




THEATRICAL MASKS & MAKE-UP



DIFFERENCES IN THE USE OF MASK AND MAKE-UP IN THEATER

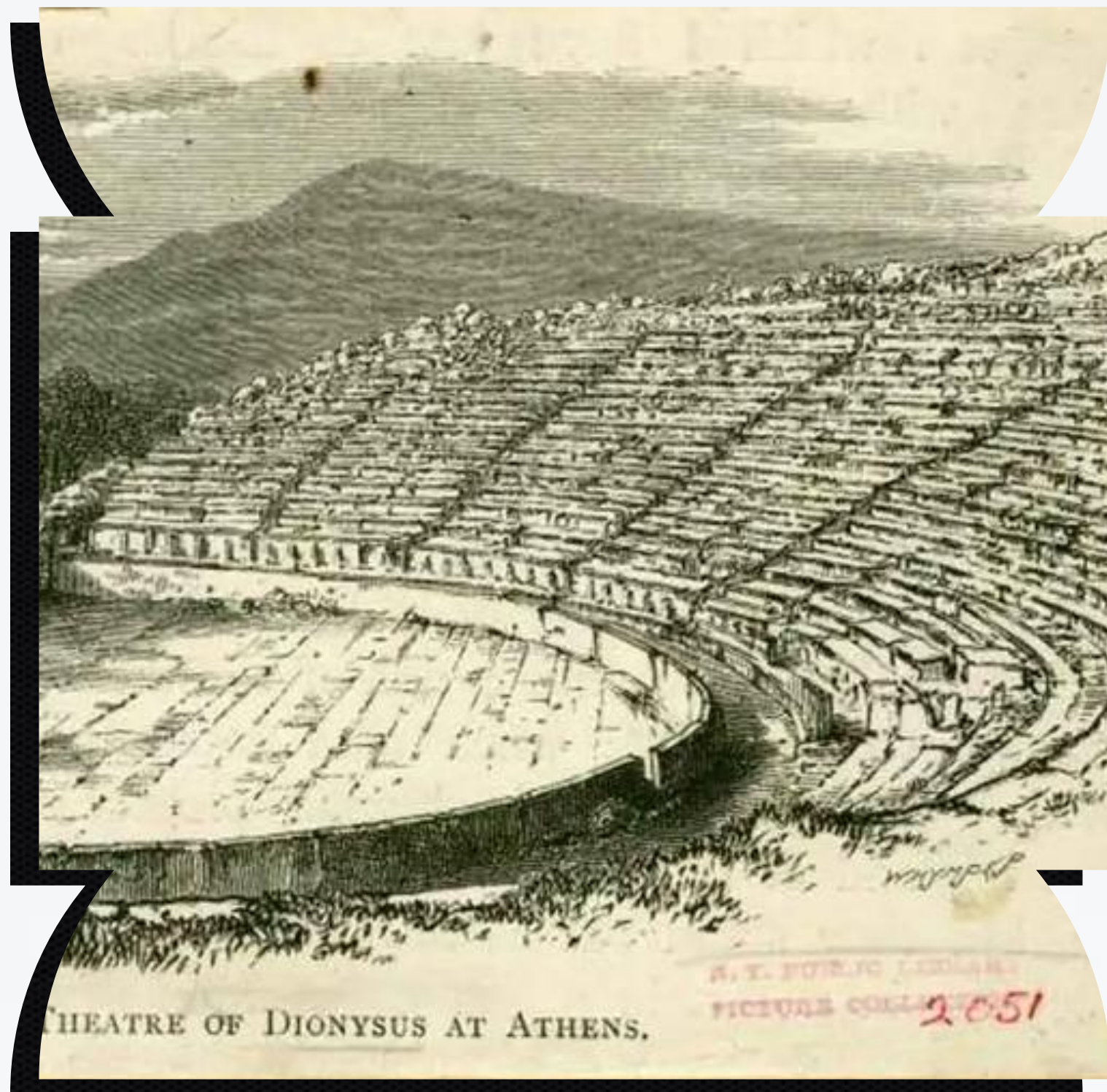
MASKS:

-  They create distinct characters, often archetypes or symbolic figures.
-  They completely transform actor's identity.
-  They hide the actor's face, presenting a new face.

MAKE-UP:




- Enhances/alters physical features to convey specific characteristics or emotions.
- Provides nuances (subtle feelings) and detailed imaging.
- Accentuates and exaggerates existing facial features.

MASKS AND MAKE-UP IN THE ANCIENT GREEK THEATER



MASKS AND MAKEUP IN THE ANCIENT GREEK THEATER

MASKS:

-  Enhance facial expressions and projection of emotions to large audiences.
-  Symbolize specific roles such as gods, heroes and common people.
-  Facilitate effective communication with distant viewers and maintain character consistency.

MAKE-UP:

- Was minimal, as the masks mostly defined the characters.
- Occasionally used to improve visibility and expression.
- Supported the transmission of emotions in large outdoor theaters.

KABUKI TECHNIQUES



KABUKI TECHNIQUES



Kabuki theater traditionally does not use masks.



Make-up (kumadori) used to emphasize the facial expressions and character traits of the actors.



Make-up, along with the elaborate and colorful costumes enhance the visual appeal and help define the characters.

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MATERIALS USED FOR CREATING THEATRICAL MASKS



MATERIALS USED FOR MAKING THEATRICAL MASKS

Theatrical masks have been made from a variety of materials throughout history, with each choice influencing the design and functionality.

Ancient Greece:

- Masks were usually made from lightweight materials such as hard and dyed linen, wood, cork and real hair.

Middle Ages:

- ✿ Pulp (paper mache) was popular for its lightness and easy adaptation.
- ✿ Some paper mache masks were commonly used for mystery games.
- ✿ Some masks were also designed to articulate and emit smoke and fire with complex mechanisms.

MATERIALS USED FOR MAKING THEATRICAL MASKS

15th century Italy:

- Heavy leather or plaster gauze masks, either full-face or half-face, used by Commedia dell'arte performers.
- Leather was durable and could capture fine details.

Contemporary Theater and Cinema:

- ✦ Latex and resin masks used for their durability and ability to capture fine details.
- ✦ More complex designs and special effects applied nowadays with latex and resin masks (realness/details).



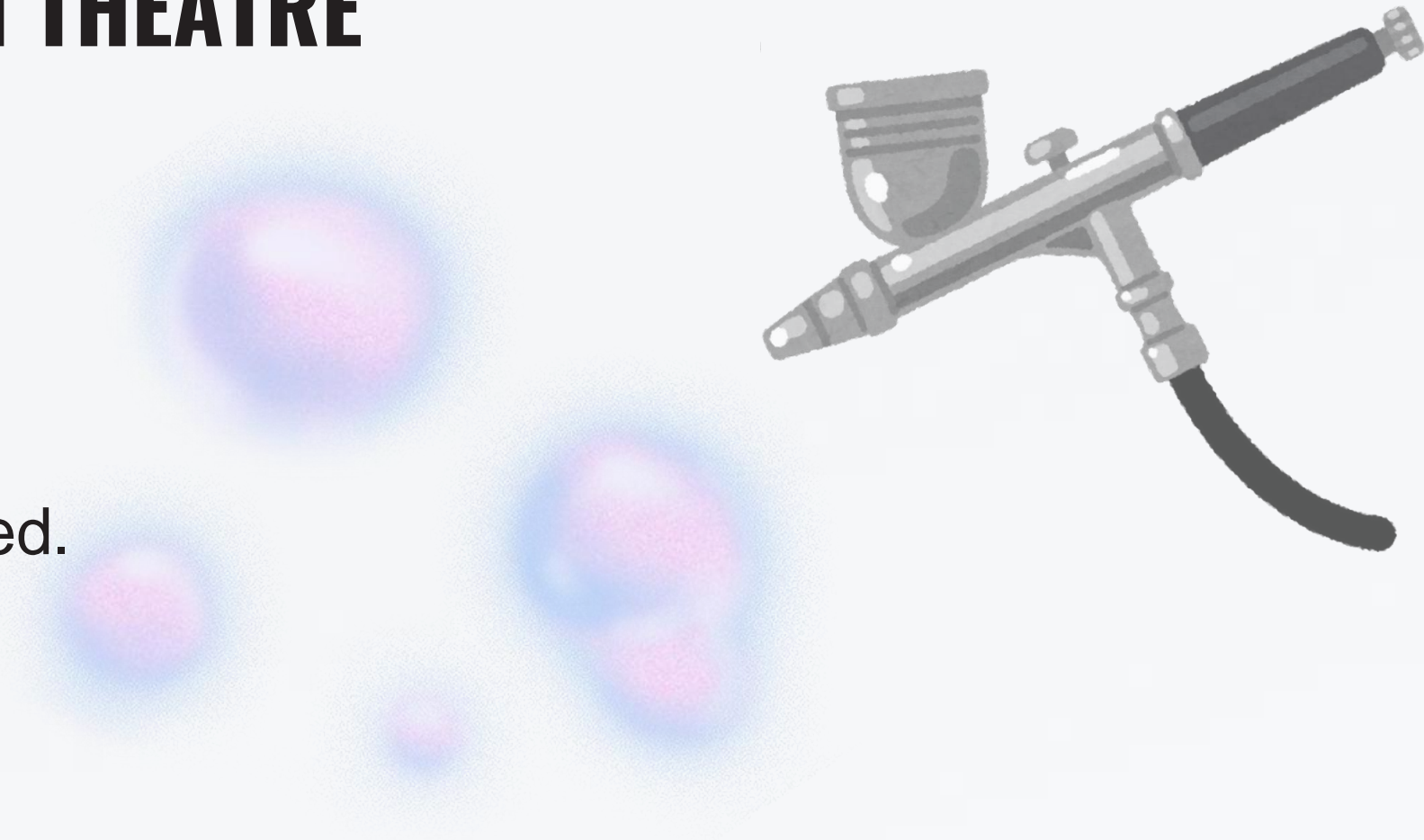
FACE & BODY PAINTING IN THEATRE

Face Painting:

- A critical element in theatrical productions.
- Allows the essence of the character to appear and be conveyed.
- Techniques with stippling, brush, sponge and airbrush.

Body Painting:

- Used in some theatrical traditions, such as Balinese dance drama.
- Artist's bodies painted elaborately with intricate designs and patterns.
- Ideal to represent supernatural beings, mythological figures and stock characters.
- Vibrant colors, bold lines and symbolic patterns convey the mystical, otherworldly nature.
- Techniques with stippling, brush, sponge and airbrush.



SCULPTURE FOR THE CREATION OF THEATRICAL MASKS

- At first, collaboration between the mask maker, costume designer and performer is a key element.
- Mask designers usually create a small-scale 3D sketch, called a mockup.
- The mockup is scaled to a full size version of correct dimensions.
- A lifelike cast of the artist's face is taken if the mask should be perfectly adjusted.
- The cast then serves as the positive mold upon which the mask will be formed (usually from air drying clay).
- Clay allows fine details to be captured and the desired look to be achieved through sculpting.
- The final mask should convey the appropriate emotions and characteristics of the character.
- Completed mask is decorated, often with acrylic paints.

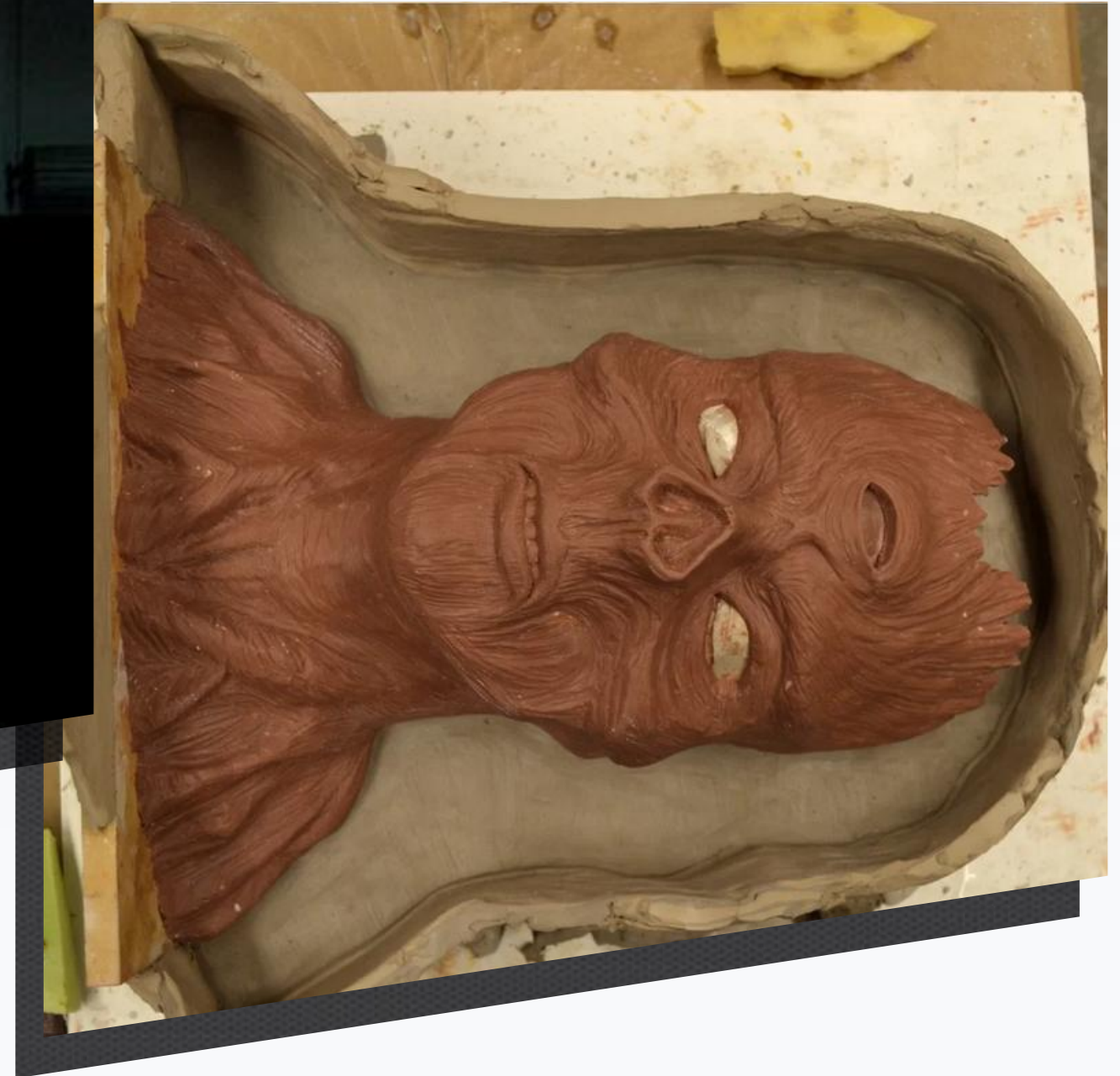
PAPER MASKS AND HOW WE MAKE THEM



PAPER MASKS AND HOW WE MAKE THEM

- Start with a basic paper template, often an oval or rounded rectangle shape.
- Cut the mask shape out of heavy paper such as construction paper or cardboard.
- Experiment with different sizes and shapes to fit your desired character.
- Use a variety of craft materials to transform the paper base.
- Use materials like markers, crayons, paints, glitter, fabric scraps, feathers and more.
- Textures can be created by gluing objects such as foil or yarn.
- Cut out the openings for the eyes and mouth.
- Punch holes in the sides to pass elastic or string, allowing the mask to be worn securely.
- Make sure the mask is comfortable and does not obstruct the artist's vision.
- Add any last minute embellishments to bring the character to life.

LATEX MASKS AND HOW WE MAKE THEM



LATEX MASKS AND HOW WE MAKE THEM

Latex masks have become a popular choice for theater and some film productions, offering durability, flexibility and the ability to capture fine details.

- The mask making process begins with the sculpting of a character design.
- It is created using air dry clay, plasteline or other modeling materials on the actor's/performer's positive.
- The design allows accurate capture of the character's features and expressions.
- A plaster mold is created from the sculpture, which serves as a negative mold for the latex mask.
- Liquid latex is carefully applied in multiple layers over the plaster cast.
- Each layer dries before additional layers are added, ensuring the desired thickness and strength.
- Acrylic paints are used to bring the latex mask to life, allowing for a wide range of colors and textures.
- Accessories such as hair, horns or teeth can be incorporated to create a complete look.
- The finished latex mask is sealed with a protective spray to help it withstand the demands of the stage or screen.
- With proper care and storage, a well-made latex mask can be used repeatedly in multiple productions.

MASK PAINTING & MATERIALS

- ▶ **Lacquer and gilding** - in wood, plaster or papier-mâché masks.
- ▶ **Crayons and markers** - in paper-based masks.
- ▶ **Tempera & Acrylic paints:** matte, opaque finish and easy application.
- ▶ **Gouache paints (waterbased):** smooth, velvety look and layer with depth.
- ▶ **Oil paints:** rich color and long lasting.





CHARACTERISTICS IN COLORING THEATRICAL MASKS

Colors: Acrylic paints are a popular choice for theater masks because of their ability to adhere well to various materials such as latex, wood and papier-mâché.

Color options: Acrylics can be used to apply a wide range of colors and textures, from bold and expressive to muted and realistic.

Decorations: Glitter, fabric scraps, feathers and metallic foils, they add depth and visual interest to the mask.

Very important for the transmission of the personality, mood and role of the character in each production.

Performance enhancement: A well-made and painted mask can greatly enhance the performer's portrayal on stage, captivating the audience.



THEATRICAL MASKS AROUND THE WORLD

Ancient Greek Theatre:

- Theatrical masks made of light materials.
- Expressive features visible to a large audience.
- One actor - many roles.
- Mask designs helped the audience recognize different characters.

Balinese theatre:

- ☀ Wooden masks decorated with vibrant colors, feathers and other materials.
- ☀ Supernatural beings, mythological figures and stock characters.
- ☀ Theatrical masks serve as a transformation tool, allowing artists to embody characters.

Japanese No Drama:



Elaborately carved wooden theatrical masks representing gods, demons, elderly figures.



Convey the mood and personality of the character through the design of the mask.

Common purpose:

- Theatrical masks function as an expressive tool in various performance traditions worldwide.
- They offer the ability for artists to convey narratives and embody characters.
- They serve as a key element in the theatrical experience for both the performers and the audience.

TRANSFORMATIONS IN THEATER



THEATER TRANSFORMATIONS IN BRIEF

Masks:

- 🎭 Mask makers make expressive, exaggerated masks to cover up the whole head.
- 🎭 Light materials such as fabric, wood or paper clay are used.
- 🎭 Mouth opening large to facilitate speaking, eye holes small with painted details.

Face Painting:

- ✨ Stippling, sponging and airbrushing make-up techniques.
- ✨ Realistic or stylized looks convey the essence of the character.

Full Body Painting:

- 🎨 Vibrant colors, bold lines and symbolic patterns.
- 🎨 Elaborate make-up, combined with masks, helps embody the actors roles.