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Masks in Greek Theatre

Narrator: Masks are another aspect of the theatre that students find puzzling why they did it. There are all kinds of false stories you might hear about why they did them. They wore masks because it was a religious ritual and because that was the way it had always happened. If you've ever seen certain kinds of African dancing, which is actually related to Greek theatre in some ways, the mask is part of it. You're worshipping Dionysus, part of worshipping Dionysus, you wear the mask of the reveller, you wear the mask of the celebrator, of theatre, in that way. The mask was also really useful because it enabled you to change character and only three performers performed all the speaking roles in Greek theatre. And so you come on with a different mask with different hair and so on.