

# Aristotle On Poetics

Translated with an introduction and footnotes  
By A.S.G. Thurston

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) was probably the greatest teacher who ever lived. His peripatetic style of teaching is instantly recognisable in most teachers who teach using rhetoric (the art of asking questions which you know the answer to). The Poetics examines the art of writing scripts and screenplays in a time when theatre was performed in front of huge audiences in massive theatres with extra large stage areas boasting some of the most spectacular special effects ever attempted in performing arts. The importance to this work to the modern reader lies in Aristotle's boldness in examining a script purely in a commercial fashion in relation to a discerning audience who demanded powerful spectacular presentations on a regular basis. He extended the barriers of live action presentation to include reaction to the critics and the use of certain words and phrases to induce emotive effects. The Poetics quickly dismisses Comedy as anything serious! Instead he repeatedly compares the qualities of the Epic & the Tragedy before deciding upon which is the better art form. This version of the Poetics is loosely translated for the Peoples Library by A.S.G. Thurston.

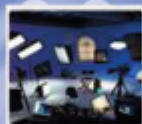
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