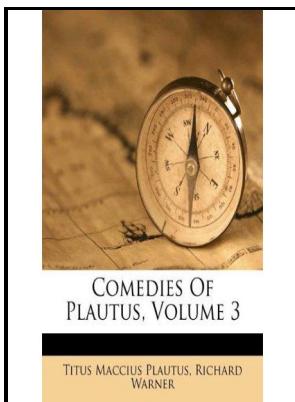


Comedies of Plautus

T. Becket and P. A. De Hondt - Plautus: The Comedies, Volume IV by Plautus



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- Comedies of Plautus
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414 Roman Comedy I (Plautus), Classical Drama and Theatre

To have seen and utilized the opportunities for making effective comedy in such a situation, that is surely Plautus' finest stroke of genius. Plautus's archaic forms are metrically convenient, but may also have had a stylistic effect on his original audience.

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He seems to have followed the same path that Horace did, though Horace is much later, in that he is putting Roman ideas in Greek forms. His dramatic works were his way of describing and portraying that world in a language the people understood. But they also rely on flattery in order to gain these gifts, and both characters are willing to bury their patrons in empty praise.

Plautus

He is, then, not only a source for exposition and understanding, but connection—specifically, connection to the humor of the play, the playfulness of the play.

T. Maccius Plautus, Miles Gloriosus, or The Braggart Captain, act 2, scene 1

For, unknown to her mother, he put the daughter on board ship, and carried this woman, against her will, hither to.

Types of Plays in the Ancient Roman Theater

This is not to say that the lower classes did not see the plays; but they probably had to stand while watching. The specific type of monologue or soliloquy in which a Plautine slave engages is the prologue. Plautus's sense of comic timing, exactly how far to take a joke or run a scene, is unsurpassed in Western drama, even by Shakespeare, all of which presupposes a shrewd understanding of his audience's needs, intelligence and the reason they are sitting in the theatre at all.

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