

**ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY
THEATRE GUILD**

**THE MEDEA
of
EURIPIDES**

AT THE HUT

Monday - - October 25
Tuesday - - October 26
Wednesday - - October 27
Thursday - - October 28

1948

"THE MEDEA OF EURIPIDES"

Producer's Note

This play of Euripides was first produced in B.C. 431, but the time of the action is archaic. Jason having won the Golden Fleece from the King of barbarian Colchis with the help of that king's daughter, the princess Medea, returns to Iolcos his ancestral heritage usurped by his uncle Pelias. Medea procures the death of Pelias by a trick, an act which forces both Jason and Medea with their two young sons to fly for their lives. They land and settle in Corinth where the old King Creon decides to wed his only daughter to Jason. Jason, ambitious and weary of his untamed barbarian, falls in with Creon's plan and sets aside the princess Medea.

It is at this point the tragedy begins. In this production the technique applied to the ancient traditional Greek drama (the gilded masks, the stylised chanting chorus, etc.) has been carefully eschewed and the story enacted with a simple realism. It seemed to me that the greatness of the play is more apparent treated in this way than with all the trappings of tradition, which, though beautiful and interesting, yet serve in some measure to cloak its essential greatness and simplicity.

Of the various translations available, that by Gilbert Murray has been chosen because it is the most dramatic and though at times the lines are overweighted with Victorian decor, the play nevertheless comes through to us as the great human and poetic tragedy it is.

The modernized American version by Robinson Jeffers was considered and rejected. In this adaptation the dialogue is heavy-footed and unpoetic and the whole text curiously lacking in the humanity of Euripides.

P.H.

CAST

(in order of appearance)

MEDEA'S OLD NURSE, *now nurse to Medea's children*

STELLA SOBELS

ATTENDANT TO MEDEA'S CHILDREN MARTIN KETLEY

MEDEA, *daughter of Aietes, King of Colchis* PATRICIA HACKETT

CREON, *King of Corinth* SYDNEY DOWNIE

AEGEUS, *King of Athens* FRANK GARGRO

JASON, *chief of the Argonauts, nephew of Pelias, King of Iolcos*

in Thessaly DENNIS WINTERBOTTOM

LEADER OF THE WOMEN OF CORINTH IRIS THOMAS

WOMEN OF CORINTH HELEN WESTERN, HELEN GEORGE

NOREEN URWIN, JOAN ISAACS

THE TWO SONS OF MEDEA AND JASON

RICHARD CLARKE and ROBERT PENNINGTON

The scene is a street in Corinth, showing the front entrance
of Medea's house

The play is produced by PATRICIA HACKETT

Introductory music by JEAN COOK

Setting - - - - - Michael James

Lighting - - - - - Thomas Keen

UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD

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Patrons

Professor J. G. Cornell
Dr. C. E. Fenner

Professor John Bishop
Mr. F. S. Johnston

Committee

Dr. T. D. Campbell
Mr. R. Donaldson
Miss Rosemary Fitch
Miss Patricia Hackett
Miss Barbara Howard

Professor C. Jury
Mr. H. Kollosche
Mr. Roy Leaney
Dr. E. McLaughlin
Mrs. I. Thomas

Miss G. D. Walsh

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NOTICES

Communications, enquiries, and subscriptions (15/-) may be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Miss E. Wedd, Harvard Chambers, North Terrace (C. 2315), or care of the University

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E. Wedd, Hon. Secy.