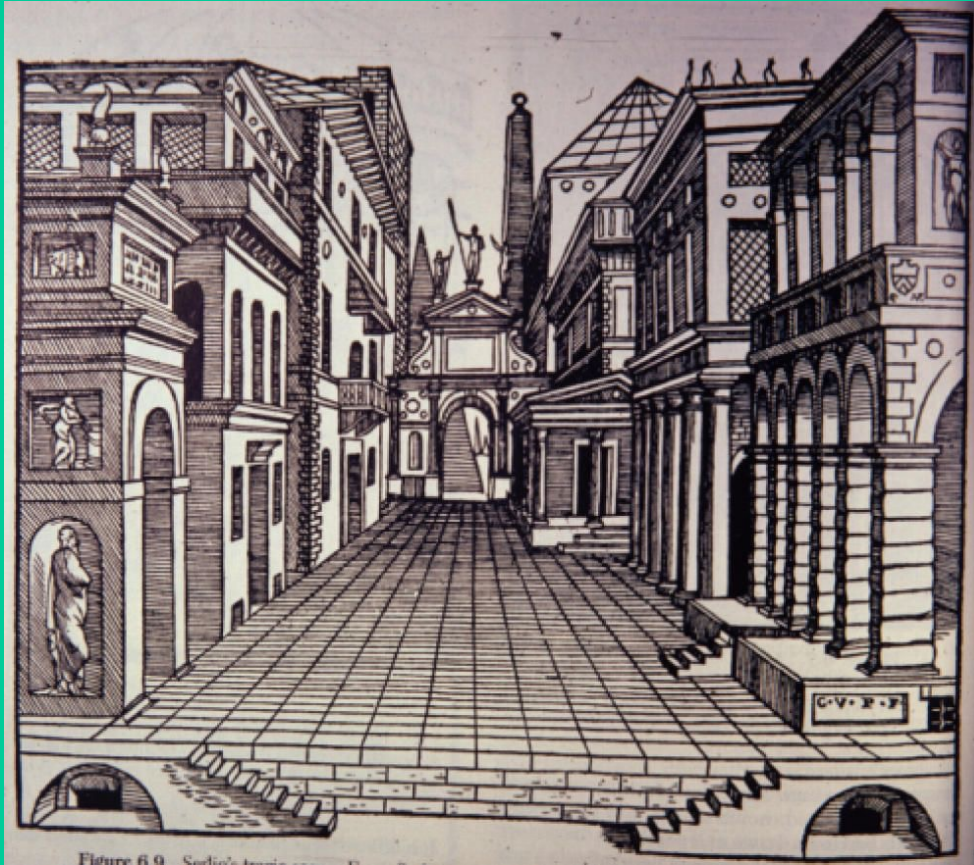


Figure 6.9. Scaglia's perspective drawing of a street.

Verisimilitude:

appearance of reality on stage

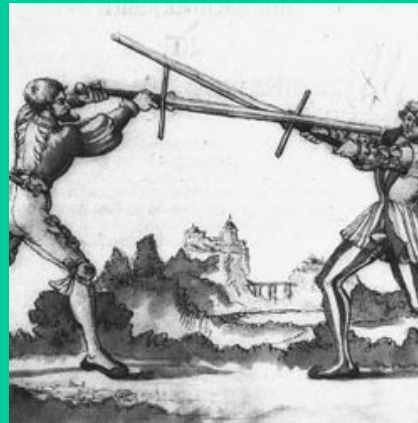
3 Unities of Verisimilitude

Unity of Time



Unity of Place

Unity of Action



Unity of Time:

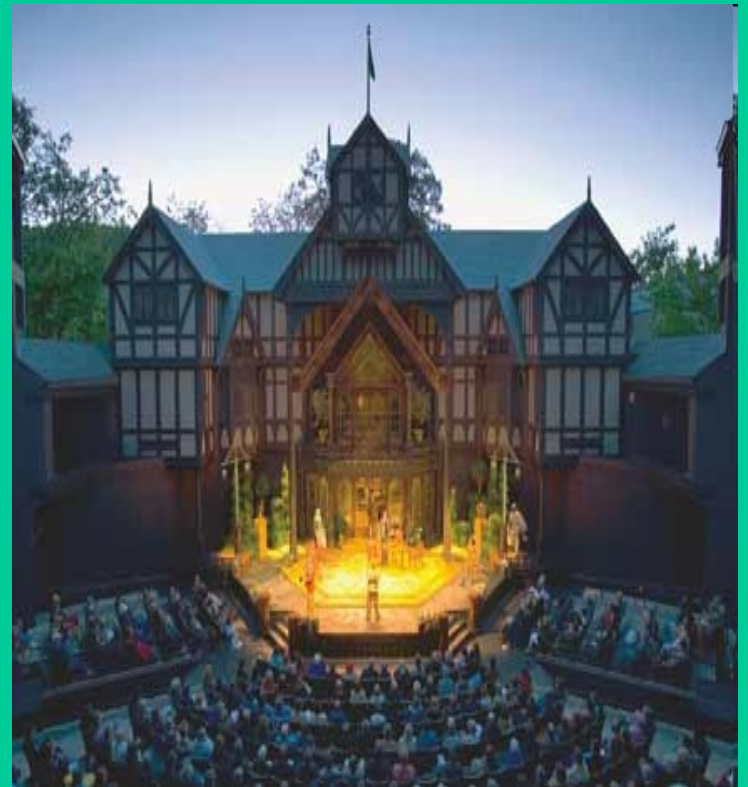
the action within
a play should
take place over
no more than
one day



Unity of Place:

the stage should
only represent
one location

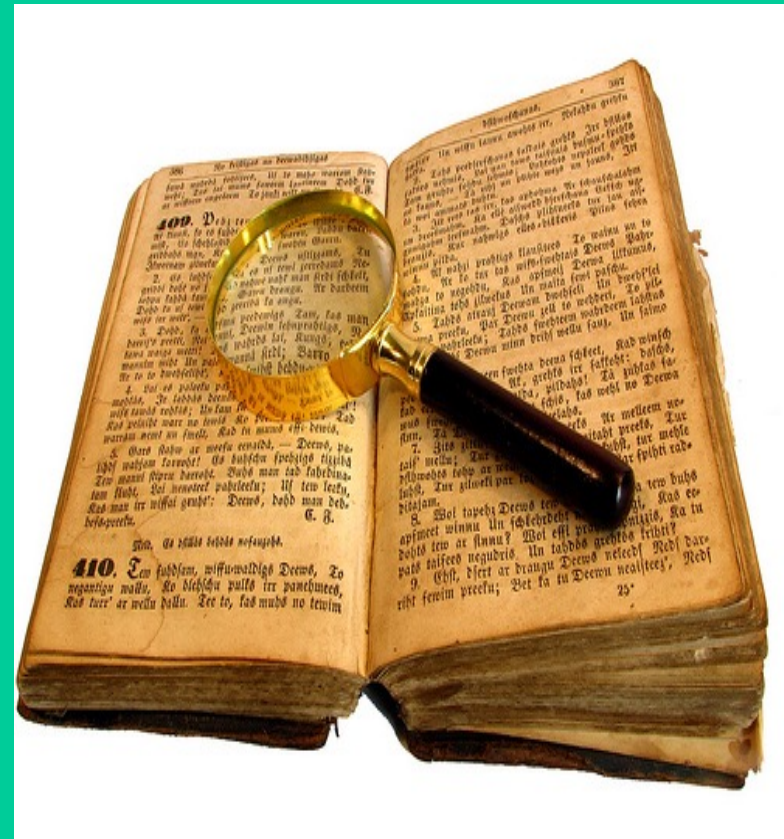
(no set changes)



Unity of Action:

the play should
have one main
plot

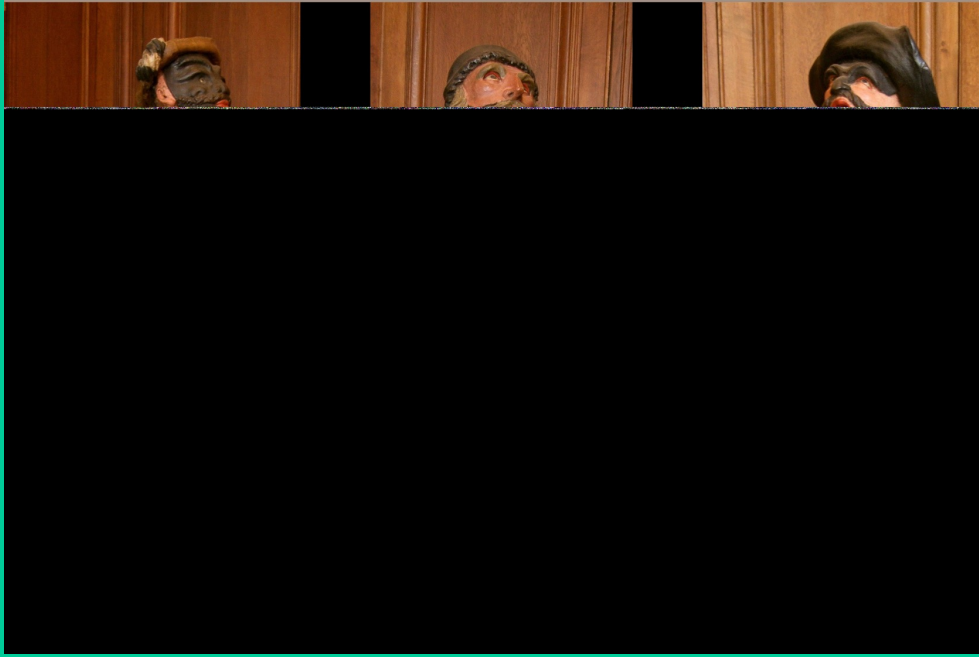
no subplots





Intermedio: performance between
the acts of plays

not governed by unities of Verisimilitude



Commedia dell' arte: 'comedy of art,'
unscripted improvised comedy
uses stock characters

Commedia dell'arte

Stock Characters

Innamorati (Young Lovers)

Innamorato

Innamorata

Vecchio (Masters/Elders)

Dottore

Capitano

Pantalone

Zanni (Servants)

Harlequin

Brighella

Pedrolino

Pulcinella

Colombina

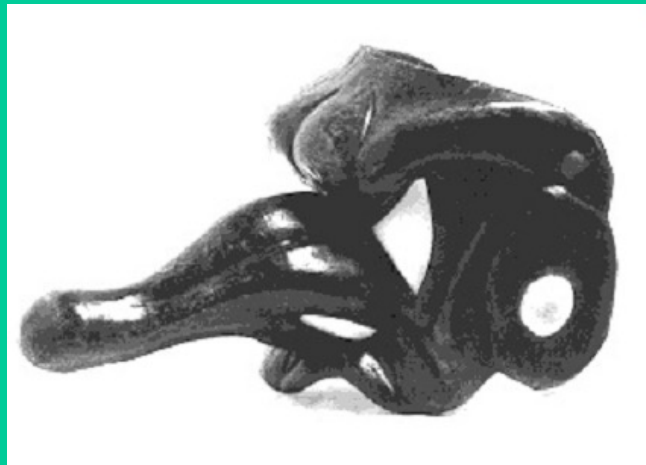


Innamorata: Female Lover

Innamorato: Male Lover



Dottore: Professional
(doctor, lawyer, teacher).
Pretends to be very smart.



Capitano: claims to be a brave military leader, is actually a coward



Pantalone: Greedy old man,
very gullible.



Harlequin (*Arlecchino*)

Stupid and hungry servant,
also very acrobatic



Brighella: Servant boss,
mean and lazy
takes advantage of people



Pedrolino: Simple and
kind servant

*often the victim of jokes
and pranks*





Pulcinella: ugly,
deformed servant
very mean and spiteful



Colombina: female servant, often the only intelligent character





The World of Commedia Dell'arte: National Theatre

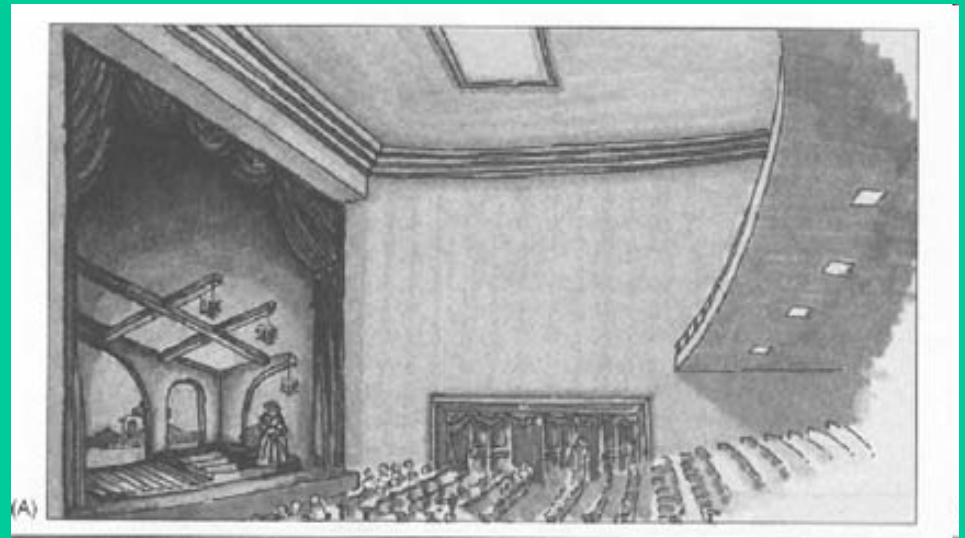
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ak5yjC07Rs>



Scenario: outline used in place of a script in commedia dell'arte



Lazzi: stock comic action in
commedia dell'arte

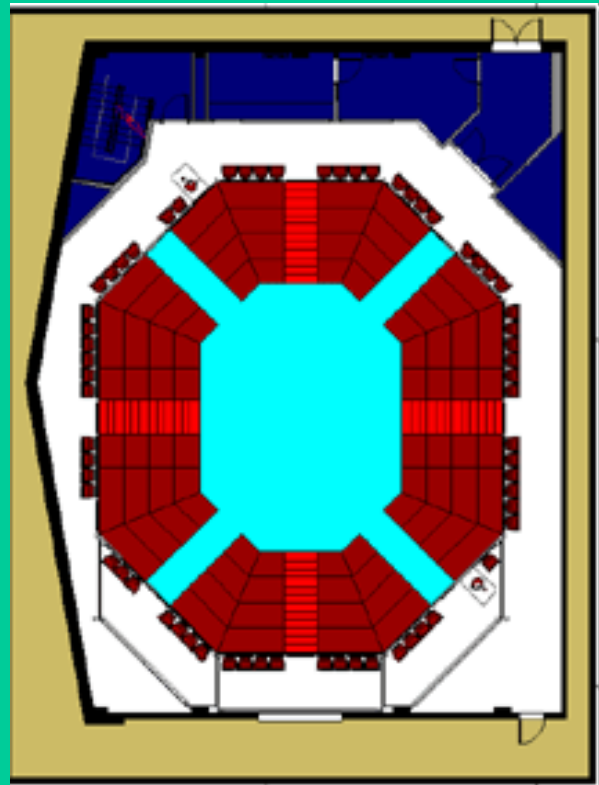


Proscenium Stage: most common,
stage with audience on one side



Thrust Stage:
stage with audience
on three sides





Arena Stage:
stage with
audience on all
four sides

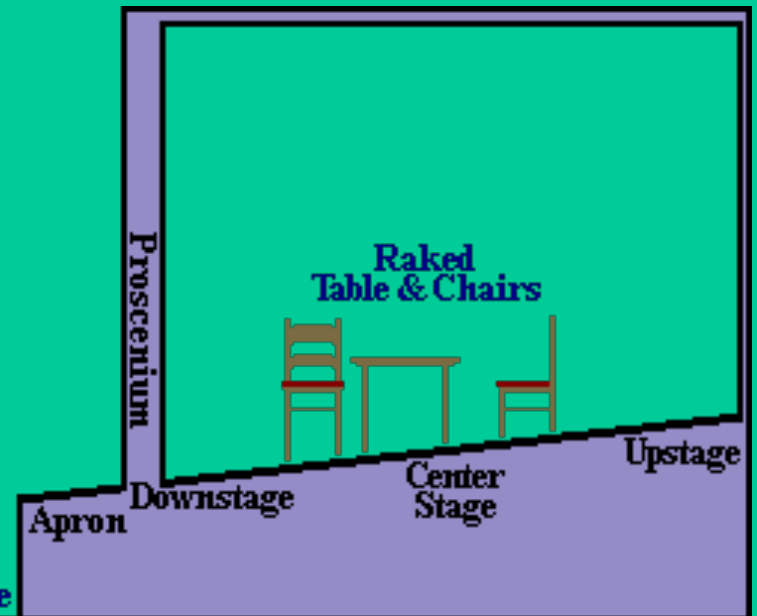


Interior of the original Fichandler Stage. Photo courtesy of Arena Stage.



Rake: an inclined stage

gets higher the farther it is from the audience





A Ghost in Our House!
Set Designer and Photo by: Hazem Shehl

The Egyptian National Theatre
March 2012

Box Setting:

interior set, walls
cheated out

better audience view





Fourth Wall:
imaginary barrier
between the stage
and audience

