

Aristophanes

- Cleon was critical of Athens and its government.
- Represented in the play "Knights" by the slave Paphlagon.
- "Mr Demos" represents the people
- Cleon is being held accountable and his work is being simplified and "moralised" to the general public.

→ would have to deal with public ridicule so as not to lose face.

→ The role of theatre in democratic justification.
(do we have a modern equivalent?)

Chorus

- ↳ opinion of the masses
- ↳ The people (Demos) enjoys being flattered/manipulated.
- ↳ Does the Demos have the true power?

→ "mob rule"
negative portrayal of democracy - does the lack of education among the masses create a "tyrannical mass"

What do we think of as true democracy now?

- representational democracy
- ancient "true" democracy doesn't include full equality (citizenship)

Comedy: entirely Athenian audience - used to reflect social issues
"Competition" was a key part of Athenian identity.
it safer place to correctly address issues in Athenian society.