

obscure, but the oldest surviving plays come from the The earliest days of western theater remain ancient Greece. Most philologists agree that Greek theater evolved from staged religious choral performances, during celebrations to Dionysus, the Greek god of wine and fertility. Great Dionysia, also called City Dionysia, is an ancient dramatic festival in which tragedy, comedy satyric drama originated; it was held in Athens in March in honor of Dionysus, the god of wine. a The tragic and satyr plays were always performed at the festival where they were part of a se four performances (tetralogy): the first, second, and third plays were a dramatic trilogy based on rela unrelated mythological events, and the culminating fourth performance was a satyr play, a play on a note, with enhanced celebratory and dance elements. 8 In Athens, during CityDionysia festival, men used to perform songs and present plays to weko Dionysus. B Athens was the main center for these theatrical traditions. Athenians spread these festival numerous allies in order to promote a common identity. IS At the early Greek festivals, the actors, directors, and dramatists were all the same person. B Aher some time, only three actors were allowed to perform in each play. B later few non-speaking roles were allowed to perform on stage. Due to limited number of acto allowed on stage, the chorus evolved into a very active part of Greek theatre. a Music was often played during the chorus' delivery of its lines. E Performances lasted several hours and .were held during daytime