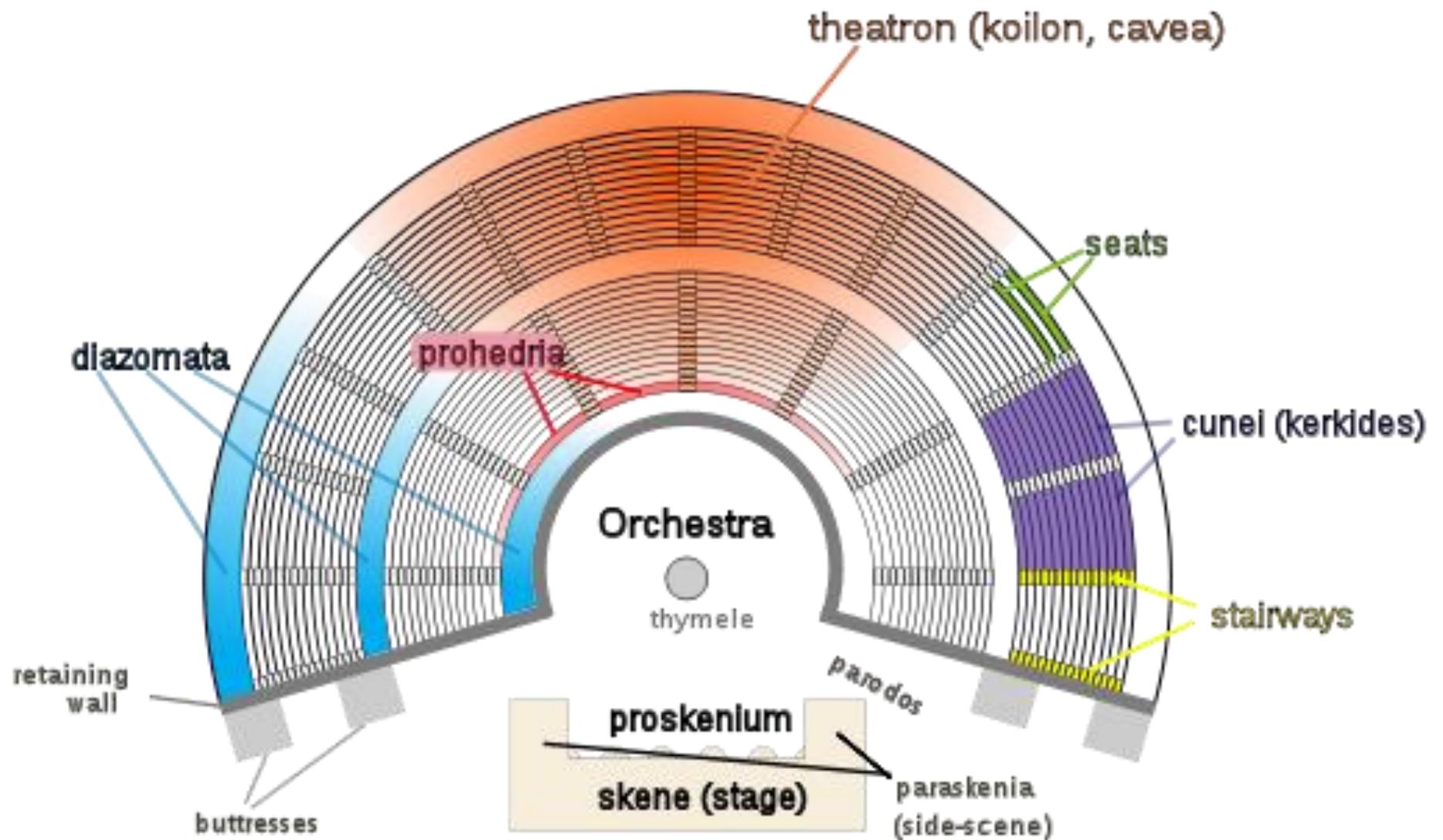


Key Terms:

- **Hubris** = excessive pride.
- **Harmatia** = a fatal tragic flaw that leads to a tragic hero's downfall.
- **Kleos** = fame or glory; all mortals seek fame so that they can a sense of the immortality denied them.
- **Oracle** = a person/priest/priestess of Apollo who can reveal aspects of a person's future.
- **Irony** = something that implies it's opposite: e.g. Oedipus' physical blindness at the end of the play implies that he can at last see. Jocasta and Oedipus are punished by a revelation of the truth which they themselves believed false.
- **Deus ex Machina** = a physical mechanism in Ancient Greek theatre, a platform at the top of the backdrop of a stage where the gods would traditionally appear in a play – it is used in *Medea* to emphasis her protection from the gods and semi-divine heritage. It now implies any plot that is resolved by the miraculous appearance of someone (god or human) from outside the main plot. E.g. Ron saving Harry Potter from the frozen lake in the *Deathly Hallows*; the Eagles in Tolkien's *Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings* appearing battle to save the forces of good; Bacteria killing all the Martians in *War of the World*.
- **Ekkyklema** (literally meaning is "roll-out machine") = a trolley that lay behind doors in the centre of an ancient Greek theatre stage that could be rolled out to reveal a scene that has happened off-stage. It is implied to in *Medea* at the end as Jason tries to unbar the door and reveal the corpses of his own children only for them to appear on the *Deus ex Machina* instead. It is then probably used in *King Oedipus* to reveal the self-mutilated king at the end of the play.
- **Chorus** = a group of singers and dancers who performed throughout Ancient Greek plays often playing the role of people from the city.
- **Chorus Leader** = one of the chorus who would speak and interact with the actors on the stage.
- **Orchestra** = a circular space in front of the main stage and closer to the audience where the chorus would dance and sing. The Chorus Leader would remain here also, but closer to the stage, as he talked with the actors.
- **Stasimon** = a choral interlude. A stationary song about a theme in the play or sometimes the scene that has just occurred.
- **Masks** = all Ancient Greek (and Roman) actors would wear masks. This was to allow for a single actor to play several roles.
- **Dionysia** = the festival and competition in Athens where the plays would be performed.
- **Aeschylus** = the earliest great playwright we know of from Athens. 523-456 B.C. Wrote *Prometheus Bound*.
- **Sophocles** = the second great playwright of Athens. 497-406 B.C. Wrote *King Oedipus*.
- **Euripides** = the latest great playwright of Athens. 480 – 406 B.C. Wrote *Medea*. He was closely associated with new ideals of the *Sophists* in Ancient Athens – untraditional ideals.



ANCIENT GREEK THEATRE