

SCENE TWO: Greek Theatre

GREEK music starts playing.

ARION of METHYMAN enters carrying a pile of sheet music.

ARION: *(Looking about the stage)* Where's my chorus? Come on, men, I've written a new hymn for us to chant to honour the wonderful God, Dionysus!

GREEK CHORUS enter, some slower than others.

CHORUS 1: We'd like a word with you, Arion.

ARION: *(Irritated, trying to get organised)* Yes, yes, what is it?

CHORUS 2: Well, we've been having a chat amongst ourselves and... and...

ARION: *(Stops what he's doing)* And?

CHORUS 3: *(Bravely)* And we thought we might try something different this time.

ARION: Different?! What do you mean, different?

CHORUS 4: Well, instead of us all dressing up as Satyrs and chanting hymns, we thought it might be nice to add a few speaking parts and...

ARION glares nastily at CHORUS 4, causing them to stop talking.

CHORUS 3: *(Interrupts quickly)* ...and with your great talent as a poet and musician, we thought you'd be able to write something with a bit more life in it.

ARION: *(Amazed)* Life?!

CHORUS 1: Yes, you know, action and characters.

CHORUS 2: *(Nodding in agreement)* Movement and dialogue, that sort of thing.

ALL CHORUS nod in agreement but stop when they see they've upset ARION.

ARION: Well, fine! I know when I'm not wanted. Let's just see how you manage without me!

ARION storms off. The CHORUS all look at each other, change positions, change, or rearrange their costumes on stage (effectively becoming 'other people') and then freeze in position.

NARRATOR 2 enters briefly.

NARRATOR 2: One hundred years later.

The CHORUS unfreeze. They are now different people 100 years in the future!

CHORUS 1: *(To others)* Are you here to meet Aeschylus?

CHORUS 2, 3

AND 4: *(Ad. lib.)* 'Yes'. 'That's right'. 'I am'. etc.

CHORUS 4: *(To CHORUS 1)* Are you?

CHORUS 1: Yes, I've heard he's written a new play and I'm desperate to perform in it.

CHORUS 2: He's such a talent, isn't he? All that wonderful poetic dialogue, the fabulous costumes...

CHORUS 3: ...the excellent props and those marvellous masks... *(Pause)*
He really is quite amazing!

CHORUS 4: Of course, he'll only need two actors for the main dialogue.

They ALL pause and consider this.

CHORUS 2: Of course, yes.

CHORUS 3: Exactly.

CHORUS 1: Right.

Another pause whilst they all think about what this means when there's four of them.

CHORUS 2: Well, I **did** work with Thespis in his acting troupe a few years ago. And he actually said that I was one of the best Thespians he'd ever seen.

CHORUS 1: (*Surprised*) I worked with Thespis as well! Let me see, (*Thinking*) it must have been 510 BC I think. (*Pause*) He commented on my acting ability, too.

CHORUS 3: Of course I'm too young to have worked with Thespis. I'm more experienced in the new writings of Aeschylus.

CHORUS 4: Me too. I've been in one of his plays as a member of the chorus and I'm hoping that this time I'll be promoted to one of the acting roles.

CHORUS 2: (*To CHORUS 1*) Of course you can't really beat experience, can you?

CHORUS 1: No, no. It's all very well being up to date with the new stuff, but there's nothing better than being one of the original Thespians.

They all pause.

CHORUS 3: Well, I wonder who he'll chose?

A voice is heard off stage shouting 'AUDITIONS THIS WAY' and the CHORUS members all rush off towards it. They push each other out of the way, and then apologise and pretend they're not bothered about rushing!