

# *Director's book*

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## **Context of Lysistrata**

Lysistrata is a comedy by Aristophanes. Originally performed in classical Athens in 411 BC, it is a comic about Lysistrata persuades the women of Greece by reject have sex with man, forcing men give up the war. The leading Lysistrata convene all different regions's women want everyone together refused to the man having sex with them, so they can stop the war. Women don't want to do this at the beginning, but after Lysistrata's persuade, they finally drink the wine and made the oath. But of course, the man would not agree to their actions, they think these women are too ridiculous. But Lysistrata teach all the women how to play cat and mouse with their husband, they only seduce man but never sex with them until they give up. Finally, all the men are unable to endure lust, one by one to give up the war, and the women also finally win their husbands back. The play is notable for being an early exposé of sexual relations in a male-dominated society. The dramatic structure represents a shift away from the conventions of Old comedy, a trend typical of the author's career.

## **Background of the Author**

Aristophanes, son of Philippus, of the deme Cydathenaeum, was a comic playwright of ancient Athens. Eleven of his thirty plays survive virtually complete. These, together with fragments of some of his other plays, provide the only real examples of a genre of comic drama known as Old Comedy, and they are used to define the genre. Also known as the Father of Comedy and the Prince of Ancient Comedy, Aristophanes has been said to recreate the life of ancient Athens more convincingly than any other author. His powers of ridicule were feared and acknowledged by influential contemporaries; Plato singled out Aristophanes' play *The Clouds* as slander that contributed to the trial and subsequent condemning to death of Socrates although other satirical playwrights had also caricatured the philosopher.

## ***Why did I choose this play?***

*I am from China, I did not hear this play before. This play is talking about a women Lysistrata are going to unify the all of the women in Greece. Because in that time, the men in Greece are always go to the war and leave the women at home, they think women are always very week,they cannot do anything, women only can stay at home to help their child to grow up, to do all of the house work,and to "take care" the men. So Lysistrata is very not happy about that, so she unify the women to resist the men. But the men still very do not like the women being out control, they still think women are very stupid, week and inability. But in the end, the government is giving some right to women, so it is a happy ending, that is why I choose this play.*

## ***The challenge***

*The challenge in this play is to acting the emotion. It is easy to read the lyric but it is very hard to have that emotion. Because I am not living in that generation so I do not know how angry that women are, so I need to image what is happen in that time, maybe I can research some information about that time, it is very helpful if I do that. So if I want to be good in this play, at the first I am going to get the emotion to acting this play.*

# The Korean War

## Background:

History of Korean Peninsula

“Korean Peninsula is located in eastern Asia, with China, Russia, Japan, adjacent. Since the 17th century, especially Bingzi after the war, the rule of the Korean Peninsula, Korean Dynasty is Qing Dynasty canonized country, regularly paid tribute to the Qing Dynasty. In the 19th century, Japan's national strength becomes strong and forces to enter the Korean Peninsula; in 1895 Japan in the Sino Japanese War defeated the Qing Dynasty, the forces expelled from the Korean Peninsula. In 1896, the establishment of the Korean Empire, North Korea was renamed. In 1904, Japan and Russia broke out the Russo Japanese War, and defeated the Russian, and complete control of South Korea, and later in the 1910 Japan Korea annexation treaty annexation of the South Korea, Korean empire the official demise, South Korea became a colony of Japan.”

<https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%9C%9D%E9%B2%9C%E6%88%98%E4%BA%89>



# Why we choose this background

Because during this war there are many men leave their wife to go to the war, just like the play: Lysistrata. But there is some different: In the Korean War, many women were rape and killed by the Japanese army, include Chinese women. And during that time, there are a lot of women will go to the war with Japanese army, that women is call comfort women, they all come from different countries and they are forced to go. So I wanted to let people know how angry women were at that time. That is the important part we are going to acting.

## Actor

Lysistrata— a brave Korean woman

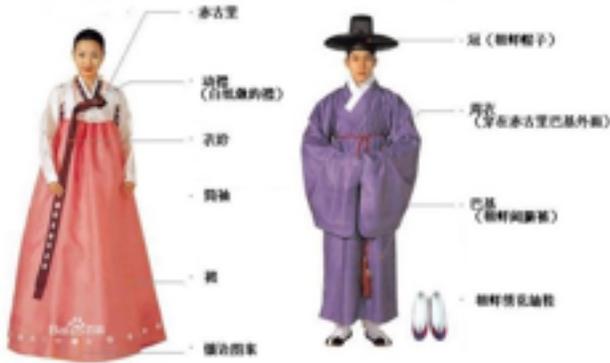
Lampito— a smart Chinese woman

Calonice— a optimistic American woman

Myrrhine— a mild Japanese woman

# The CUSTOMS

Lysistrata's cloth:



Lampito's cloth:



Calonice's cloth:



Myrrhine's cloth:



Men's clothes:



## Influence from Life Theatre

I saw a play last year, the name is Rumors. In this play, there are many girls, they all have their own special personality, so the rumor is getting bigger and bigger and bigger. In Lysistrata, there are also many girls in the play and with own special personality, they have their own idea to let the men leave war to live with them. So, that is the one part similar, the girls in these two plays all have their own special personality, so this is the part I can have a good experience to director the play: Lysistrata. I can refer from Rumors how to build the own personality.

## The scene



# Bibliography

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## Conclusion

I think Lysistrata is a very interesting and great play. It is not a elegant play. But it can bring laugh and enlightenment to people. So I wish the audience will enjoy this play and think it is a very unforgettable.