



Theatre Mask

Date

3rd to 2nd century BCE

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

bronze

Description

Molded masks of linen stiffened with paste were worn by actors during open-air theatrical performances, which were very popular among the Greeks. The mask, with its exaggerated expression, conveyed eloquent emotion to

the audience, even to those who sat considerable distances away from the stage of a great amphitheater. Theatrical masks were often copied in harder materials such as bronze and in smaller sizes to serve as votive offerings- some from actors- to the god Dionysos, who provided much of the early subject matter from Greek tragedy. This example features a gaping mouth that identifies it as a mask of tragedy.

Dimensions

Overall: 7 x 6 1/2 x 2 1/4 in. (17.8 x 16.5 x 5.7 cm)