

Group 1: Opening scene of Women at the Thesmophoria, lines 1-100 (ish)

<https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Greek/Thesmo.php>

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*1. Interpret your scene. Draw on today's recommended reading for bonus points. Ancient Comedy, Women's Lives: Finding Social History and Seeing the Present in Classical Comedy - Franklin Humanities Institute (humanitiesfutures.org)*

*2. Explain how you would stage it to best bring out the comedic elements while also not losing the plot. For example, what accents might you use, what body language and hand gestures, what props and scenery? Is it funnier if you modernize it? If so, how?*

Write up:

Euripides brings his father in law (Mnesilochus) to Agathon's house to ask for his help. Mnesilochus is old and tired and does not really want to be there, and appears to be kind of stupid. He gets confused about the difference between seeing and hearing, and then harasses Agathon's slave with dick jokes. Infuriated at Mnesilochus' insults, the slave vows that his master, Agathon, would come and confront the two men before retreating into the house. Agitated, Euripides prays to Zeus and tells Mnesilochus that he is doomed for today is Women's Day. Since Euripides pens tragedies about women, he fears that he would be judged harshly by the women. In order to salvage his reputation, Euripides hopes that Agathon, disguised as a woman, would go to the Temple of Demeter. The scene ends with Agathon, dressed as a woman, exiting the house to practice his singing, which is off-pitched. This play draws on 'Women in Antiquity; Women in Ancient Comedy' because women of the time were restricted to the home, especially women of a higher class. The play draws attention to women in a way that makes the men uncomfortable, much like 'Women in Antiquity.'

We think this scene would not need to be modernized for it to still be funny if performed today. It would be important for the actors playing these characters to understand the scene and their motivation. Similar to how it is difficult to understand Shakespeare when it is read, but when it is performed well the old English is not a block in understanding. It would take away from the scene if the actors tried to overcompensate for the fact that this scene is not modern by 'over acting' so to say. To carry this scene as two normal (and fairly vulgar ) people would do it justice. People still find arguments and jests like the one in this scene funny, which is why not much would need to be changed. Alternatively, Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly would also be very funny in this scene and would be able to bring the right energy.