

The Bennington Theatre Guild

Presents

Sophocles'

ELECTRA

A Theatre Studio Production

Followed by a

DANCED EPILOGUE

Bennington College Theatre

June 9, 10 and 11, 1937

At 9:00 P. M.

Electra

I PROLOGUE: Overlooking Mycenae.

II AT MYCENEA: Before Agamemnon's palace.

CHARACTERS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Paidagogos . . . Edward Thommen
The old friend and tutor of Orestes

Orestes . . . Hal Kirk Sanders
Son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, now returning to avenge
his father

Pylades . . . Boris de Vadetzky
Orestes' friend and helper

Electra . . . Eleanor Mindling
Elder daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra

Chorus Leader . . . Mary Lou Taylor

Chorus of Mycenaean women: Margaret Goodwin, Honora Kam-
merer, Virginia Lunsford, Lydia Vaill, Marcia Ward, Elizabeth
Zimmerman

Chrysothemis . . . Avelia Rice
Electra's younger sister

Clytemnestra . . . June Parker
Queen of Argos, Electra's mother

Maidservant . . . Constance Ernst

Aegisthos . . . George Ebeling
Clytemnestra's lover and accomplice in Agamemnon's murder

English version by Francis Fergusson

The Danced Epilogue

I Salutation to Dike, Justice.

*II Acheron, Death.

III Dionysos, Rebirth.

IV Dike, Justice.

Choreography . . . Martha Hill

Music . . . Gregory Tucker

*Choreography of theme for two dancers by Betty Lindeman.

Group: Joyce Abbot, Betty Beebe, Betty Lindeman, Barbara
Miller, Jane Perry, Faith Reyher, Alice Rowley, Alison Smith,
Dorothea Smith.

Orchestra: Flute, Otto Luening; Reed Instruments, Robert
McBride; Percussion, Edward Glass, Robert Trieste and Gregory
Tucker; Voice, Ruth Ives.

The Legend

The House of Atreus, which ruled Argos and the city of Mycenae, was plagued by the gods with scandal and bloodshed for generations. When King Agamemnon, the head of that unlucky house, sailed with the army to take Troy, his fleet was becalmed at Aulis, and he was forced on the advice of the oracle to sacrifice his daughter in order to release the fleet. His Queen, Clytemnestra, was left behind, and in his absence took a lover, Aegisthos. When Agamemnon returned victorious after the Trojan War, Clytemnestra and Aegisthos murdered him and seized the throne. Electra, daughter of Clytemnestra and Agamemnon, then stole her younger brother Orestes, and sent him away with his tutor (Paidagogos) to be reared until he was old enough to restore order. Electra herself stayed at home, to bear witness to her mother's crimes and wait for Orestes.

This play opens with Orestes' return, and shows how he and Electra find each other again, purge the house of their father's killers, restore order and freedom, and reconcile the gods to the House of Atreus.

Other persons and places mentioned in the play.

MENELAUS, brother of Agamemnon, husband of Helen. (When Agamemnon sailed to Troy it was to help his brother recover Helen from the Trojan Paris.)

IPHIGENIA, daughter of Clytemnestra, whom Agamemnon sacrificed at Aulis.

PELOPS, the first of the House of Atreus to offend the gods. One of his crimes was to drown Myrtilus in the sea.

PHOCIS, the town to which Orestes was taken after his father's murder.

Play directed by Francis Fergusson. Regisseur, Emily Sweetser.

Setting designed by Arch Lauterer.

Choreography by Martha Hill.

Sound arrangement by Gregory Tucker.

Costumes designed cooperatively under the direction of Helen Lauterer by Betty Beebe, Helen Bottomley, Sally Brownell, Virginia Holland, Honora Kammerer, Virginia Todahl.

TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE PRODUCTION

Technical Director: Gerard Gentile, assisted by Betty Wellington, Caroline Wickett, Lucy Glazebrook, Nancy Hickey, Charlotte Young, Edward Glass, Ernest Watson.

Lighting: Nancy Elliot, Peggy Myers.

Costumes constructed by the designers and Jean Lee, Marcia Savage, Virginia Lunsford, Edward Thommen and other volunteers.

Dressers: Helen Bottomley, Lucy Glazebrook, Virginia Holland, Jean Lee.

Make-up: Sally Brownell, Marcia Savage, Virginia Todahl, Dorothy McWilliams.

Properties: Edward Glass.

Sound Instruments played by Gregory Tucker and Edward Glass.

INTERMISSION

10 MINUTES