

# History of pantomime

Arno Press - behind A look into the history of pantomime



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## English Pantomime

As early as 1837, actor-manager Lucy Eliza Vestris played a breeches role in Planché's production of Puss in Boots at the Olympic Theatre. Vestris played Ralph, while her husband Charles Mathews played the cat. A few words more just to lay further stress on the importance of Pantomime, and then to return to our History. He gained great popularity for his pantomimes, especially beginning with his 1724 production of The Necromancer; or, History of Dr.

## English Pantomime

Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides were the three great tragic poets; and from the works of these three illustrious writers, and from them alone, we must draw all our knowledge of the ancient Greek Tragedy.

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In the exhibition of his Pantomimes, Mr. In process of time the Roman youth began to imitate these dancers intermixing raillery with unpolished verses, their gestures corresponding with the sense of the words. These were borrowed from the Osci, and were always acted by the Roman youth.

## Mime and pantomime

The Skiamachia was a battle with shadows, The Monomachia was an imitation of single combat. Lucian and the other writers of the Augustan era, have handed down to us sufficient information to show how Pantomime in Rome was so highly thought of.

## BBC Arts

Who would believe that this same man, a moment after, counterfeited, with equal perfection, a pastry cook's boy, who, carrying a tray of tartlets on his head, and gaping about him at the corner of the street, lets his tray fall, and, at first stupified by the accident, bursts at last into a fit of crying? In the Victorian era the character of the Principal Boy was introduced, always played by a woman.



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