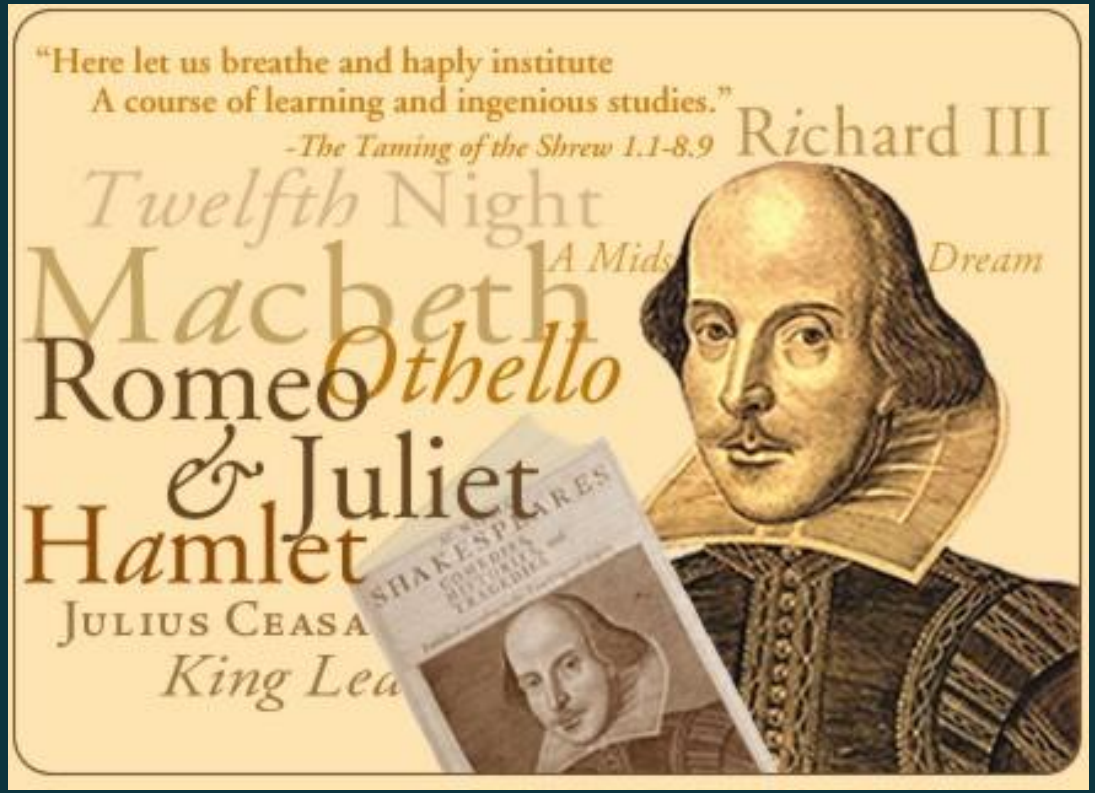
Shakespeare and The Essence of COMEDY

Origins of :

- *Comedy and Tragedy: The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*
- Dionysian Festival
- Greek Comedy
- Roman (Greek) Comedy
- Italian Commedia d'el Arte
- Shakespeare-- he does it all and more; we still do it



The Iliad and *The Odyssey* as the BASIS FOR THE COMEDY AND TRAGEDY OF Western Civilization

The Iliad takes the shape of: **TRAGEDY**	*The Odyssey* takes the shape shape of: **COMEDY**
The fall of a great man—death—downward movement; sadness, pity	***The rise of the hero, movement up; renewal, live life***
• *The hero is **Fated*** • *Heroism leads to death* • ***Honor** demands slaughter, terror, waste, dissolution* • ***The hero:*** 1. ***Possesses pride-** hubris* 2. ***Courage*** 3. ***Physical Prowess but-- Nothing can save him from death.***	• ***The Hero LIVES, triumphs*** • ***Reunion, Rebirth** shape the hero for the* • ***New Society, established** at **HOME***

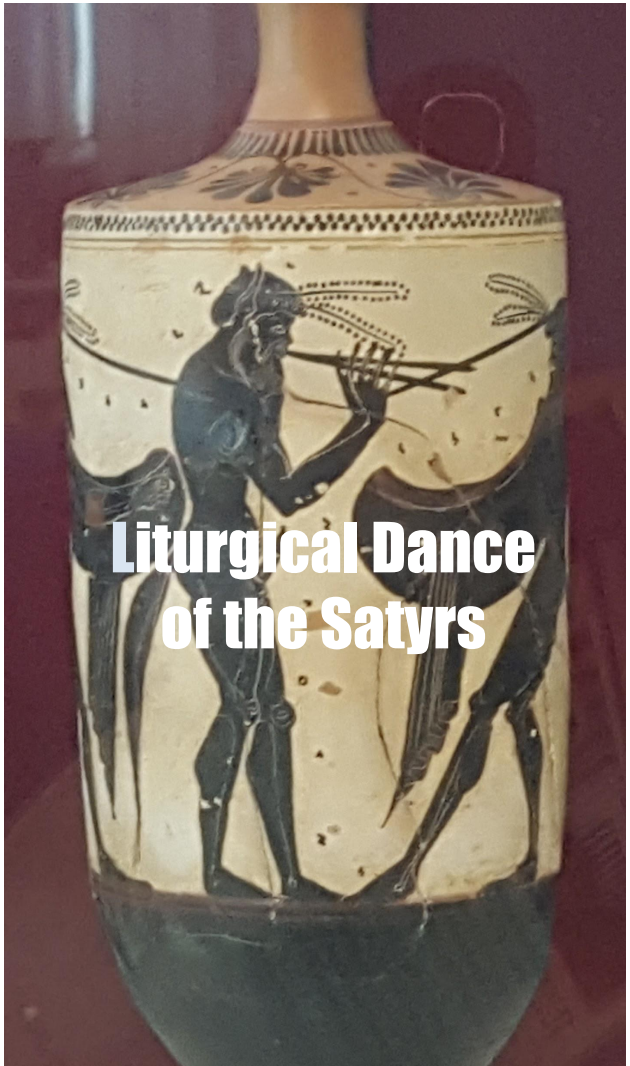
Dionysius,

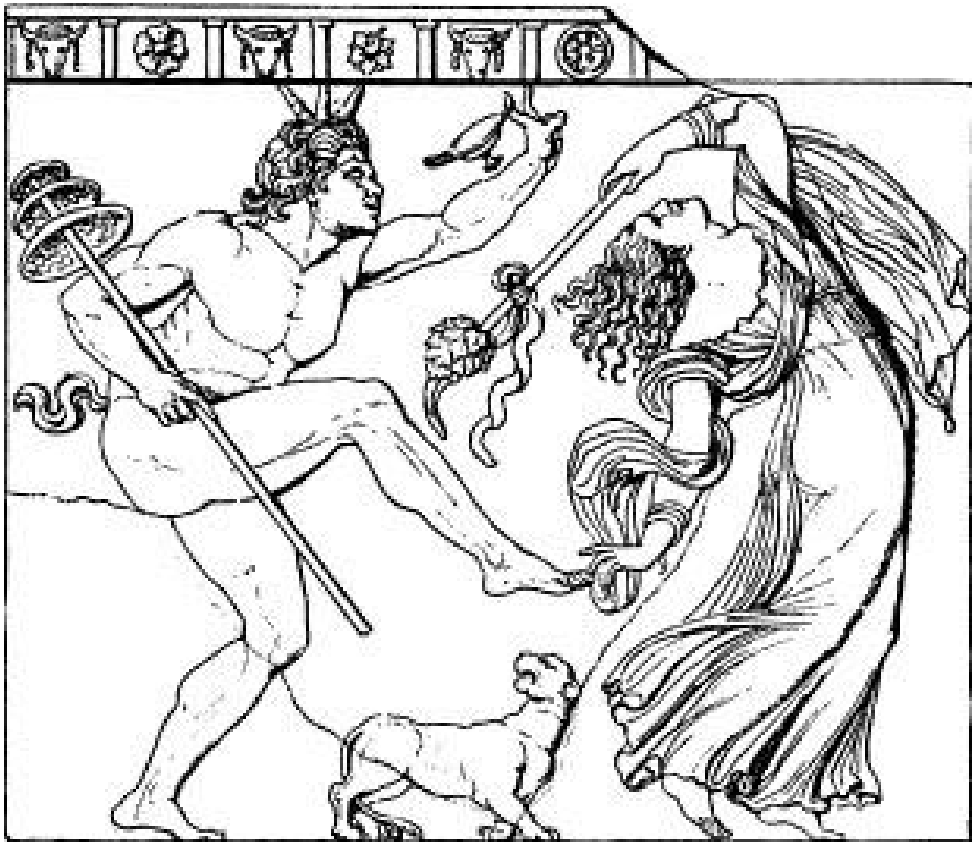
God of Wine, Ecstasy, and Fertility. Worshipped in temples, theaters, and public festivals.

KOMOS

which means *"to revel"* in Greek, and
From which we get our word?

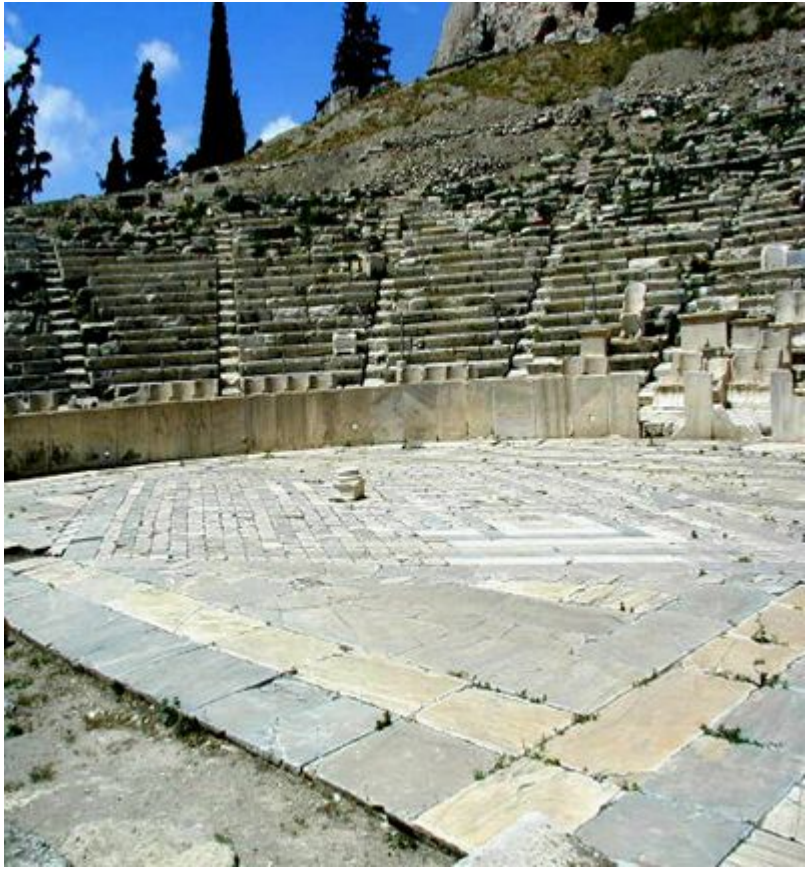
SATYR (SAY /dur)

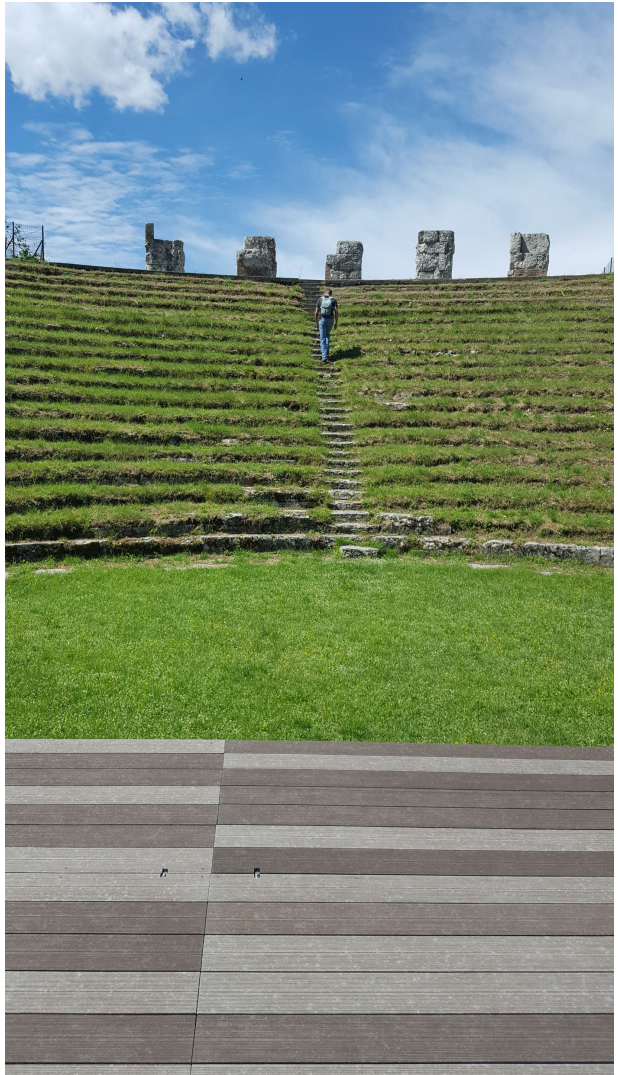

Liturgical Dance
of the Satyrs

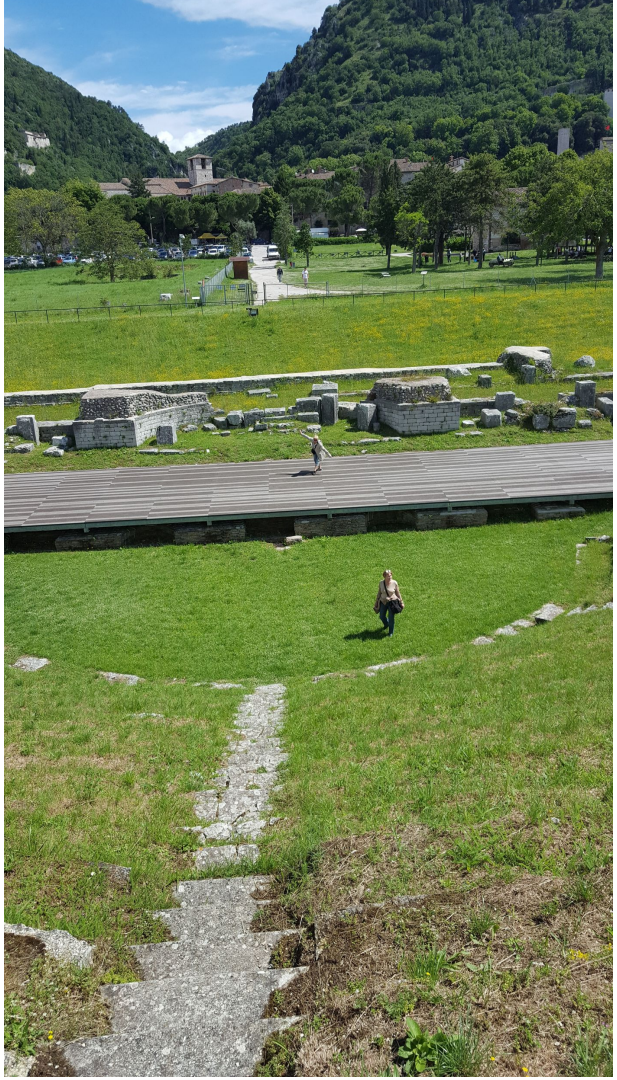


Thanks to his love of drinking, dancing, music, and *uninhibited merry-making with free-spirited friends*, Dionysus offered an evocative reflection on the human condition. The Greeks understood the human need to let go as opposed to the Apollonian council of restraint and control as well as facing the human reality of death.

Dionysian Theater in Athens







Mosaic of comic masks of a young woman and a slave. (VRoma: Capitoline Museums, Rome: Barbara McManus)

Plautus and Terence
Roman plot/Stock Characters

Italian Commedia Dell' Arte
4
5
6
7
8

Lazzi

Let's see……

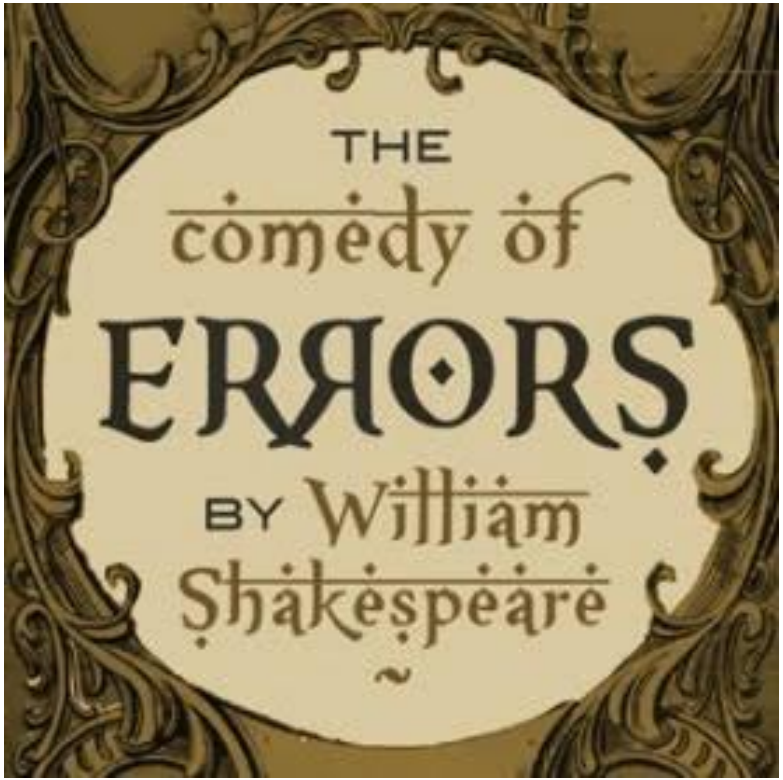
Plautus' play
THE MENAECHMI

Or

THE TWIN BROTHERS

Twins
Twins

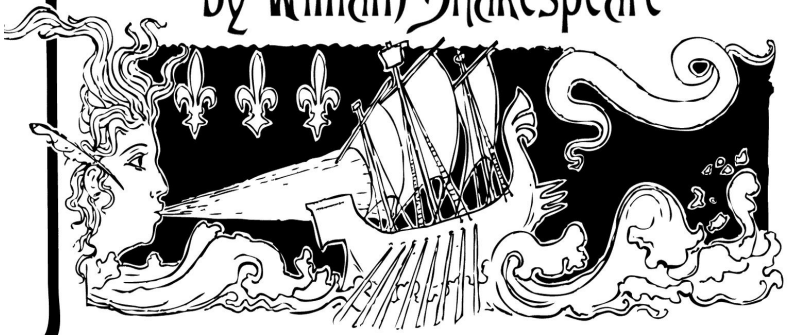
Twins
Twins

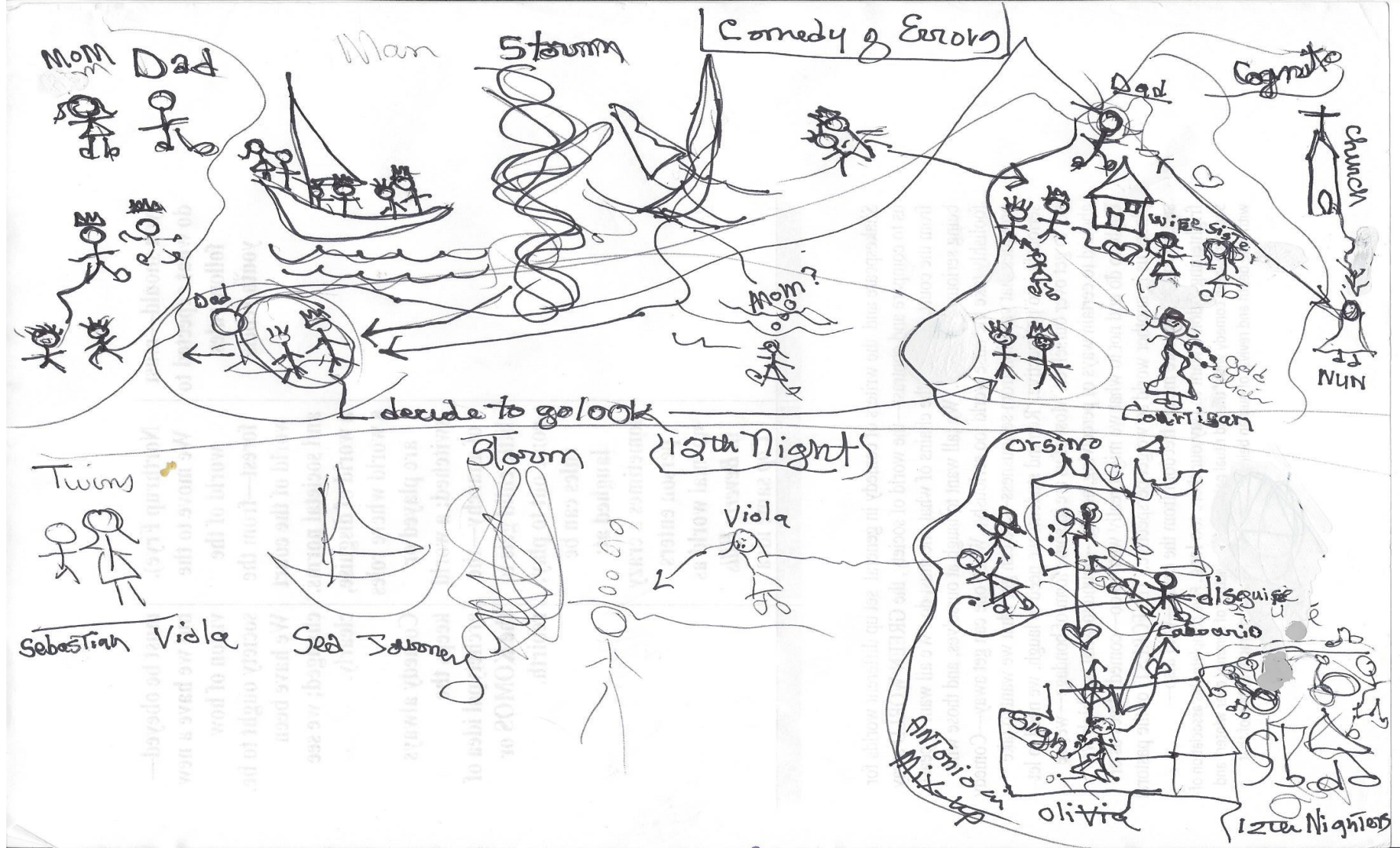


Twins?

Twelfth Night

by William Shakespeare




Comedy of Errors
Mom
Dad
Man
Storm
Dad
Cognito
Church
wife sister
Mom?
Dad
decide to go look
Courtisan
NUN
Storm
(12th Night)
Twins
Viola
Orsino
disguise
Sebastian Viola
Sea Journey
Antonio in Mix-up
Olivia
12th Nighters