

**THE**



**ORESTEIA**

**BY AESCHYLUS TRANSLATION**

**BY ROBERT FAGELS,**

**PRINCETON**

**UNIVERSITY**

**THE KSC SPEECH &**

**THEATRE DEPARTMENT**

**& DRAMA CLUB**

**NOVEMBER 5 6 7 - 10 11 12 8PM**

## THE AGAMEMNON

November 5, 10

Agamemnon: King of Argos, and son of Atreus	M. ERIC BEAVEN (NOV. 10) GREGORY DEJARNETT (NOV. 5)
Clytaemnestra: his wife	MARY ELLEN WHITAKER
Cassandra: captured daughter of King Priam	DEBORA HARRY STOHLER
Aegisthus: lover of Clytaemnestra	STEVE TERCHA
Watchman: of the King's palace	STEVEN ROBERT PRESTASH
Herald: from Agamemnon's army	STEVEN ROBERT PRESTASH
Chorus: of Argive elders	PHILIP M. HUBER, LEADER: DONALD HOUTZ, KATHRYN BRANCH, MICHAEL COOKE, EMILY COLE, CHARLES WALTON RHOADS, III
Attendants: of Clytaemnestra	SUSAN RAUCH, LEE ANN WILLIAMS, BONNIE ALLEN
Horses:	PETER RUBANDO, FRANK FLIZAK

It is the heroic age; several hundred years before the time of Aeschylus or Pericles. The siege of Troy has been in progress for a decade and from the start Clytaemnestra has never ceased to brood over Agamemnon's sacrifice of their daughter Iphigenia (made to supplicate favorable winds for the Greek armada). She has taken as lover Aegisthus, her husband's enemy and cousin—who has his own score to settle with the king. For it was Aegisthus's father, Thyestes, to whom Agamemnon's father, Atreus, served up his own children to eat at a banquet. The fact that this was done as a reprisal for Thyestes's having seduced his brother's wife made no difference. Aegisthus now feels it incumbent on him to avenge his father and so add the next link in the chain of family crime. The queen too has been waiting. She has posted a watchman on the roof of the royal palace at Argos to tell her the exact moment when the beacons will flash home the news of Troy's downfall, and so the end of the war and the imminent return of her husband.

## THE LIBATION BEARERS

November 6, 11

Orestes: son of Agamemnon and Clytaemnestra	MICHAEL STEPHEN COOKE
Electra: his sister	BONNIE ALLEN
Clytaemnestra: queen of Argos and wife of Aegisthus	MARY ELLEN WHITAKER
Aegisthus: now king of Argos	STEVE TERCHA
Cilissa: Orestes' old nurse	EMILY JEAN COLE
Pylades: companion of Orestes	STEVEN ROBERT PRESTASH
Servant: of Aegisthus	DONALD HOUTZ
Chorus: of captive Trojan women	DEBORA HARRY STOHLER, LEADER: KATHRYN BRANCH, WENDY HAYMAN

Orestes, returning from exile, recognizes Electra, his sister, at the tomb of Agamemnon. It seems that Clytaemnestra has been disturbed by a dream. She has sent out her slaves with Electra to offer up libations for the murdered man. After Orestes has made himself known to his sister he conceives a plan of entering the palace with his companion, Pylades, and doing away with his mother and her former paramour, now her husband, Aegisthus.

It is morning; the place is Argos, outside the royal palace, with the tomb of Agamemnon in the background. Orestes and Pylades enter, dressed as travelers. Orestes catches sight of his father's tomb.

## THE EUMENIDES

November 7, 12

The Pythia: priestess of Apollo	BONNIE ALLEN
Apollo: patron of the Delphic shrine	GREGORY DEJARNETT
Orestes: son and murderer of Clytaemnestra	MICHAEL STEPHEN COOKE
Hermes: messenger of the gods	STEVEN ROBERT PRESTASH
Ghost of Clytaemnestra: late queen of Argos	MARY ELLEN WHITAKER
Chorus of Eumenides: the Furies	WENDY HAYMAN, LEADER DONALD HOUTZ, KATHRYN BRANCH, PHILIP M. HUBER, MICHELE FITCH
Pallas Athena: patron goddess of Athens	DANESSA MALLOY
Men: of the Jury	STEVE TERCHIA, KERRY BRUNNER, EMILY JEAN COLE, CHERYL SANDT, JANE WALLACE, KARLA WEINHOFFER, STEVEN HANDLEY, ADRIA STACKHOUSE

Orestes, maddened by the pursuit of his mother's Furies, hurries from land to land trying to escape them. He comes to Apollo's sanctuary at Delphi, hoping that since it was Apollo who instigated him to his act of vengeance, Apollo will save him. The Furies meanwhile are asleep in the recesses of the shrine, exhausted by their chase. It is early afternoon: The Pythia, an old woman, emerges into the outer court and lifts up her hands in an attitude of prayer.

**The audience should please rise during the prologus and exodus of the chorus.  
The taking of pictures during the show is not permitted.**

### **Acknowledgements:**

**Program notes:** PAUL ROCHE, *The Orestes Plays of Aeschylus*

**Schaeffer Auditorium Staff:** HUNTER YODER, *Carpenter*; DONNA BROADWATER, *Electrician*; JANET MCGEE, *Costume*; BRIDGET HOWELL-CLARK, *Costume*; JENNIFER DAWSON

**Quintet:** DEBBIE KAMMLER, *Flute*; ANNE HUGHES, *Oboe*; VERONICA ROKOSNY, *Clarinet*; CURTIS BROWN, *Bass Clarinet*; PATRICK CONRAD, *Timpani*

**Special Thanks to:** MICHAEL STEPHEN COOKE, *masks and sculpture*; MICHAEL FITCH, *construction of armor*; MRS. ERNEST HOUTZ, *donation of costume material*; PAUL LAINCZ, *photography*; THEODORA LEIGHTON, *construction of horses heads*.