

Greek Theater in Ancient Sicily

Studies of ancient theater have traditionally taken Athens as their creative center. In this book, however, the lens is widened to examine the origins and development of ancient drama, and particularly comedy, within a Sicilian and southern Italian context. Each chapter explores a different category of theatrical evidence, from the literary (fragments of Epicharmus and cult traditions) to the artistic (phlyax vases) and the archaeological (theater buildings). Kate Boshier argues that, unlike in classical Athens, the golden days of theatrical production on Sicily coincided with the rule of tyrants, rather than with democratic interludes. Moreover, this was not accidental, but plays and the theater were an integral part of the tyrants' propaganda system. The volume will appeal widely to classicists and to theater historians.

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Foreword

When Kathryn Boshier died in 2013, her book manuscript remained unpublished. Typically, Kate had been so generous towards others with her time that she had focused on collaborative projects rather than publications authored by her alone. She was the driving force behind the interdisciplinary *Classicizing Chicago* project at Northwestern University. She was the initiator of the magisterial *Oxford Handbook of Greek Drama in the Americas*, of which the other editors were Fiona Macintosh, Justine McConnell, and Patrice Rankine; this was published by Oxford University Press in 2015, two years after her death. Her other major publication was the edited volume *Theater Outside Athens: Drama in Greek Sicily and South Italy*, the results of a pioneering conference she had convened at Northwestern University in 2008, published by Cambridge University Press in 2012. She lived just long enough to read the first of the many favorable reviews of that landmark volume.

She had conducted the research which underlies both this posthumous book and *Theater Outside Athens* at the University of Michigan, under the supervision of Professor Ruth Scodel, as an Assistant Professor of Classical Studies at Northwestern University, and while on a sabbatical in Rome supported by the Loeb Foundation. Kate's passion for the cultural history of the Greek colonies of Sicily and Southern Italy – an area traditionally called “Magna Graecia” by scholars – was immense; she visited almost all of them over the course of her career. It is evidence of the extraordinary breadth of Kate's expertise that not one but two editors, one specializing in material culture and one in literary texts, were required to finalize her manuscript for publication.

In consultation with Kate's husband, LaDale Winling, we decided early in the process to interfere as little as possible with the text of her revised manuscript, which was written in her usual meticulous yet buoyant manner. Michael Sharp at Cambridge University Press, the anonymous reviewers, Professors Eric Csapo at the University of Sydney, and J. R. Green at New South Wales have all provided indispensable advice. Our changes to the main text are small, and for the most part simply

promote the flow of the prose or maintain consistency across the chapters. In the footnotes and bibliography, we were slightly more interventionist, in an attempt to make the book accessible to a wider audience. We filled out details of reference works, provided translations, and inserted glosses where the material is particularly unfamiliar or obscure. We also supplemented and updated some technical information and bibliography. But bibliographical comprehensiveness proved impossible, both because the field of regional theater in antiquity is growing so fast, partly as a result of Kate's inspiring contribution, and because new archaeological finds are constantly emerging.

Since the editors of this manuscript completed their work, several pieces of her own were published and new, relevant scholarship has come out. Kate's text was unable to account for them, but they deserve special note. Kate's own work numbers among these publications on theater in Sicily and South Italy, including Boshier (2013b) and Boshier (2014). Reviews of the edited volume *Theater Outside Athens* (2012) in the *Times Literary Supplement* (30 January, 2013) and *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (<https://bmc.bryn.mawr.edu/2013/2013.01.08/>) also offer assessments of recent scholarship. Other scholarship of note includes Csapo et al. (2014), Carpenter et al. (2014), Ssao et al. (2014), Isler (2017), Kästner and Schmidt (2018), Caminneci et al. (2019), Braund, D., E. Hall, and R. Wyles (eds.) (2019). All of these may be found in the bibliography.

When we were asked if we would help edit this significant monograph, we agreed immediately. The ancient Greeks who lived in Sicily and Southern Italy produced dazzling literature and built imposing theaters: the major part they played in the evolution of European drama deserves to be better understood. But we had a more personal reason. Kate galvanized the lives of everyone she met. She had an unusual gift for bringing together, across continents, people who could complement each other's academic work. We owe a great deal to her. Losing Kate was to lose the most popular, creative, and responsible member of our professional family. Facilitating the publication of her fine monograph has been a pleasure and a privilege.

Edith Hall and Clemente Marconi

Note to the Reader

Work on editing the text and updating the bibliography was completed at the end of 2015. Unfortunately, for various reasons, but in particular the peculiarly difficult process of procuring many of the illustrations required, the final manuscript could not enter production until summer 2019. We trust that the reader will forgive the omission of more recent items of bibliography and details of archaeological discoveries and we are sure that the book's value is not impaired as a result.