

Euripides lived from 485 to 406 (B.C.), the "Bacchae" was written at the close of his life, when he was living in exile in Macedonia, having been driven out of his native Athens for his radical views.

"Unlike most Greek tragedies the "Bacchae" is a play about an historical event - the introduction into Hellas of a new religion. When Euripides wrote, the event lay in the far past, and the memory of it survived only in mystical form; the new religion had long since been acclimatized and accepted as part of Greek life. But it still stood as the expression of a religious attitude different from anything implied in the cult of the traditional Olympian gods; and the forces liberated and embodied by the original movement were active in other forms in the Athens of Euripides' day."

It is plain that these forces are still active in the world of today, and are indeed a part of human nature. For this reason this is one of the most modern of all the Greek tragedies, and until recently has been one of the most puzzling. This production owes much to a recent book, "Euripides and Dionysus" by R.P. Winnington-Ingram.

This version has been specially arranged to assist a modern audience to bridge a gap of over 2300 years. Whereas the original version was enacted in the open air in a theatre of thousands, this has been shaped to an intimate theatre that uses modern resources of light and sound. For the same reason we have deliberately avoided using the original Greek decor. Our scenery and costumes are of no particular period or place, but merely expressive of the drama itself. We would like the spectator to feel that this play was written yesterday, and that to all intents this is its first production.

THE FREDERIC WOOD THEATRE

presents



THE
BACCHAE

by Euripides

directed by ROBERT ORCHARD

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 7, 1959

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE BACCHAE

by Euripides

In a new version specially arranged for this production

THIS PRODUCTION IS HUMBLY DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE DR. GARNETT SEDGEWICK WHO REPEATEDLY URGED THE UNIVERSITY TO PRESENT "THE BACCHAE".

CAST

(in order of appearance)

DIONYSUS	Richard Irwin
CHORUS of Bacchanal Women	Mary Coke
	Maxine Gadd
	Shawn Harold
	Shirley Larter
	Margaret Mallough
	Vicky Sampson
	Mary Ann Stephen
TEIRESIAS (an old priest)	John White
ATTENDANT (messenger)	David Allan
CADMUS (founder of Thebes)	Guy Palmer
PENTHEUS (grandson of Cadmus, now king of Thebes) ..	Ion Berger
FIRST GUARD	Campbell Lane
SECOND GUARD	Brian Hurst
HERDSMAN	Ed Hanson
AGAUE	Milla Andrew

BONGO DRUMMER - Felix Assoon

The action takes place before the palace of Pentheus in Thebes

CHORAL DANCES prepared under the direction of Helen Goodwin
MASKS by Marian Travers

ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR	Joyce Sobell
DESIGN	Robert Orchard
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND STAGE MANAGER	Sidney Bennett
COSTUMES	Jessie Richardson
	Berna Chappell
MAKE-UP	Myra Kelsey
TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS	Robert Dubberley
	June Gillespie
USHERS	Bianca Barnes
PRODUCTION	Dorothy Somerset
	Jessie Richardson

Wigs, properties and sound by members of the Frederic Wood Theatre Committee under the chairmanship of Alice Fraser

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The Purchasing Department
The Department of Buildings and Grounds
The Vancouver Sun
The Vancouver Province