



ARCHIVE OF PERFORMANCES OF GREEK & ROMAN DRAMA

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Newsletter no. 14 (Winter 2007-2008)

APGRD LECTURES

ALL ARE WELCOME!

DAVID BEARD

(Lecturer, School of Music, University of Cardiff)

' "Incidental" Music? Settings of Greek Tragedy by Judith Weir and Harrison Birtwistle'

2.15pm, Monday 28 April 2008, Classics Centre Lecture Theatre.

JOANNA PAUL

(Lecturer, School of Archaeology, Classics & Egyptology, University of Liverpool)

will give a lecture (title to be announced)

2.15pm, Monday 19 May 2008, Classics Centre Lecture Theatre.

THE ONASSIS PROGRAMME

Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Onassis Foundation, we are extremely happy to announce that the Onassis Programme for the Performance of Greek Drama in Oxford is able to continue its work for a further three years.

CLOUDCUCKOOLAND

Eco warriors and bird poo... Aristophanes' *Birds* for kids

The Onassis Programme is proud to have commissioned *Cloudcuckooland*, a new musical for ages 7+ based on Aristophanes' *Birds*, with book and lyrics by Stephen Sharkey and music by Alex Silverman. The show will open in Oxford for six performances from 13 February, then tour to Hammersmith, Belfast, Newcastle, Bridgwater, Newport, Sheffield, Brighton, Armagh, Sutton and Greenwich until 27 April. It is performed by seven actor musicians (who play more instruments between them than you would think possible). This modern adaptation contains lots of slapstick, clowning, juggling, ludicrous big bird costumes and a healthy dollop of political satire. For more information (including group bookings, workshops and cast recording!) visit www.onassis.ox.ac.uk/cuckooland.htm. Tour dates:

13-16 February, North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford (01865 319 450; www.thenorthwall.com)

18-24 February, Riverside Studios, Hammersmith (020 8237 1111; www.riversidestudios.co.uk)

28 February - 1 March, The Round, Newcastle (0191 2605 605; www.the-round.com)

6-8 March, Old Museum Arts Centre, Belfast (028 9023 3332; www.oldmuseumartscentre.org)

12-13 March, Central Library Theatre, Sheffield (booking via 0114 249 6000)

18 March, Greenwich Theatre, London (020 8858 7755; www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk)

22 March, Marketplace Theatre, Armagh (028 3752 1821; www.marketplacearmagh.com)

28 March, Riverside Suite, Newport Centre, Newport (01633 656 757 www.newport.gov.uk)

5-6 April, Charles Cryer Studio Theatre, Carshalton (0208 770 6990; www.suttontheatres.co.uk)

16 April, Bridgwater Arts Centre, Bridgwater (01278 422 700; www.bridgwaterartscentre.co.uk)

27 April, Komedia, Brighton (01273 647100; www.komedia.co.uk)

RED LADIES

Clod Ensemble

Twenty-two women, identically dressed, clandestine and possibly dangerous descend on the city complete with a seven-piece band. Who are they? What do they want? Do their stilettos pose a threat to national security? Be vigilant! Operation Oxford to be announced imminently: www.onassis.ox.ac.uk/RedLadies.htm.

'BLOOD FOR GHOSTS: MODERNISM AND THE CLASSICS'

TRINITY TERM 2008

A weekly seminar on 'Blood for Ghosts: Modernism and the Classics' will be held at 5pm each Wednesday in Trinity Term (23 April to 11 June) in the Fraenkel Room, Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The organiser is Kathleen Riley (kathleen.riley@classics.ox.ac.uk).

'POLITICS, CULTURE AND THE ANCIENT WORLD IN POST-WAR GREECE'

2PM-6PM, 16 JUNE 2008

This half-day colloquium is to be held jointly under the auspices of the APGRD and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Oxford. Speakers include: Constanze Güthenke (Princeton), Dimitris Papanikolaou (Oxford), Pantelis Michelakis (Bristol), and Eleftheria Ioanndiou (Oxford).

8TH ANNUAL RHUL/ APGRD POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM: 'VIOLENCE'

17-18 JUNE 2008

The 8th Annual Postgraduate Symposium, organised by the Department of Drama & Theatre, Royal Holloway, University of London, and the APGRD, will take place on Tuesday 17 June at the Classics Centre, Oxford and on Wednesday 18 June 2008 at Royal Holloway, Egham. The Symposium focuses on the reception of ancient Greek drama, emphasizing the vivid afterlife of the dramatic texts through the revisitings of ancient tragedy and comedy by academics, playwrights and practitioners. This year's Symposium will focus on the theme of violence. The deadline for the call for papers is 28 March 2008. The organisers are Simon Perris at Oxford and Laura Cooper and Lottie Parkyn at Royal Holloway. Contact: postgradsymp@classics.oxford.ac.uk.

FRAM

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE, LONDON, 10 APRIL - 22 MAY 2008

Fram is a major new work by Tony Harrison, whose many plays include *The Oresteia*, *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus* and *Hecuba*. The epic sweep of this play takes us from a contemporary Westminster Abbey to the Arctic ship *Fram* – or *Forward* – specially built by the famous Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen who with his suicidal companion Johansen makes a bid on foot for the North Pole in the 1890s. Though incompatible, they share a bear fur sleeping-bag through the long winter. Nansen, still haunted by Johansen's ghost, is appointed to the League of Nations. As a figurehead of Russian famine relief in 1922, he conducts the first celebrity campaign, searching for means, however shocking, to make people care.

RNT PLATFORM

At 6pm on 9 May 2008 Tony Harrison is joined by Edith Hall and Oliver Taplin to explore the many links between Gilbert Murray, Greek drama, the League of Nations and a large part of the current Olivier repertoire. As well as Murray being a leading character in Harrison's *Fram*, he and his wife Mary were also the inspiration for fellow-Humanist Bernard Shaw's *Major Barbara* and *Adolphus Cusins*.

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