



# THE ARCHIVE OF PERFORMANCES OF GREEK AND ROMAN DRAMA

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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## THE ONASSIS PROGRAMME FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF GREEK DRAMA

A generous donation by the Onassis Foundation has made possible the creation of an exciting programme at the University to produce world-class theatre, inspired by Greek drama, in Oxford. We will be initiating and commissioning new work from directors, translators, designers and performers, and touring work to Oxford from around the world. During an initial period of three years the programme will produce six shows to commence in 2006.

Helen Eastman is the producer for the programme. She trained as a director at LAMDA after graduating from Oxford where she was the Passmore Edwards Scholar in Classics and English. Helen is Visiting Lecturer in Contemporary Performance Practice at Westminster University and Artistic Director of Floodtide, which is currently staging *The Cure at Troy*, Seamus Heaney's version of Sophocles' *Philoctetes* ([www.floodtide.org.uk](http://www.floodtide.org.uk)). Information about future Onassis productions, talks and events will shortly be available online (the website address will be listed at [www.apgrd.ox.ac.uk/links.htm](http://www.apgrd.ox.ac.uk/links.htm) in due course). To join the mailing list, please email [helen.eastman@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:helen.eastman@classics.ox.ac.uk).

## APGRD CONFERENCES

### 'GREEK DRAMA AND MODERN DANCE' SYMPOSIUM, 12 JULY 2006

A one-day interdisciplinary symposium will be held on Wednesday 12 July 2006, at Magdalen College, Oxford, to explore the influence of Greek drama on a wide range of modern choreographers (Isadora Duncan, Eva Palmer, Loie Fuller, Martha Graham, Pina Bausch, Lloyd Newson, and Ian Spink). Speakers include: Ann Cooper Albright (Oberlin College), Henrietta Bannerman (The Place), Richard Cave (RHUL), Janet Lansdale (University of Surrey), Nadine Meisner (London), Yopie Prins (University of Michigan), and Yana Zarifi (London). Further details will be publicized in due course. To be added to the mailing list for this conference, please contact [apgrd@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:apgrd@classics.ox.ac.uk).

### 'THE PRONOMOS VASE' SYMPOSIUM, 26 SEPTEMBER 2006

A one-day symposium on the Pronomos Vase will be held on Tuesday 26 September 2006 at Magdalen College, Oxford. Speakers include: Lucilla Burn (Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge), Eric Csapo (University of Sydney), Mark Griffith (University of California, Berkeley), Kraus Junker (Universität Mainz), François Lissarague (Paris), Robin Osborne (University of Cambridge), and Peter Wilson (University of Sydney). To be added to the mailing list for this conference, please contact [apgrd@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:apgrd@classics.ox.ac.uk).

## REPORT ON 'NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ANCIENT PANTOMIME' SYMPOSIUM

We launched our new project on the performance reception of Greek tragedy within antiquity with a symposium on 13 July 2005 which was devoted entirely to the neglected ancient genre of pantomime, danced realisations of myth, often of tragic dramas. These were hugely popular from the end of the Roman Republic until well into the Christian era. Our keynote speaker was Professor John Jory (University of Western Australia) and the day concluded with a wonderful practical dance performance choreographed by Göze Saner (RHUL). Many thanks to all involved; we hope to publish a volume arising out of the conference in the not too distant future.

## APGRD LECTURES

- ☞ **STEPHEN WALSH** (Professor of Music, University of Cardiff), 'Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*, Enescu's *Oedipe* and the Parisian stage of the 1920s', 2.15pm on 26 October 2005, Seminar Room, Classics Centre.
- ☞ **MARINA CARR** (Playwright) will read from her work and join a discussion with Edith Hall, 2.15pm on 16 November 2005, Common Room, Classics Centre.
- ☞ **JOHN EATON** (Opera Composer; Professor of Music, University of Chicago), 'Ancient Dramas that Break into Modern Song: A Contemporary Composer Confronts the Timeless Truths of Greek Tragedy', 2.15pm on 22 February 2006, Seminar Room, Classics Centre.
- ☞ **RICHARD ARMSTRONG** (Associate Professor of Classics, University of Houston), 'Oedipus and Vienna: Theory and Theatricality in Early Psychoanalysis', 2.15pm on 10 May 2006, Seminar Room, Classics Centre.

## ASSOCIATES OF THE APGRD

Warm congratulations are due to Kathleen Riley and Avery Willis, the first two APGRD Graduate Associates to complete their doctoral studies at Oxford, who now hold the title Postdoctoral Research Associate. Kathleen is preparing her thesis for publication in the Oxford Classical Monographs series (*Reasoning Madness: The Reception and Performance of Euripides' Heracles*), whilst working on a new theatre history, *Fascinating Rhythms: Fred and Adele Astaire and the American Musical*, which follows her much-praised authorised biography of Nigel Hawthorne (University of Hertfordshire Press, 2004). Avery has recently completed her thesis on 'Euripides' *Trojan Women*: A 20<sup>th</sup>-Century War Play in Performance'. She is currently producing a tour of Calderon's *The Constant Prince* for the British Council in Egypt.

We are delighted to announce that we now have three new Graduate Associates: Rosie Wyles, who holds an AHRC Research Studentship at the APGRD, and works on the performance reception in antiquity of Euripides' *Heracles*, *Andromeda* and *Telephus* under Edith Hall at Durham; Eleftheria Ioannidou (St Cross College), whose thesis addresses adaptations of Greek tragedy from 1970 to the present; and Elina Dagonaki (St Hugh's College), who works on the changing concept of revenge in Euripides' *Electra* and *Orestes*, with special reference to the reception of these plays in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## PART-TIME RESEARCH ASSISTANT -

### ANCIENT DRAMA AND MODERN MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Applications are invited for this part-time, three-year post which is funded by the grant from the Onassis Foundation. The deadline for applications is 10 October 2005. Further details are available at [www.classics.ox.ac.uk/faculty/jobs/index.html](http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/faculty/jobs/index.html).

## GREEK TRAGEDY AND THE BRITISH THEATRE, 1660-1914



*Greek Tragedy and the British Theatre, 1660-1914*, by Edith Hall and Fiona Macintosh, has been published by Oxford University Press. 768 pages. £60 (hardback). ISBN 0-19-815087-3.

This lavishly illustrated book offers the first full, interdisciplinary investigation of the historical evidence for the presence of ancient Greek tragedy in the post-Restoration British theatre, where it reached a much wider audience – including women – than had access to the original texts. Archival research has excavated substantial amounts of new material, both visual and literary, which is presented in chronological order. But the fundamental aim is to explain

why Greek tragedy, which played an élite role in the curricula of largely conservative schools and universities, was magnetically attractive to political radicals, progressive theatre professionals, and to the aesthetic avant-garde.

All Greek has been translated, and the book will be essential reading for anyone interested in Greek tragedy, the reception of ancient Greece and Rome, theatre history, British social history, English studies, or comparative literature.

### OTHER NEWS ON APGRD PUBLICATIONS

- ☛ *Agamemnon in Performance, 458 BC-AD 2004*, edited by Fiona Macintosh, Pantelis Michelakis, Edith Hall, and Oliver Taplin, will be published by Oxford University Press in November 2005.
- ☛ Finally, we are very pleased to announce that the proceedings of our September 2004 'Aristophanes: Upstairs and Downstairs' conference are to be published in 2007 by Legenda, who published our first book *Medea in Performance, 1500-2000*.

### THE OUCDS ORESTES MARKS 125 YEARS OF THE GREEK PLAY AT OXFORD

The Oxford University Classical Drama Society will be presenting Euripides' *Orestes* as the Oxford Greek Play 2005. The tragedy, performed in ancient Greek with English surtitles, will run at the Oxford Playhouse, 12-15 October 2005, alongside a full programme of educational talks and events ([www.orestes.co.uk](http://www.orestes.co.uk)).

A small exhibition celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Greek Play at Oxford (taking the landmark 1880 *Agamemnon* as its starting point), will be in the Playhouse bar during the run. Arranged by Amanda Wrigley (who is writing a book on Greek plays on Oxford stages, with a special focus on the Balliol Players), the exhibition will later move to the Classics Centre.

### EVENTS ELSEWHERE

A postgraduate conference on 'Ancient and Modern Responses to Greek Tragedy' will be held at the University of Durham, 16-17 December 2005. The conference intends to provide a platform for the discussion of theoretical and evidential issues postgraduates may face while investigating ancient Greek tragedies and their reception. The three main sessions, to be led by Oliver Taplin, Felix Budelmann and Edith Hall respectively, will be on Images (interpreting visual evidence), Texts (the relation between the textual prototypes and subsequent versions and responses), and Theory (models for analysing the reception of canonical playscripts). The website for the conference is at [www.dur.ac.uk/mary-rose.wyles/AMRGT](http://www.dur.ac.uk/mary-rose.wyles/AMRGT). Please contact the organisers [ranja.knobl@durham.ac.uk](mailto:ranja.knobl@durham.ac.uk) and [mary-rose.wyles@durham.ac.uk](mailto:mary-rose.wyles@durham.ac.uk) for further information.

The Classical Reception Studies Network is holding a series of eight day-long research training workshops for postgraduates from 12 October 2005. Further details at [www2.open.ac.uk/ClassicalStudies/GreekPlays/crsn/meetings/events/graduateseries/graduateseries05.htm](http://www2.open.ac.uk/ClassicalStudies/GreekPlays/crsn/meetings/events/graduateseries/graduateseries05.htm).

A postgraduate conference on 'Staging of Classical Drama around 2000' will be held at the Institute of Classical Studies in Prague, 1-3 December 2005 ([www.clavmon.cz/aktual/session.pdf](http://www.clavmon.cz/aktual/session.pdf)).

### CONTACT DETAILS

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