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978-1-107-06843-8 - Menander, New Comedy and the Visual

Antonis K. Petrides

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MENANDER, NEW COMEDY AND THE VISUAL

This book argues that New Comedy has a far richer performance texture than has previously been recognised. Offering close readings of all the major plays of Menander, it shows how intertextuality – the sustained dialogue of New Comedy performance with the diverse ideological, philosophical, literary and theatrical discourses of contemporary polis culture – is crucial in creating semantic depth and, thus, offsetting the impression that the plots are simplistic love stories with no political or ideological resonances. It also explores how the visual aspect of the plays (*opsis*) is just as important, and just as full of allusive potential, as any verbal means of signification – a phenomenon termed ‘intervisuality’ – examining in particular depth the ways in which the mask can infuse various systems of reference into the play. Masks like the *panchrēstos neaniskos* (the ‘all-perfect youth’), for example, are now full of meaning; thus, with their ideologically marked physiognomies, they can be strong instigators of literary and cultural allusion.

ANTONIS K. PETRIDES is Assistant Professor of Classics at the Open University of Cyprus.

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NOTE ON THE TEXTS OF MENANDER,
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Menander's plays are quoted from the following editions:

Dyskolos: Sandbach (1990)
Aspis: Jacques (1998)
Epitrepontes: Furley (2009)
Kolax: Arnott (1979)
Misoumenos: Arnott (1996b)
Perikeiromene: Arnott (1996b)
Samia: Arnott (2000)
Sikyonioi: Blanchard (2009)

Plautus' plays are quoted from de Melo (2011–13).
Terence's plays are quoted from Barsby (2001).

ABBREVIATIONS

Periodicals in the Bibliography are abbreviated according to the standards of *L'Année philologique*. The names and works of ancient authors are according to *LSJ*.

- K.-A. R. Kassel and C. Austin (eds), *Poetae Comici Graeci*, Berlin and New York, 1983–.
- LIMC *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae*, Zurich, 1981–.
- LSJ *A Greek–English Lexicon*, compiled by H. G. George Liddell and R. Scott, 9th edn, revised and augmented throughout by Sir H. S. Jones, with the assistance of R. McKenzie *et al.*, Oxford, 1996.
- MIMC² T. B. L. Webster, *Monuments Illustrating Old and Middle Comedy*, 3rd edn, revised and enlarged by J. R. Green, BICS Supplement No. 39, London, 1978.
- MINC³ T. B. L. Webster, *Monuments Illustrating New Comedy*, 3rd edn, revised and enlarged by J. R. Green and A. Seeberg, BICS Supplement No. 50, London, 1995.
- OLD P. G. W. Glare, *Oxford Latin Dictionary*, Oxford, 1982.