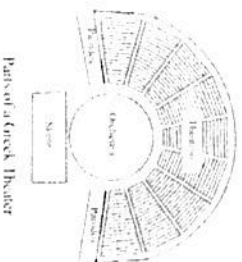


Greek Theater:



Parts of a Greek Theater

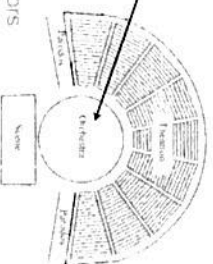
Location

- Natural acoustics
- Open areas near hillsides
- Evolution toward more elaborate structures in 6th century BC

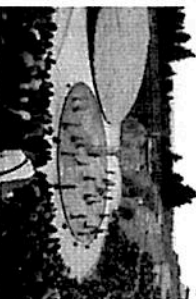


Component #1: The Orchestra

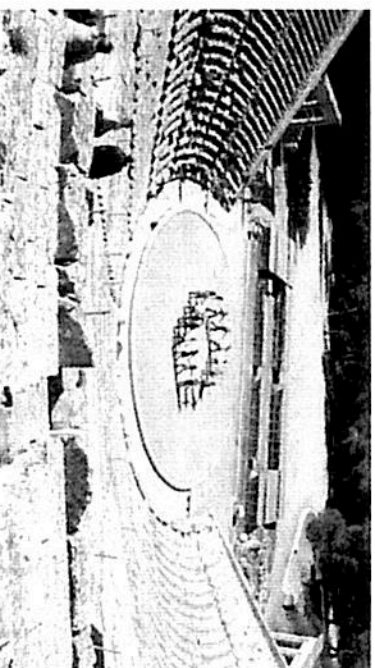
- Also called the "Dancing Space"
- Level space
- Chorus would sing, dance, and interact with actors
- Earliest orchestras made of hard earth
- Later orchestras paved with marble
- Center of orchestra was a thymele or altar
- Orchestra space in Athens was 60 feet in diameter



Parts of a Greek Theater



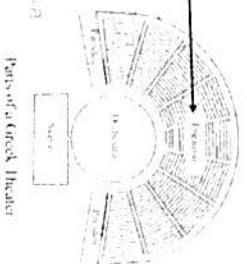
Princeton University students at the amphitheater in Epidaurus, Greece



The mystery of the acoustics at Epidaurus Theater:
Solved by Georgia Institute of Technology Researchers

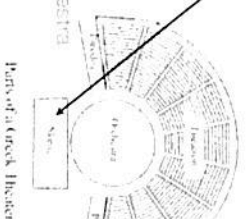
Component #2: The Theatron

- The "Vaulted Place" where spectators sat
- Often part of the hillside overlooking the orchestra
- Often wrapped around part of the orchestra
- Spectators in 5th century BC sat on cushions or benches
- Spectators in 4th century BC sat on marble seats

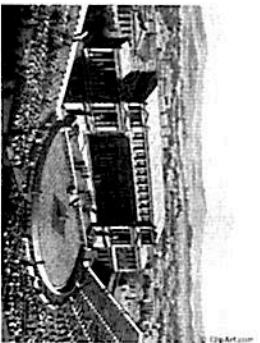


Component #3: The Skene

- The skene was "The Tent"
- It was the building directly behind the stage
- In The Dionysus Theater in Athens, it was raised 2-3 steps above the level of the orchestra
- 25 Feet Wide - 10 Feet Deep
- It was directly in back of the stage and decorated as a palace or temple
- It had one set of doors for actors to make entrances and exits from the stage
- There was access to roof of the skene so actors playing a god could appear

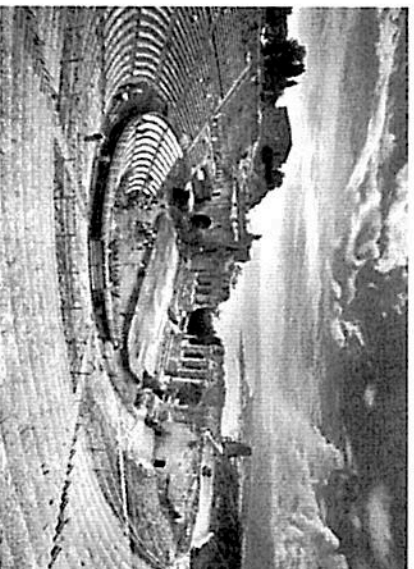


The Theatre of Dionysus in Athens, Greece



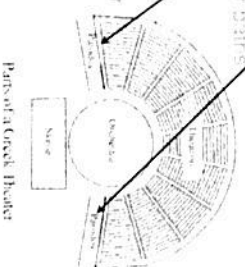
Athens Theatre of Dionysus 1898 Drawing

The Taormina Greek Theatre in Sicily, Italy



Component #4: The Parados

- The parados (parados) were passageways or paths where the chorus and actors made the entrances and exits
- The audience also used these paths to enter and leave the theater before and after the performance



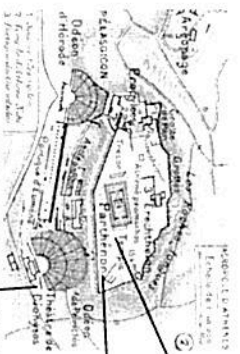
Modern Europe

Sicily,
Italy



Greece

A Map of Ancient Athens and the Acropolis



The Parthenon

The Theatre of Dionysus

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