

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790049203321
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Titolo	Aristophanes and the poetics of competition // Zachary P. Biles [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2011
ISBN	1-139-06324-3 1-107-21717-2 1-283-11243-4 1-139-07552-7 9786613112439 1-139-08234-5 1-139-07778-3 1-139-08007-5 0-511-77916-X 1-139-06976-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 290 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	LCO003000
Disciplina	882/.01
Soggetti	Greek drama (Comedy) - History and criticism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: proagon -- 1. From Thamyris to Aristophanes: the competitive poetics of the comic parabasis -- 2. The competitive partnership of Aristophanes and Dikaiopolis in Acharnians -- 3. Aristophanes' poetic tropaion: competitive didaskalia and contest records in Knights -- 4. Intertextual biography in the rivalry of Cratinus and Aristophanes -- 5. Aristophanes' Clouds-palinode -- 6. Dionysos and dionysia in Frogs.
Sommario/riassunto	Athenian comic drama was written for performance at festivals honouring the god Dionysos. Through dramatic action and open discourse, poets sought to engage their rivals and impress the audience, all in an effort to obtain victory in the competitions. This book uses that competitive performance context as an interpretive framework within which to understand the thematic interests shaping

the plots and poetic quality of Aristophanes' plays in particular, and of Old Comedy in general. Studying five individual plays from the Aristophanic corpus as well as fragments of other comic poets, it reveals the competitive poetics distinctive to each. It also traces thematic connections with other poetic traditions, especially epic, lyric, and tragedy, and thereby seeks to place competitive poetics within broader trends in Greek literature.
