

McGILL CLASSICAL STUDIES PRESENTS



AESCHYLUS  
**AGAMEMNON**

McGill Classical Studies Presents

**AESCHYLUS**  
**AGAMEMNON**

in a new English translation by  
Carina de Klerk, Lynn Kozak, and David Whiteside

directed by  
Carina de Klerk and Lynn Kozak

music by  
Jeffrey Levin, with additional music by Brahm Kleinman and  
Lizzy Ten-Hove

costumes by  
Andrew Chaban and Ioana Tutu  
stage manager  
Laura Petryshen  
production assistant  
Andrew Chaban

**7, 8, 9 FEBRUARY 2011**

\$10/ \$5 Students. Doors 7 pm, Performances 8 pm  
La Sala Rossa  
4848 boul. St-Laurent  
Montreal

**McGILL CLASSICS PLAY**

The 2011 McGill Classics Play begins what will hopefully become a new tradition of Classical drama at McGill. The goals of the Classics Play are simple: to give our Classics students a new perspective on material that they usually only experience as written texts in the classroom, to give non-Classics students an opportunity to experience Ancient drama, and to bring that drama to the greater Montreal community. Inclusivity is key to these goals, and everyone who wants to participate can. If you are interested in helping to support the McGill Classics Play in the future, please email [lynn.kozak@mcgill.ca](mailto:lynn.kozak@mcgill.ca).

**ANIA SZNEPS** – *Choros*

My name is Ania Szneps, I'm part of the chorus and here's my quote: "I like cats and I like chocolate." I'd like to thank everyone for coming to see the show.

**LIZZY TEN-HOVE** – *Kassandra*

Lizzy Ten-Hove, a U1 student in Classics and English, has been acting since she was eight, but this is her first Greek tragedy. Some of her previous roles include Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Ariel in *The Tempest*, and, most recently, Prince Hal in *Henry IV, Part 1*. She has also served as music director for several community theatre groups. Beyond theatre, her interests include poetry, cooking, and Pre-Raphaelite paintings. If you ask her, she will teach you to dance with swords.

**DAVID WHITESIDE** – *Aigisthos, co-translator*

David Whiteside studies Classics and Geography (Urban Systems) at McGill, and is also enrolled in the Studio Arts program at Concordia. He started acting during the fall semester of this year, in the English Department production of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, and is very excited to be moving back in theatrical time to Aeschylus. David was one of the translators of the script for this production of the Agamemnon, and a thrilling part of the rehearsal process has been seeing aspects of his interpretation of the text come to life. He hopes you enjoy it too!

**LAUREN WILSON** – *Choros*

Throughout her acting career, Lauren has been a part of a number of choruses, including her favorite experience of being a pirate in the musical *Peter Pan*. During her spare time between play practices, Lauren double majors in Classics and Psychology and hopes someday to write a paper properly diagnosing Klytaimnestra's disturbing mental disorders. She also enjoys translating ancient Greek until the late hours of the night, maybe someday just for fun! Lauren's dream is to travel the world and visit every ancient ruin, proving she knows more about them than any other tourists.

**BRIANA YERBURY** – *Herald*

I've been gone for a while, but I'm back with good news! I am not an actor, nor am I a Classics major. But I practice the arts of politics, and have been called a lover of knowledge. I received the calling (or email) to be in this play, and many thanks to everyone for their hard work in this short time.

**HINDA YOUNG** – *Guard*

Hinda Young is a U2 Classics student with a flaming passion for Greek tragedy and admits to crying after seeing Euripides' *Medea* for the first time last semester. She gives a special thanks to Lynn, Carina, and everyone else involved for making the Agamemnon production happen.

**CARINA DE KLERK** – *co-director, co-translator*

Carina de Klerk is a polyglot, a luddite, and an iconophile. She has been contemplative and contemptative since 1986.

**LYNN KOZAK** – *co-director, co-translator*

I would like to dedicate my work on this play to my Busia, Sophie 'Zos' Kozak, the best busia that I can imagine, the truest friend that I could ever hope for, and the feistiest lady that I have ever known.

**LEWIS MILLER** – *Choros*

Lewis Miller is a student of both Classics and Philosophy. He most enjoys spending time with his lovely girlfriend as well as reading in the library. This is Lewis' first role in a Greek tragedy.

**ALEX MYHR** – *Choros*

Alex was born in Montreal and studies classics at McGill University. He has performed in several productions in the theatre department at Marianopolis College.

**BEN NIKOTA** – *Bass Guitar*

Ben Nikota is a third year student in the classics department who is playing bass in this production of the Agamemnon. He has been a musician since childhood, and plays guitar, piano, and bass. He wishes to thank many people for their part in helping the music department of the play: Zak Davis, for providing the drum kit, Steven Lee Rachel (our drummer) for volunteering to play drums at short notice, Parrish Wright, for helping move music and equipment across the downtown core, and his two roommates for tolerating many late-night band practices. Though not part of the play, the work these people did was key.

**KATERINA PATOURI** – *Choros*

Katerina Patouri is so glad that she had the chance to participate in something as substantial as this in her first year. She'd like to thank those who patiently helped her stumble through her lines and more importantly, those who constantly push her in the right direction. Και για τους γονείς μου ήθελαν τόσο πολύ να έρθουν να με δούνε.

**TAVIS SCHROEDER** – *Agamemnon*

Tavis Schroeder, a prairie boy who left his boots behind, takes the stage as Agamemnon, his first role since Shere Khan in *The Jungle Book*. With his marriage to Klytaimnestra crumbling, he is single and on the prowl. He enjoys long walks on the beach, brilliant sunsets, candle-lit dinners, and bubble baths for two. Shoot me a beacon fire!

**ALEX SCHULLER** – *Singer*

Alex Schuller is a Classics student who likes to sing in choirs and learn Biblical Hebrew in her spare time. Her guilty pleasure: pre-1965 country.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This production began in the classroom, as I taught Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* (my first time teaching the play) as the Advanced Greek text this past Autumn. The Greek is very difficult- the language is sometimes maddeningly obscure, while also vividly visceral. While I was teaching the text, we also started a translation group, which met 1-2 times a week throughout the term, with several Classics students coming along. Here I must stop to thank Carina de Klerk and David Whiteside, who became the main fixtures of the group, and who, along with myself, spent much of the winter break finishing the translation. They each have distinct poetic voices, and each contributed so much to what our final translation is.

The play's world is one of complex, often conflicting, ethical systems, and characters operating with ambiguous and overlapping motivations- there is rarely a 'right' or 'wrong', but instead an awful, oppressive, but sometimes beautiful, forwards momentum. This momentum is why 'metal' seemed a music appropriate to the play- thanks to Steve Kozak for introducing me to Them Crooked Vultures and Muse (the main musical influences for the play), Hans Beck for additional metal education, Jeff Levin for composing metal for our piece, and our musicians- Ben Nikota, the devoted bass player, Steve Rachel, a last minute and enthusiastic addition, and Brahm Kleinman, who came in late but saved the day in many ways, adding new music and wireless mics to our production. Thanks also to Lizzy Ten-Hove, who wrote the music and lyrics for her own Cassandra scene.

Once metal was the music of choice, the next step was venue, and after seeing a gig at the Sala Rossa in early November, I did everything possible to acquire the space for our production. I'm so happy that we're performing here, and thanks to Steve and Sylvain and everyone at the Sala Rossa for all their help.

Other thanks must go out again to Hans Beck, for covering some of our printing costs, the McGill History and Classical Studies Department, for much moral support (particularly my friends in the department, who have been the 'stays of my ship' throughout this process), and Laura Petryshen and Andrew Chaban for all their help with the details. Thanks especially to Carina de Klerk for being such a wonderful co-director, full of strong ideas and good sense (both of which were often needed), and for all her work with the actors. I am so proud to be a part of this production, and want to thank all the cast for their hard work and contributions, off and on the stage- especially the chorus, who rarely had a break, but rarely complained.

-Lynn Kozak

## TRANSLATION NOTE

Aeschylus' language is compact, visual, and thick with compound words. We wanted to carry these qualities of the ancient Greek over into modern English. Feedback is always appreciated.

Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* was first produced in Athens in 458 BC, as the first part of a trilogy that included the *Libation Bearers* and the *Eumenides*.

## **SYNOPSIS**

Paris, a Trojan, stole Helen, the wife of Menelaos and the most beautiful woman in the cosmos. Menelaos called up his brother Agamemnon and the big bosses of all the Achaian tribes. They set out for Troy (Ilion), but Artemis sent winds to stop the fleet at Aulis, where Agamemnon sacrificed his daughter Iphigenia to calm them. After ten years fighting the Trojans, the Achaians sacked the city took and took back Helen. Agamemnon is sailing home, and his wife, Klytaimnestra, is waiting...

## **THE CAST**

Guard	Hinda Young
Klytaimnestra	Negar Banakar
Herald	Briana Yerbury
Agamemnon	Tavis Schroeder
Kassandra	Lizzy Ten-Hove (with Alexandra Schuller)
Aigisthos	David Whiteside

## **THE CHOROS**

Giselle Boresta	Alex Myhr
Zoe Forest-Cooter	Katerina Patouri
Elizabeth Lee Gill	Anna Szneps
Lewis Miller	Lauren Wilson

## **MUSICIANS**

Brahm Kleinman (guitar)  
Ben Nikota (bass guitar)  
Steven Lee Rachel (drums)  
Alexandra Schuller (singer)

### **NEGAR BANAKAR** – *Klytaimnestra*

Negar Banakar has been performing theatrically since age 10, and has also been involved in stage management for 4 years. Her favourite roles include Antigone, Wicked Witch of the West (*Wizard of Oz*), and Elizabeth in *Spoon River*. She loves to read and write along with playing the piano, when not dramatizing her own life. Negar would like to thank her parents for their unbelievable encouragement and presence at every show...even those hundreds of kilometres away from home, her two theatre mentors Kari Bergerson and Andrea Zwaigen, as well as the friends who show endless support by being shoulders to cry on when stressed and hours of running lines! Enjoy!

### **GISELLE BORESTA** – *Choros*

Giselle Boresta has performed in over 15 plays and musicals in high school, but she is excited to be performing in her first university play! Giselle also has danced ballet for all of her life, and is classically trained in singing. *Agamemnon* is the first Greek tragedy she will be performing in, and she is enthralled to become a part of a tradition of theatre spanning millennia. She would like to thank the Classics program for putting the show together, and her fellow choros members for answering her many questions about the show.

### **ZOE FOREST-COOTER** – *Choros*

Genita parentibus qui legationes, quattuor continentibus habitavi: Africae, Asiae (diserte plus Indiae), Europae et Americae Septemtrionis. Scientiis maiorum jam duos annos studeo. Fascinata linguis, litteris, peregrinationibus, saltationibus ac divinarum rerum scientia. Primum occasio ut partem fabulae capiam histrionaliter me gerens. Ne me satis exerceo in scriptione operum latinorum. Spero verba satis clara esse.

### **ELIZABETH LEE GILL** – *Choros*

I am Elisabeth Lee Gill, destroyer of worlds.

Thanks Lynn, for putting me in this.

To my friends who have come to see it: It means a lot to me to have you here.

My roomies, Hank and Jonah. Emily, Zach, Amanda, Christine, Joseph.

Matt, you're my heart, son. And one among the unseen-- I miss you.

Others: enjoy the night.

P.S.: Drinks later?

### **BRAHM KLEINMAN** – *Guitar*

Brahm Kleinman is a charming, ruggedly handsome, and above all modest young man doing his MA in Classics at McGill University. He has played guitar in several awful local metal bands and recently performed a folk metal cover of Lipps Inc.'s *Funkytown* with his roommate Corey and her cat, Herschel. Along with music and writing about himself in the third person, he enjoys hockey, history, fiction, hiking, ancient ruins and David Bowie. He also has a slightly unhealthy obsession with narwhals. He'd like to thank all his awesome friends and family for their support.