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## WHAT IS COMMEDIA DELL ARTE?

### (COMEDY OF SKILLS)

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**Commedia dell Arte** is an early style of Italian street theatre that incorporates big funny characters, improvisation, and direct audience involvement all in one. It's usually performed by actors who travel in troupes and devise improvised scenarios based on what character they are playing. It's a world of Masters, Servants, and Lovers. Universal character types that you see everywhere in popular culture and characters that represent everybody in society. Commedia is theatre of allusion, it takes delight in referring to things with which the audience must also be familiar, recognize, and willing to share a laugh about. It's influences are seen everywhere from **Shakespeare** to **Sitcoms** to **SpongeBob Squarepants**.

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## MEET THE TROUPE

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### PANTALONE

a grumpy miserly old merchant who is the leader of the troupe.



### COLUMBINA

a perky, witty, clever performer who is the brains of troupe.



### ARLECCHINO

the clown of the troupe who has a hankering for spotlight.



### ZANNI

a strange giddy little dwarf and the slave of the Pantalone.



### ROSETTA

a frump-tastic clever slave with a smart mouth. She is dirty, old and is missing a few teeth.



### PULCINELLA

a squawky odd little man with a humpback.