

The Myth

Ancient Greek myths tend to have several versions. As oral traditions, they circulated for hundreds of years in multiple versions. At certain junctures in history they were written down in a form that served the beliefs and values of a particular culture. What follows is one version of the myth of Orestes.

To appease the goddess Artemis and bring wind to the sails of the Greek forces, Agamemnon sacrificed his daughter Iphigenia at Aulis. While the Greeks were off to Troy to rescue Helen, whom Paris had stolen from Menelaus (Agamemnon's brother), Clytemnestra ruled Argos and fostered a resentment toward her husband. Upon Agamemnon's return ten years later, she killed him and his slave/lover Cassandra, the Trojan princess and prophetess of Apollo. Clytemnestra's lover and Agamemnon's cousin, Aegisthus, also took part in the murders, as he was determined to avenge the killing of his brothers by his uncle Atreus. Seven years later, Orestes returned home from exile, determined to avenge his father's death through a mission from Apollo. He reunited with his sister Electra, and together they killed Aegisthus and their mother. The ghost of Clytemnestra summoned ancient goddesses, the Furies, to avenge her death. They pursued Orestes to the temple of Apollo. Unable to help, he sent him to his sister Athena, who convened a court to settle the matter. Orestes was acquitted and the Furies were transformed by Athena into Eumenides, caretakers of the Athenians.

Aeschylus presented his version of this myth to Athens in 458 B.C. through a trilogy of plays, collectively named the *Oresteia*.

The Project

The text for this project derives from a combination of various translations and adaptations of Aeschylus', Euripides' and Sophocles' plays, including Charles Mee's adaptation of *Agamemnon*, political speeches, anarchist propaganda, the Bible, original writing, and actor-generated material. The *Oresteia* was workshopped last summer and continued as a theatrical experiment this quarter. It is a work in progress, in flux, arrested at a given point in time to share with an audience. As such, it is unfinished, but we look forward to the completion your imagination can provide.

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Sarah Nash Gates

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Assistant Professors: Sarah Bryant-Bertail, Valerie Curtis-Newton,

Mary Louise Geiger, Odai Johnson, Shanga Parker

Senior Lecturer: Mark Jenkins, Mark Harrison

Lecturers: Tom Burke, Judith Shahn, Deborah Trout

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Karen Omahen, Stephanie Skura, Scott Weldin

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Michael Quinn*, Duncan Ross*, Geraldine Siks, Jack Sydow,

Aurora Valentinetti, Jack Wolcott

STAFF

Kris Bain, *marketing and pr manager*

Bob Boehler, *stage technician*

Nacho Bravo, *master electrician*

Malcolm Brown, *stage technician*

Sue Bruns, *office assistant*

Alex Danilchik, *stage technician*

Josie Gardner, *costume shop manager*

Arlene Hamilton, *administrator*

Dorothy Kerst, *graduate programs*

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Cecile Kummerer, *computer technician*

Scott Perkins, *fiscal technician*

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Joanne Tall, *secretary*

Rebecca Traber, *office assistant*

Alan Weldin, *scene shop manager*

Nanci Vaeth, *costumer*

* Deceased

ORESTEIA



ADAPTED FROM AESCHYLUS



The Playhouse Theatre
33rd Season
196th Production
May 28 - June 6, 1999

CAST

GAVIN CAMPBELL SCOTT MORSE

Aegisthus' Brothers

AARON BLAKELY AMY DECKER
Paris *Helen*

CONOR DUFFY
Watchman

~POET-HISTORIANS~

SAM ANDERSON AARON BLAKELY
Homer *Thucydides*

J. SPENCER THORSON AARON WAGNER
Herodotus *Hesiod*

THEA LESTER
Photojournalist

~FAMILY OF ATREUS~

SUE GUTHRIE MARK WALDSTEIN
Clytemnestra *Agamemnon*

ELAINE CURTIS JUDAH STEVENSON INGA AESOPH
Iphigenia *Orestes* *Electra*

TIKKA SEARS

Cassandra, prophet-princess brought back from Troy

JR DREW

Aegisthus, Agamemnon's Cousin & Clytemnestra's Lover

SAM ANDERSON

Pylades, friend of Orestes

~ANARCHISTS & FURIES~

LIA APRILE THEA LESTER
Sister & Alecto *Scout & Tisiphone*

LINSEY BOSTWICK JENNIFER NETZ
Sister & Ashtart *Split & Megaera*

~GODS~

KELLY CONWAY AMY DECKER
Apollo *Athena*

O R E S T E I A

ADAPTED FROM AESCHYLUS

DIRECTED BY JUDE DOMSKI

SET DESIGN *David Morris*

COSTUME DESIGN *Kimberley Gill*

LIGHTING DESIGN *James Aitken**

SOUND DESIGN *Alan Smithee*

STAGE MANAGER *James Buder*

DRAMATURG *Ken Cerniglia*

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR *Sarah Shipley*

AGAMEMNON

City of Argos

The Trojan War has been raging for ten years

LIBATION BEARERS

*The tomb of Agamemnon and inside Atreus home
Seven years have passed*

EUMENIDES

*Outside the Temple of Apollo and Temple of Athena
One year has passed*

There will be two ten minute intermissions.

*In partial fulfillment of a Master of Fine Arts in Lighting Design.

PRODUCTION STAFF

ASST. STAGE MANAGERS *Ryan Jones & Staci Guerrero*

ASST. COST. DESIGNERS *Allison Leach & Amber Spradlin*

PROP MASTER *Tina George*

SCENIC RESEARCH ASST. *Alex Tinsman*

ASST TO THE DIRECTOR *Lara Immerman*

ASST SOUND DESIGNER *Brendan Kiley*

SOUND BOARD OP *Tommy Smith*

LIGHT BOARD OP *Shannon Deskins*

RUNNING CREW *Samuel Allen, Alex Bivins, Ross Caldwell,
Ryan Hall, Amehya Hepner, Jean Klingman,
Kyu Lee, Scott Southard, Melissa Tanno*

COSTUME CREW *Mariana Kleneno, Mona Leach,
Brooke Nordby, Jon Wiswell*

LOBBY DISPLAY *Ken Cerniglia, Jude Domski, Alex Tinsman*

HOUSE MANAGEMENT *Michael Thompson*

PRODUCTION OFFICE *Jude Domski, Tlaloc Rivas*

DIRECTING MENTOR ~*Leslie Schwackhamer*

Food for the Opening Night Reception was generously provided by
RAINDANCER RESTAURANT

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