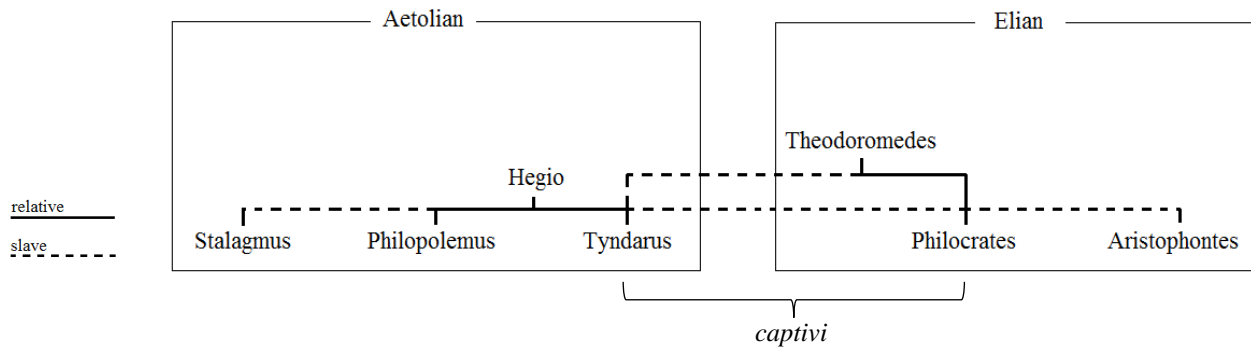


Audience Expectations and Metatheater in Plautus' *Captivi*



1. Scholarship on *Captivi*

“oddities”	Thalmann 1996: 113
Greek original and Latin adaptation	Hough 1942, Viljoen 1963
similarity to other Plautine plays	Segal 1987

2. senex qui hic habitat Hegio est huius pater.
 sed is quo pacto seruiat suo sibi patri,
 id ego hic apud uos proloquar, si operam datis.
 seni huic fuerunt filii nati duo;
 alterum quadrimum puerum seruos surpuit
 eumque hinc profugiens uendidit in Alide
 patri | huiusce. ...
 is postquam hunc emit, dedit eum huic gnato suo
 peculiarem, quia quasi una aetas erat.
 hic nunc domi seruit suo patri, nec scit pater.
 (4-10, 19-21)

The old man who lives here, Hegio, is this guy’s dad.
 But how he came to be a slave to his own dad
 I’ll tell you, if you pay attention.
 This old man had two sons.
 A slave kidnapped the one boy when he was four,
 and when he ran away from here, he sold him in Elis
 to [Philocrates’] dad. ...
 After he bought him, he gave him to his son—this guy—
 as his own slave, since they were about the same age.
 Now he’s a slave at home to his own dad, and his dad
 doesn’t know it.

3. Recognition Plotlines

Element	<i>Captivi</i>	Parallels
Child separated from family	Tyndarus, from Hegio	Selenium (<i>Cist.</i>) Epidamnian Menaechmus (<i>Men.</i>) Anterastilis/Adelphasium/ Agorastocles (<i>Poen.</i>) Planesium (<i>Curc.</i>) Telestis (<i>Epid.</i>) Palaestra (<i>Rud.</i>)
Child lost at a young age	Four years old	infancy (<i>Cist.</i> 164-167) early childhood (<i>Curc.</i> 528) seven years (<i>Poen.</i> 83-90, <i>Men.</i> 24-33) three years (<i>Rud.</i> 744) four/five years (<i>Poen.</i> 64-67)
Return to family home	Hegio’s home in Aetolia	<i>Rud.</i> 1143-1190 <i>Cist.</i> 631-638 <i>Epid.</i> 635-637
Recognition tokens or characteristics	age at kidnap, Hegio’s name, childhood name, circumstances of enslavement	age (<i>Cist.</i> 755, <i>Men.</i> 1115-1116) family members’ names (<i>Epid.</i> 635-636, <i>Curc.</i> 641-643, <i>Poen.</i> 1045-1065, <i>Men.</i> 1108, <i>Men.</i> 1131, <i>Rud.</i> 1160-1164) circumstances of loss (<i>Cist.</i> 546-575, <i>Curc.</i> 644-651, <i>Poen.</i> 1099-1105, <i>Men.</i> 1112-1113)
Recognition character	Stalagmus	Epidicus (<i>Epid.</i>) Hanno (<i>Poen.</i>) Giddenis (<i>Poen.</i>) Messenio (<i>Men.</i>)

4. ad fratrem modo <ad> captious alios inuiso meos,
eadem percontabor equis hunc adulescentem nouerit.
(458-459)
- I'm just going to my brother's to my other slaves.
While I'm there I'll ask if anyone knows [Tyndarus].
5. HEGIO. fuitne huic pater Thensaurochrysonicochrysidēs?
ARISTOPHONTES. non fuit, neque ego istuc nomen umquam audiui ante hunc diem.
Philocrati Theodoromedes fuit pater. ...
HE. satin istuc mihi exquisitum est, fuisse hunc seruom in Alide
neque esse hunc Philocratem? AR. tam satis quam numquam hoc inuienes secus.
- HE. Was his father Thensaurochrysonicochrysidēs?
AR. He wasn't, and I've never heard that name before today.
Philocrates' father was Theodoromedes. ...
HE. Have I got this absolutely right? This guy was a slave in Elis,
and he's not Philocrates? AR. You've got it so right that you'll never find out
otherwise. (633-635, 638-639)
6. neque hercle ego istuc dico nec dictum uolo,
teque opsecro hercle ut quae locutu's despuas.
(Asin. 38-39)
- For god's sake! I'm not saying that and I don't want it
said,
and for the love of god, please spit out what you said.
7. PHILOCRAATES. quam diu id factum est? STALAGMUS. hic annus incipit uicesumus.
PHIL. falsa memorat. STAL. aut ego aut tu, nam tibi quadrimulum
tuos pater peculiarem paruolo puero dedit.
PHIL. quid erat ei nomen? si uera dicis, memorandum mihi.
STAL. Paegnium uocitatus, post uos indidistis Tyndaro. ...
PHIL. dic mihi, isne istic fuit, quem uendidisti meo patri,
qui mihi peculiaris datus est? STAL. huius filius.
- PHILOCRAATES. How long ago did that happen? STALAGMUS. This year's the twentieth.
PHIL. He's telling lies. STAL. I am or you are, since when you were just a little boy,
your dad gave you a four-year-old boy as your own.
PHIL. What was his name? If you're telling the truth, you have to tell me.
STAL. He was called Paegnium, but afterwards you named him Tyndarus. ...
PHIL. Tell me, was that one whom you sold to my dad this one
who was given to me as my own? STAL. This guy's son.
(980-984, 987-988)
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