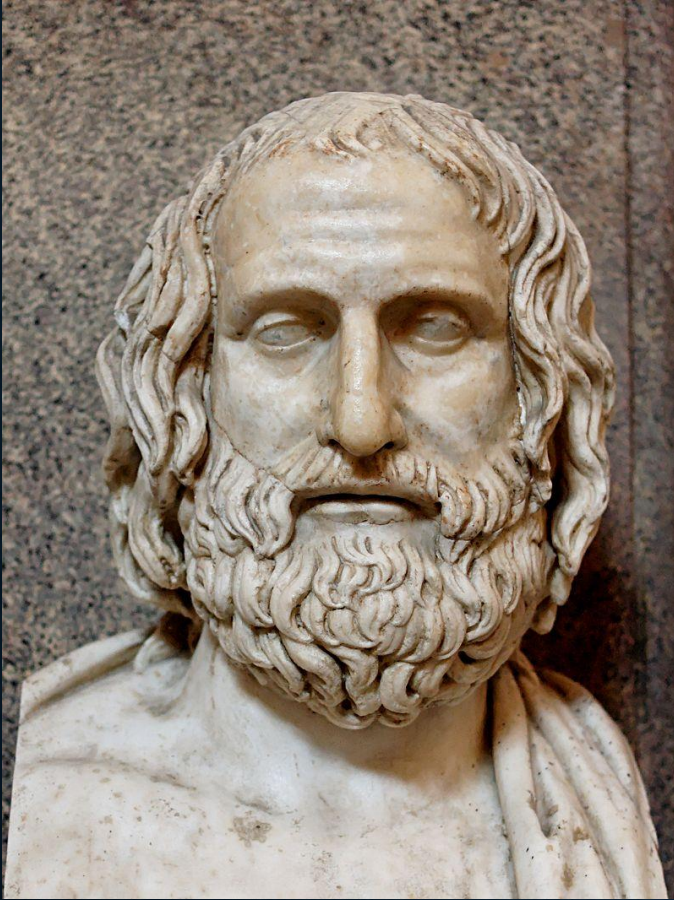


EURIPIDES

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Euripides was a tragedian of classical Athens. Along with Aeschylus and Sophocles, he is one of the three ancient Greek tragedians a number of whose plays have survived.

Some ancient scholars attributed 95 plays to him. **Of these, 18 or 19 have survived more or less complete** and there are also fragments of most of the other plays.

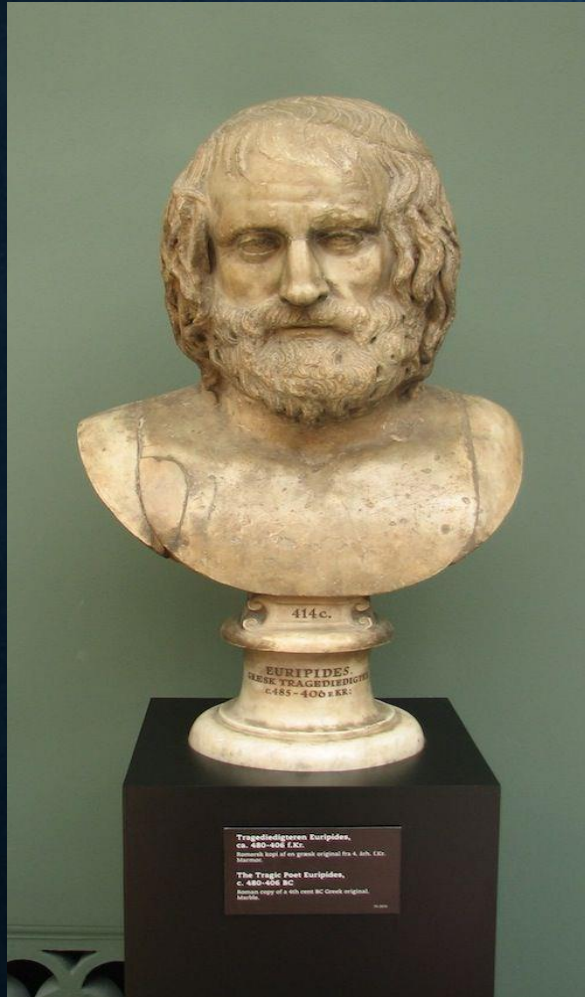
More of his plays have survived intact than those of Aeschylus and Sophocles together, partly due to mere chance and partly because his popularity grew as theirs declined.

LIFE AND FAMILY

He was born on Salamis Island around 480 BC, with parents Cleito (mother) and Mnesarchus (father). Upon the receipt of an oracle saying that his son was fated to win "crowns of victory", Mnesarchus insisted that the boy should train for a career in athletics. In fact the boy was destined for a career on the stage, where however he was to win only five victories, one of which was after his death.

He also studied painting and philosophy under the masters Prodicus and Anaxagoras. He had two disastrous marriages. He became a recluse, making a home for himself in a cave on Salamis (The Cave of Euripides). "There he built an impressive library and pursued daily communion with the sea and sky". Eventually he retired to the "rustic court" of King Archelaus in Macedonia, where he died in 406 BC.

WORK



Athenian tragedy in performance during Euripides' lifetime was a public contest between playwrights. The state funded it and awarded prizes to the winners. The language was spoken and sung verse, the performance area included a circular floor or orchestra where the chorus could dance, a space for actors (three speaking actors in Euripides' time), a backdrop or skene and some special effects.

IMPORTANT TRAGEDIES

Over 90 plays have been written by Euripides. Some of his most important tragedies are the following (with approximate dates):

The Cyclops (438 B.C.) An ancient Greek satyr play and the fourth part of Euripides tetralogy.

Alcestis (438 B.C.) His oldest surviving work about the devoted wife of Admetus, Alcestis, who sacrificed her life and replaced his in order to bring her husband back from the dead.

Medea (431 B.C.) This story is based on the myth of Jason and Medea first created in 431 BC. Opening in conflict, Medea is an enchantress who becomes abandoned by her husband Jason as he leaves her for someone else for political gain. To take revenge, she kills the children they had together.

The Heracleidae (ca. 428 B.C.) Meaning "Children of Heracles", this tragedy based in Athens follows Heracles' children. Eurystheus seeks to kill the children to keep them from performing revenge on him and they try to stay protected.

Hippolytus (428 B.C.) This Greek play is a tragedy based on the son of Theseus, Hippolytus, and can be interpreted to be about vengeance, love, jealousy, death and more.

Andromache (ca. 427 B.C.) This tragedy out of Athens shows the life of Andromache as a slave after the Trojan War. The drama focuses on the conflict between Andromache and Hermione, her master's new wife.

QUOTES

His texts explore Greek mythology and look into the dark side of humanity, such as stories including suffering and revenge but he also left some important quotes:

‘One loyal friend is worth ten thousand relatives’

‘The greatest pleasure of life is love’

***‘When a man’s stomach is full it makes no difference
whether he is rich or poor’***

***“Do not blame for involuntary offence and do not praise for
involuntary blessing’***

Ten soldiers wisely led will beat a hundred without a head’

***‘Friends show their love in times of trouble not in times of
happiness’***

‘Question everything. Learn something. Answer nothing’

ADDITIONAL TRAGEDIES

Hecuba (425 B.C.)

The Suppliants (421 B.C.)

Heracles (ca. 422 B.C.)

Ion (ca. 417 B.C.)

The Trojan Women (415 B.C.)

Electra (413 B.C.)

Iphigenia in Tauris (ca. 413 B.C.)

Helena (412 B.C.)

The Phoenician Women (ca. 410 B.C.)

Orestes (408 B.C.)

The Bacchae (405 B.C.)

Iphigenia in Aulis (405 B.C.)

Sources:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/the-surviving-tragedies-of-euripides-118749>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euripides>

THE END!!