

# Drama

## Greek theatre – chorus

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Ancient Greek Theatre is famous for its use of the chorus, which was originally used in performances that celebrated the Greek god Dionysus. Traditionally, the chorus was used to provide information to the audience about events that could not take place on the stage. They also filled gaps in the story or drive the narrative forward. The chorus will communicate the moral message of the plays using either the whole ensemble or a single member of the chorus stepping out. The chorus, which consisted of 3-50 men, sang, moved and danced to engage audiences. When creating choral movement, a practitioner might consider:

- unison movement
- gestural movement
- locomoting movement
- slow/sustained moments
- exaggeration
- canon
- repetition.

**Things to remember when using choral speaking include:**

- unison moments
- repetition
- emphasis
- sound
- dialogue/language
- emotion
- pitch
- pace
- tone
- tempo/rhythm.

The chorus has evolved and changed over time and is still present in theatre today. One of the more commonly recognisable examples is in modern musical theatre. Musical theatre uses song and movement, much like the Greeks, to highlight certain moments, themes or issues. Like the ancient Greek chorus, a musical theatre chorus will adopt roles that help to set the scene and narrate the actions and interactions of characters.