



Antony and Cleopatra

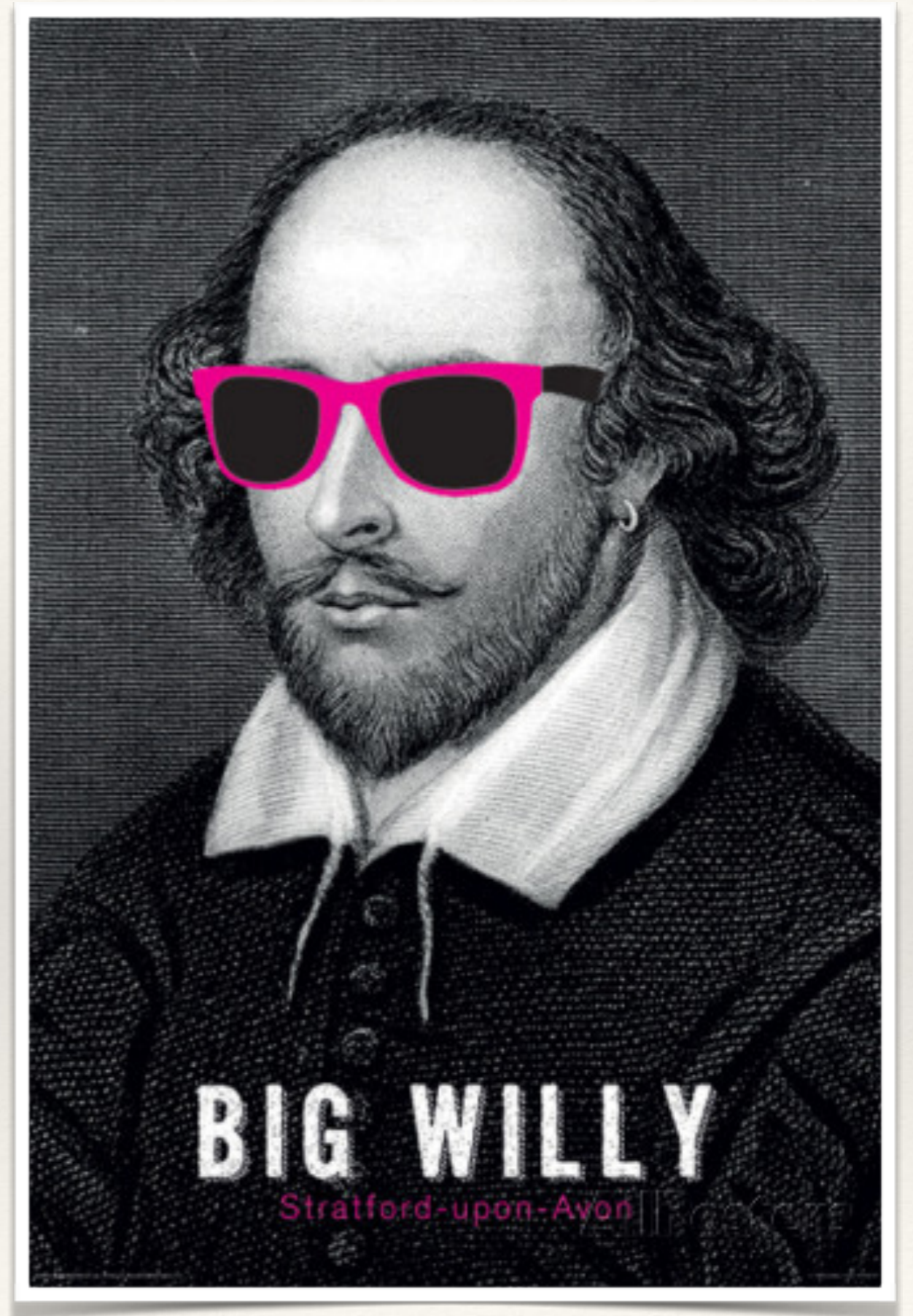
Introduction to Shakespearean Tragedy

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Antony and Cleopatra

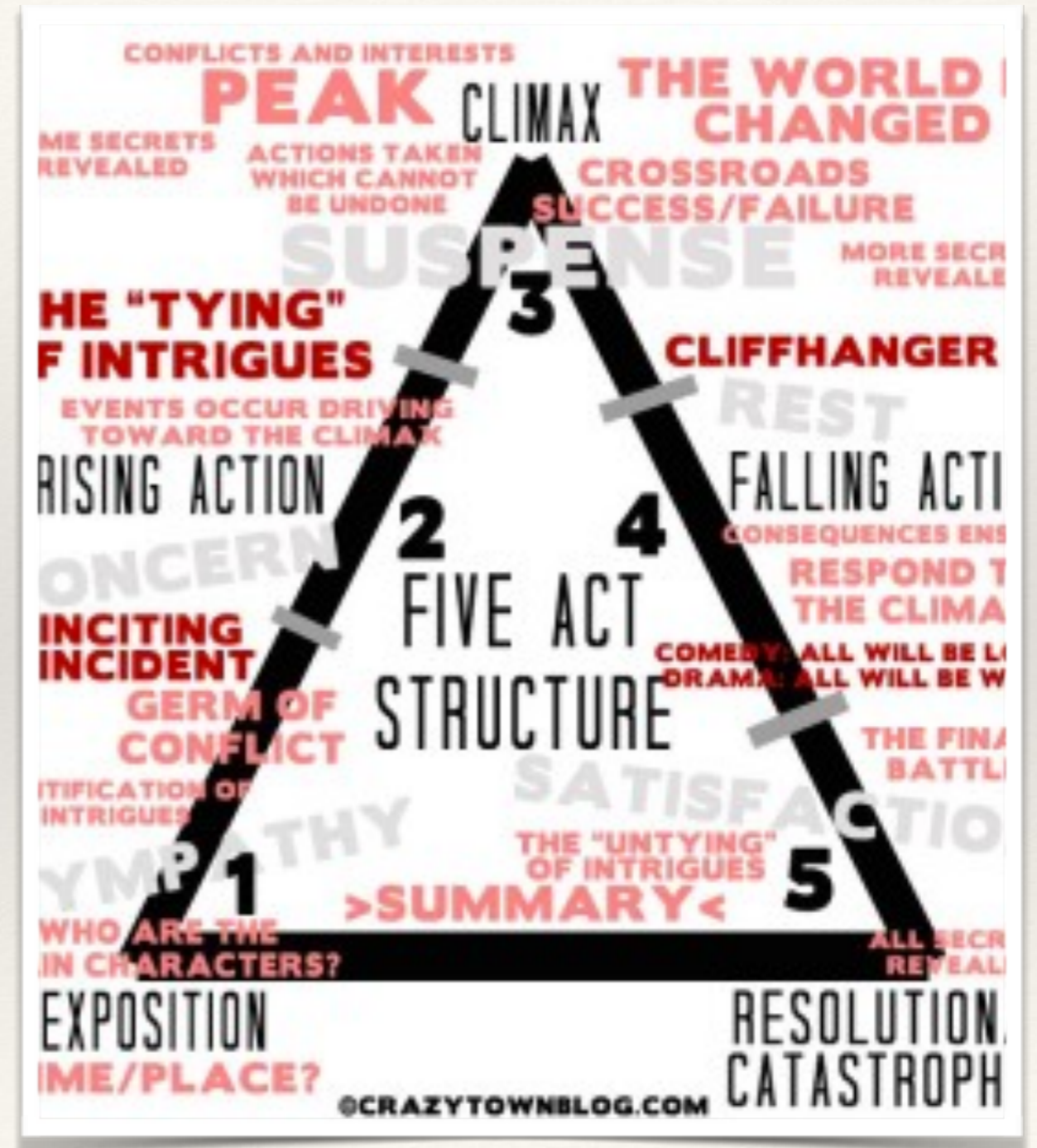
Shakespearean Plays

The basic structure of his works.



Shakespearean Plays Have Five Acts

- ❖ Act 1: Exposition: Establish the setting and conflict.
- ❖ Act 2: Rising Action: Tension mounts
- ❖ Act 3: Climax: Conflict at its high point, hero at a crossroads
- ❖ Act 4: Falling Action: The conflict is heightened and heading towards resolution.
- ❖ Act 5: Catastrophe!



Terms from Shakespearean Plays

- ❖ **Aside:** a remark or passage by a character in a play that is intended to be heard by the audience but unheard by the other characters in the play.
- ❖ **Soliloquy:** an act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers, especially by a character in a play.



Aristotle's Characteristics

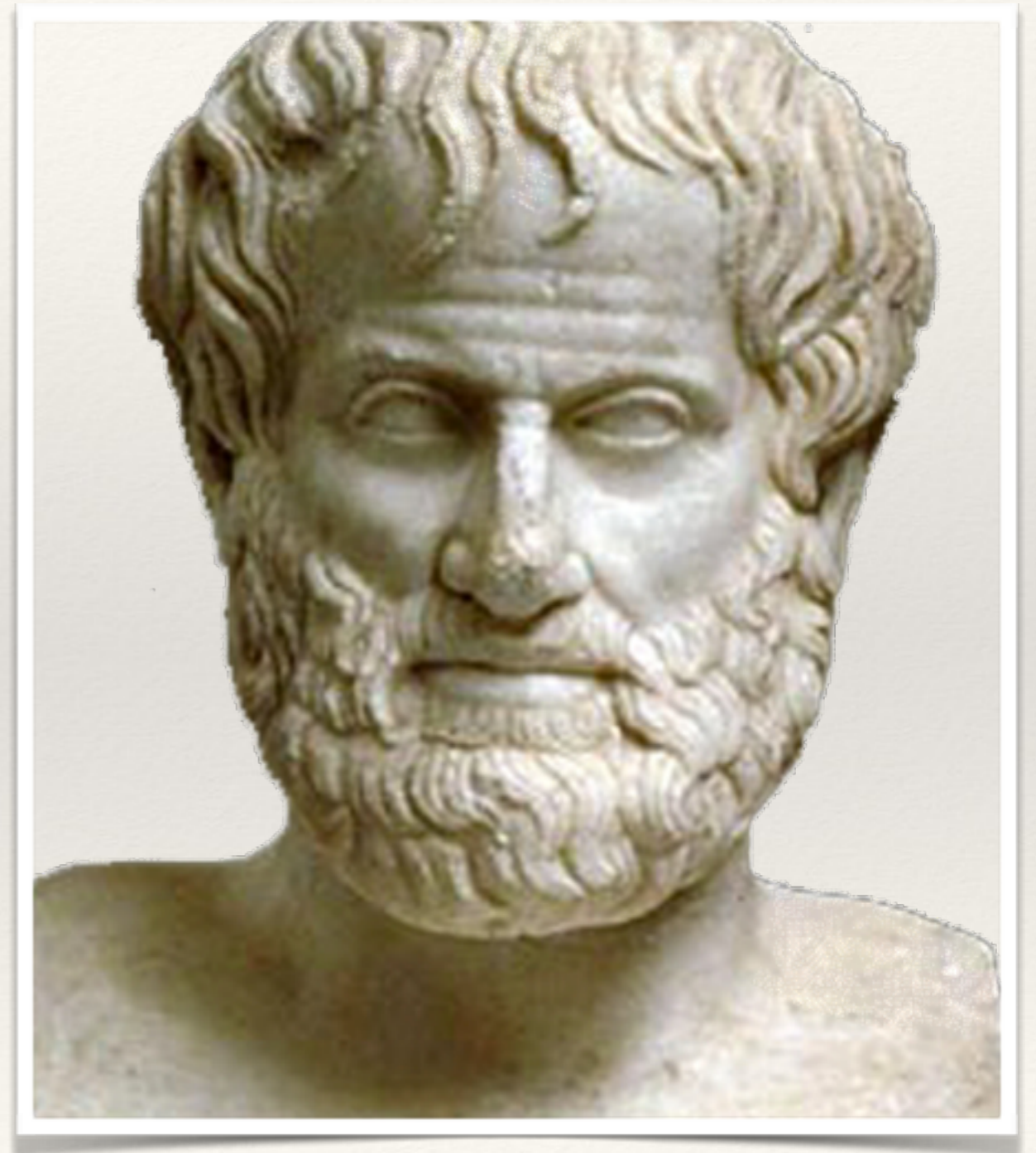
The Elements of Tragedy

More than just something sad.



Aristotle's Poetics

- ❖ The definition of a tragedy comes from Aristotle's *Poetics*, a lecture on drama written sometime before 322 B.C.E.
- ❖ Aristotle is the third smartest person who ever lived.



Definition of Tragedy

- ❖ A serious play typically dealing with the problems of a central protagonist, leading to an unhappy ending caused by a tragic flaw in the character.



The Tragic Hero

- The tragic hero is a noble, elevated man or woman who falls from grace, power, and/or goodness.
- He cannot be a bad man who suffers misfortune or a good man who is unlucky.
- She must be good, lifelike, and consistent.
- He is often fixated on a single element, plan, concern or issue that leads to his fall.



Elements of Tragedy

Hamartia

Hamartia is the protagonist's tragic flaw, one that precipitates his/her fall from a position of good fortune to bad fortune.



Elements of Tragedy

Peripeteia

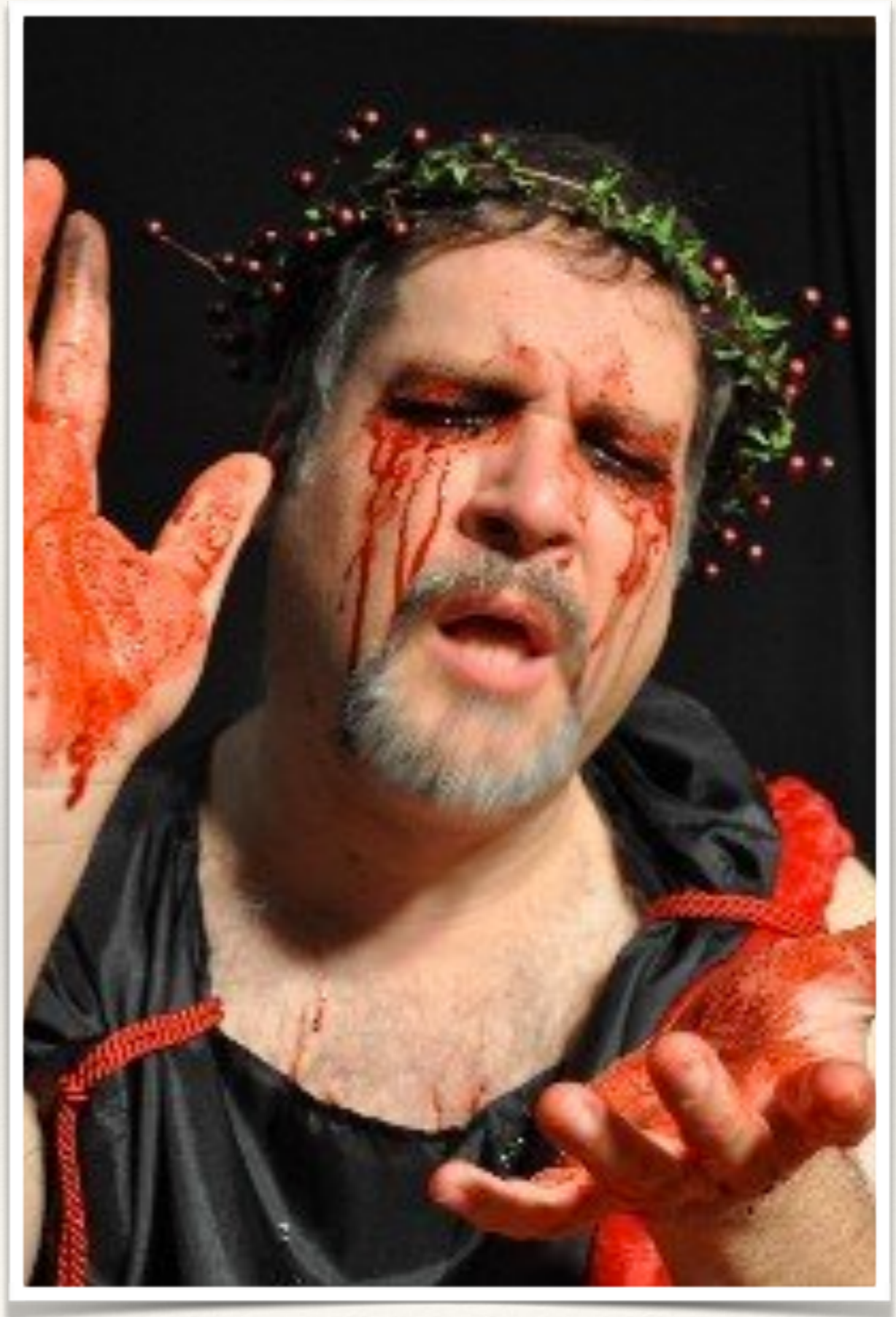
The reversal of the hero's fortune, peripeteia is the moment when the tragic hero begins his fall. According to Aristotle, it should be surprising and completely expected.



Elements of Tragedy

Anagnorisis

- Anagnorisis, which means “recognition” in Greek, is the recognition by the tragic hero of some truth about his or her identity or actions that accompanies the reversal of the situation in the plot.
- “A man cannot become a hero until he can see the root of his own downfall.” —Aristotle



Elements of Tragedy

Catharsis

Catharsis is the purging of emotion felt by the audience at the end of the play, when the audience learns something about human nature and feels a sense of profound emotional release.

