

This master thesis aims to describe the creation of dramatic illusion based on the interaction of three elements: actor – play – spectator. It also seeks to define metatheatre as a defiance of the dramatic illusion. It distinguishes the notion of metatheatre from the one of play-within-play in general. Specific Plautus' use of the metatheatre technique follows with respective examples from four of his comedies: *Amphitruo*, *Aulularia*, *Cistellaria* and *Pseudolus*.