



THE ART OF MIME

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WHAT IS MIME?

Mime is a form of acting and drama where the actor uses creative and dramatic self expression that is performed without the use of words.

Mime artists are called mimics, they exaggerate every move they make so it defines who they're trying to show.





HISTORY OF MIME



Miming originated in Greece, when the Greeks started doing festivals and carnivals. But mime later traveled to Italy, after Greece was conquered by the Romans. They did this to honor the god of theatre, Dionysus. But they also did miming for other reasons, such as communicating before there was verbal languages, and to express themselves. The performances were ones of Comedy or Tragedy. Mimers were also known as mimics and mummers.

The actors focused more on the characters than the plot, which is how mime became an exaggerated form of acting.

Mime became known in Italy as Commedia dell' arte, which became very successful.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF PERFORMANCE

- They used stock characters
- There was no special lighting used, they performed during the day.
- Used miracle and morality plays
- Actors would concentrate on their character a lot more than the actual plot of the story
- Sounds were made by instruments backstage
- The masks had exaggerated and comical faces painted on them, to grab attention to themselves



PHYSICAL THEATRE SPACES



Influenced by greece's grand theaters

Could be anywhere basically an arena, proscenium, thrust, on the street, and at the park, etc.

Greek mime artists performed at banquets and festivals - In honor of Dionysus

Roman mime artists also performed at banquets in private homes.

New form- Commedia dell'Arte originated in the market places of the Italian streets in the early 1500's .

Modern day mimes can be found anywhere

IMPORTANT PEOPLE



- **Marcel Marceau** born on March 22 1923 died september 22 2007
 - French actor and mime who was famous for his stage persona as “Bip the clown”. He performed worldwide over 60 years and was referred to as the “art of silence”
- **Pantomimus** born in France 1923
 - Nonspeaking dancer that performed dramatic scenes and acting all characters in a story only using masks and body movement in Roman theatre.

MORE PEOPLE

Charlie Chaplin born on April 16 1889 died December 25 1977

-English comic actor, film maker and composer who rose during the era of silent film.

Joseph Grimaldi born December 18 1778 died May 31 1837

-actor, comedian and dancer

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NOTABLE TITLES

Death Before Dawn -1948

The Overcoat -1951

An Evening at the Funambules -1953

The Three Wings -1953

The 14 of July -1956

Pairs Laughs, Paris Cries -1959

The Bowler Hat -1997

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