

GIULIA SISSA : **Agathon and Agathon. Male Sensuality in Aristophanes' *Thesmophoriazusae* and Plato's *Symposium*.**

This is a comparison of Agathon's role, in Aristophanes' *Thesmophoriazusae* and Plato's *Symposium*. Firstly, I examine the platonic version, and the unique, idiosyncratic part Plato gives Agathon to play, as a host to all, and a hostage to Socrates. Secondly, I discuss his interaction with Inlaw, the ordinary Athenian, in Aristophanes' play. Such parallel reading allows us not only to refine our outlook on the dramatic construction both of the "talking party" and of the comic performance, but also to capture how really *poikilos*, for better or worse, that urban love could be. Finally, I analyze the significance of this juxtaposition, as an intertext. Plato, I argue, produces a proper palinode of Agathon, as an *erotikos* and a mimetic poet. By taking seriously the face-to-face between Agathon and Agathon, two dissonant, and yet compatible, variations on one man, our picture of Athenian erotic culture emerges sharper, and in greater detail.

**Mots-clés :**

Eros – sensuality – praise – blame – softness – manliness – effeminacy – body – language