

ARISTOTLE & APHRODITE
an original screenplay by
Fritz Staudmyer

Fritz Staudmyer
Frederick.Staudmyer@quinnipiac.edu
WGA Registered

FADE IN:

EXT. QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY -- ESTABLISHING SHOT -- DAY

A quintessential college campus is situated in the shadow of Sleeping Giant State Park in bucolic Connecticut. Campus is bustling with bundled-up students making their way to class on a crisp winter day.

CUT TO:

INT. QUINNIPIAC CLASSROOM -- SIMULTANEOUS -- DAY

PROFESSOR ROBERT MCKEE (55), a slightly overweight intellectual sporting a tweed jacket, CLEARS HIS THROAT.

PROFESSOR MCKEE

Where was I? Oh yes, as Aristotle noted in *The Poetics*, Sophocles was the greatest playwright of his time. And *Oedipus Rex* was the most perfect tragedy to come out of ancient Greek theater.

STUDENT (20), a lanky athlete, raises his hand.

PROFESSOR MCKEE (CONT'D)

(to Student)

Yes.

STUDENT

What's up with the Greeks having only one name?

PROFESSOR MCKEE

Sorry, I don't follow.

STUDENT

Aristotle. Sophocles. Aristophanes.

(beat)

All one name.

PROFESSOR MCKEE

Oh, I see. Well, in ancient Greece Aristotle was a celebrity... like Oprah or Madonna is today.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE TO:

DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. ANCIENT GREECE -- THE ACROPOLIS -- DAY

ARISTOTLE (40), a bearded poet built like a warrior, strolls down a street in Athens wearing an elegant toga.

A group of ATHENIAN CITIZENS wave to him from across the cobblestone corridors, giddy with the excitement of a celebrity spotting. Aristotle flashes a smile and quickly ducks into a nearby restaurant.

INT. THANOS' DELI -- CONTINUOUS

Aristotle wipes his brow and SIGHS. THANOS (60), the round and jolly owner of the deli, SLAPS Aristotle on the back from behind.

Aristotle is startled.

THANOS
Good to see you old friend.

Thanos notices something is wrong.

THANOS (CONT'D)
Are you okay? Your breathing is heavy.

ARISTOTLE
No. I'm sick of it. I can't get any peace and quiet in this town. Everywhere I go I am followed, greeted, lauded... practically worshipped.

THANOS
(sarcastic)
Oh, poor Aristotle. Beloved wherever he goes. Men cheer and women faint. How ever do you get through the day?

Thanos walks behind a counter.

ARISTOTLE
The blessing is the curse, Thanos.

THANOS
You'll get no tears from me. What can I get you?

ARISTOTLE
Feta salad with anchovies, please.

THANOS
Coming up.

ARISTOTLE
Are the anchovies from Crete? You know I dislike the cheap Venitian ones, they are so --

THANOS

Of course, they are from Crete.

Thanos looks to his ingredients and starts to prepare the salad. Aristotle plops down in a nearby chair, exhausted.

APHRODITE (30), the Goddess of Beauty, comes strolling in looking like a billion dollars.

Aristotle's jaw drops at the sight of her. Thanos drops a plate, SMASH.

APHRODITE

Do you sell sandwiches?

Speechless, Thanos nods. Aristotle drools.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

Excellent.

She sits down at a table near Aristotle. She flashes him a smile and he...

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. QUINNIPIAC CLASSROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

PROFESSOR MCKEE

So, as I was saying, not everyone in ancient Greece had one name but that is neither here nor there. What is important is that Aristotle's book *The Poetics* is the foundation for modern dramatic structure and is source text for all screenwriting books including but not limited to: Syd Field's *Screenplay* and Robert McKee's *Story*; the two most widely read volumes about the Hollywood Three-Act Structure.