

Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannus* was performed in Athens at the annual city festival of Dionysus in a contest attended by some 15,000 people in about 427 BC. On consecutive days, each of three playwrights produced and directed a trilogy of tragedies followed by a bawdy parody called a "satyr play." *Oedipus Tyrannus*, with two lost tragedies and a satyr play, came in second, beat out by plays, also lost, of Philocles, a nephew of Aeschylus. The plays were performed only once! *Oedipus* is widely regarded as one of the finest plays ever written.