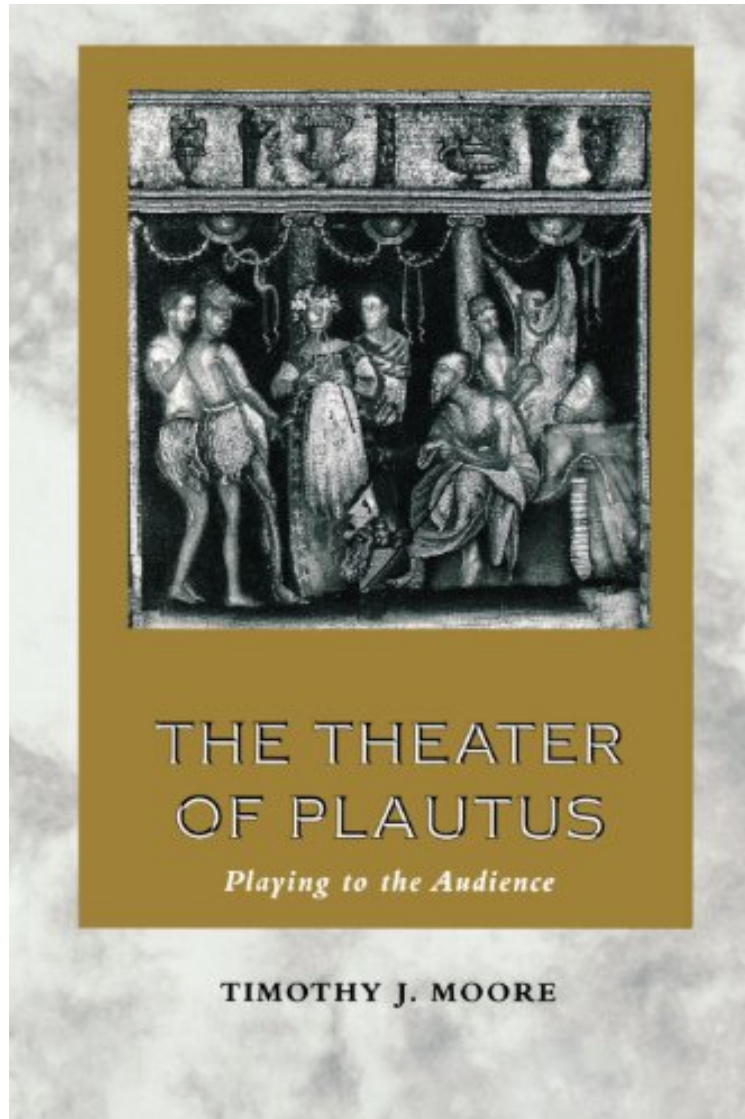


(Mobile book) The Theater of Plautus: Playing to the Audience

The Theater of Plautus: Playing to the Audience

Timothy J. Moore

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Timothy J. Moore : The Theater of Plautus: Playing to the Audience before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Theater of Plautus: Playing to the Audience:

The relationship between actors and spectators has been of perennial interest to playwrights. The Roman playwright Plautus (ca. 200 BCE) was particularly adept at manipulating this relationship. Plautus allowed his actors to acknowledge freely the illusion in which they were taking part, to elicit laughter through humorous asides and

monologues, and simultaneously to flatter and tease the spectators. These metatheatrical techniques are the focus of Timothy J. Moore's innovative study of the comedies of Plautus. The first part of the book examines Plautus' techniques in detail, while the second part explores how he used them in the plays *Pseudolus*, *Amphitruo*, *Curculio*, *Truculentus*, *Casina*, and *Captivi*. Moore shows that Plautus employed these dramatic devices not only to entertain his audience but also to satirize aspects of Roman society, such as shady business practices and extravagant spending on prostitutes, and to challenge his spectators' preconceptions about such issues as marriage and slavery. These findings forge new links between Roman comedy and the social and historical context of its performance.

"I consider this the best full-length discussion of Plautine metatheater in existence.... The author talks lucidly about Plautus in terms that the modern student of dramatic literature can grasp, even without knowledge of Plautus.... In short, this is a major contribution to theory about Roman drama and to an understanding of Plautus." (William S. Anderson, Professor of Latin, University of California, Berkeley) "I consider this the best full-length discussion of Plautine metatheater in existence.... The author talks lucidly about Plautus in terms that the modern student of dramatic literature can grasp, even without knowledge of Plautus.... In short, this is a major contribution to theory about Roman drama and to an understanding of Plautus." (William S. Anderson, Professor of Latin, University of California, Berkeley) About the Author Timothy J. Moore is John and Penelope Biggs Distinguished Professor of Classics at Washington University in St. Louis.