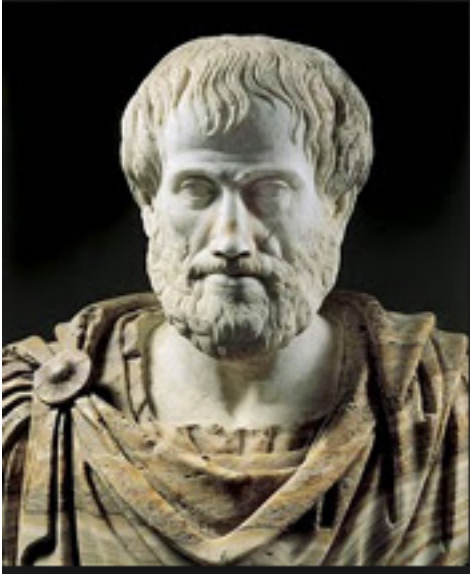


## Thespis- The Great Thinker



The above photo is thought to be a sculpture of Thespis. <sup>1</sup>

Though my research I have come to the conclusion that Thespis does meet the learner profile for Thinker. Since a thinker analyzes complex situations and uses creativity to deal with those situations, he definitely fits this profile. Not only did he change the way in which Theatre was performed in ancient Greece, but he also set the standard for what it would mean to be an actor going forward. As a result the term “thespian” is used interchangeably with the word “actor.” To this day there is an organization for students that bears his name, The International Thespian Society.

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The first actor in recorded history is thought to be Thespis. Born in Icaria, Greece it is thought that he was the first performer to separate himself from the Greek chorus to portray a character in a play. Often with aid of props, masks, and simple costumes he helped pioneer this new form of performance, which became known as tragedy. Eventually, competitions were held to find the greatest tragedy. At the first recorded City Dionysia, Thespis was named the winner. From there he went on to be one of the first, if not the first to tour a show. He would travel from town to town in a wagon with all his supplies in tow so that others could be entertained by these stories. <sup>2</sup>

Below is a rendering depicting the Great Dionysia. <sup>3</sup>



1. <http://bnhstheatre1.wordpress.com/2013/02/18/greek-roman-actors/>
2. Brockett, Oscar G. “Greek Theatre.” In *History of Theatre*, 9-10. New Jersey: Allyn and Bacon, 1998.
3. <http://www.learner.org/courses/worldlit/bacchae/explore/>