



## What inspired Commedia Dell'Arte?

### History

# Commedia is about the common man

### History

### Commedia comes from Carnevale

## Partying, Fun, Food!





### **Celebrations** during winter



(1)Lent - 40 days prior to Easter

(2)People would "give up" something for Lent

## Very restrictive period for people of the 14th-16th century Europe

#### **History - Carnevale**

### People got all the excess out of their system before going into a period of restriction.

### **<u>Class structure:</u>** Master or Servant

#### **History - Carnevale**

(1)Structured society
(2)Religious event for 40 days
(3)Giving up something
(4)Short period before lent to "let loose" and celebrate



### Great Chain of Being

## Order of the universe dictated by God



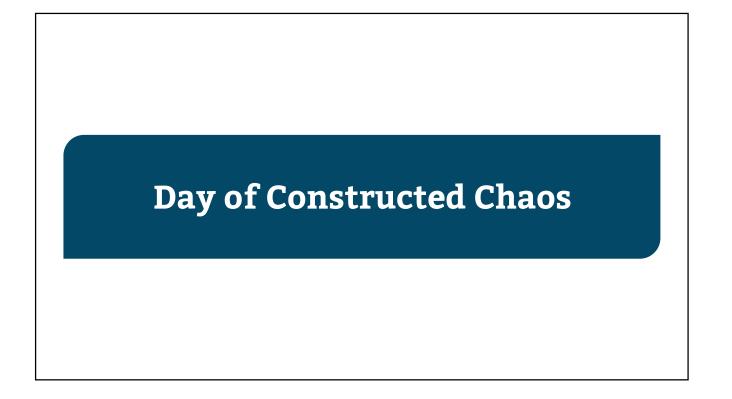
#### **Great Chain of Being**

## You had a predetermined place in society

## Lent Great Chain of Being Carnevale Celebrations

**Topsy Turvy** 

https://www.youtube.com/watc h?v=emmpnBDM0R8



## It was legal because it was an annual tradition

## There was singing and dancing

#### **History - Carnevale**

### People wore masks and costumes as they celebrated

### Dressing up as characters allowed them to disguise themselves

Greenman

## Half man half tree



## Entire families dressed as the same character

## It was like a medieval comic-con!



### **History - Guilds**

## Tradesmen tended to be in guilds



#### **History - Guilds**

# Guild members could share information about their trade

#### **History - Guilds**

## Members of the guilds could be the same characters

Parades Costumes Stilts Music Food Mythological characters

#### **History - Carnevale**

## Master/Servant characters meet and improvise



#### **History - The Guilds**

## Guilds would put on shows for money or to win favor

**History - The Guilds** 

## Guildsmen eventually became actors and toured with their shows



### People on stage Stereotypical characters

**History - Carnevale** 

### People on stage Stereotypical characters Commedia

# Carnevale is the spirit of Commedia

### Commedia dell'arte

## Commedia is a comedy of stereotypical characters

Commedia dell'arte

### **Commedia Characters:** Masters with power Servants without power

Commedia dell'arte

### Plays tended to comment on society





Commedia dell'arte

## Satire:

humor that shows the weaknesses or bad qualities of a person, government, society, etc.

#### Commedia dell'arte

## Commedia was for the common man





**Character Stereotypes** 

The Simpsons Family Guy Bob's Burgers The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Big Bang Theory

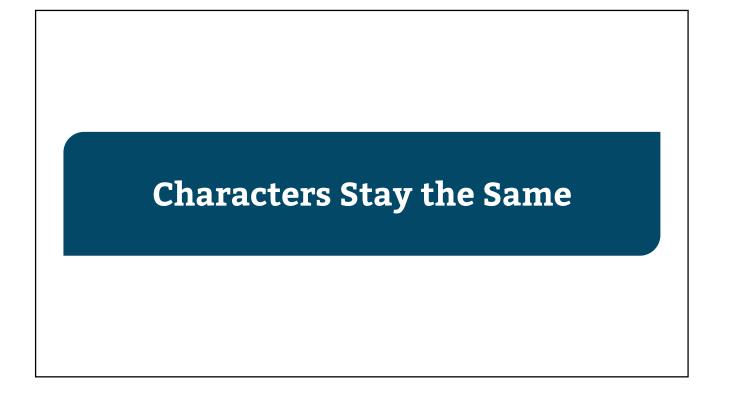
**Character Stereotypes** 

Many of our modern comedic characters come from Commedia Commedia dell'arte

What happens in a Commedia play?

#### Commedia dell'arte

### Comedy in commedia comes from the clashing of desires or appetites





Commedia dell'arte

Came from Carnevale Social Satire Masters and Servants Character appetites