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The Murderers: Agamemnon & Electra (2003)

Spring 2003

The Murderers: Agamemnon & Electra Ticket Order Form

Providence College

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april 10 - 13

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aeschylus

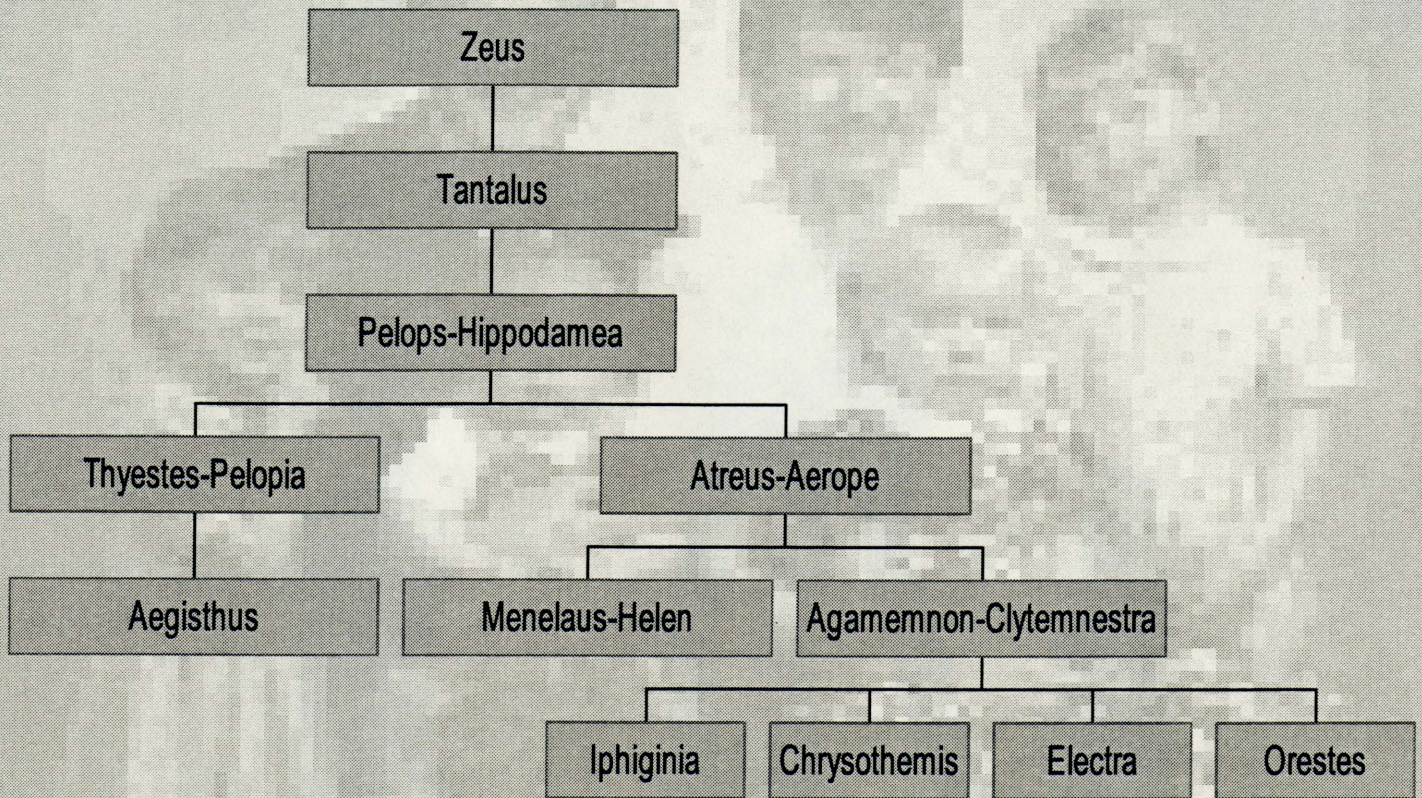
agamemnon the murderers: electra

sophocles

sculpture by alberto giacometti

adapted by john barton and kenneth cavander
directed by john garrity
music by mary casale
scenic design by jeremy woodward
costume design by jane lewis '03
lighting design by deb sullivan

The House of Atreus



All ticket orders will be filled in the order received. Tickets will be mailed after March 31st.

aeschylus

agamemnon the murderers: electra

sophocles

Detach this form and return it to the Blackfriars Theatre to order tickets.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone _____

address change or correction

Please return this completed form with a check payable to:

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE BLACKFRIARS THEATRE
 Blackfriars Theatre Box Office
 Providence College, 549 River Avenue
 Providence, RI 02918-0001

- Thursday April 10 8:00 PM
- Friday April 11 8:00 PM
- Saturday April 12 8:00 PM
- Sunday April 13 2:00 PM

_____ \$7.00 regular admission

_____ \$5.00 senior citizen and
 PC employee

_____ \$3.00 student

\$ _____ Total

“Tell it, tell the story...”

Imagine, if you will, that you are one of four siblings. One of your sisters has been sent away. You assume she is dead. Your beloved brother is in danger -- to send him into exile would ensure his safety, but increase your loneliness. Your remaining sibling at home -- another sister-- is annoying. She is happy as long as she is comfortable and gives no thought to your absent and adored father, a general who has been away at Troy, fighting a war of honor. Since he has been gone, your mother has taken up with another man. You, Electra, hate this man for stepping into your father's place.

Now, imagine that you are the mother of those four children. Two of them are gone -- one daughter sacrificed by her own father to please the gods into providing a steady wind to carry his warships to Troy. Your only son is hidden from you by your daughter, Electra. You fear that one day he will be a danger to you. Of your two children at home now, one daughter is weak, and the other is Electra, whose resentments are visible. The father of your children has been away at war, but his absence is comfortable for you. After all, he wed you after killing your first husband, his kinsman. Now, you, Clytemnestra, have taken a lover, Agamemnon's rival, Aegisthus.

Lastly, you are Agamemnon, husband of Clytemnestra. You gained your family's throne, the House of Atreus at Mycenae through murder, continuing a pattern of familial brutality. Ten years ago you sailed to Troy to avenge the theft of your brother's wife by Paris. Now you are returning to your throne, and to your wife, Clytemnestra, mother of your four children. You are certain she has not forgiven you for sacrificing your daughter Iphigenia, but you have the spoils of war with you to comfort you.

This, then, is the backstory for *Agamemnon* by Aeschylus and *Electra* by Sophocles. The details of this history and what unfolds in these two plays varies slightly from source to source, but all confirm the criminal and violent history of the House of Atreus. In this mythic tale of Greek justice, the retribution for murder is murder, and the complex genealogy of the family pits siblings and half-siblings against each other and against the parents who bore them. We watch the decisions and fates of individuals, but the destiny of the community is at stake as well. The actions of the ruling family will bring the pleasures or the curses of the gods to the Peloponnesian Peninsula, and the hand of the gods may guide an act of vengeance through one generation to another.

Now, the Trojan War is over. The victorious armies return with their general. Electra's hatred, Clytemnestra's resentment, and Agamemnon's arrogance will all meet at Mycenae. Murder, will once again visit the House of Atreus.

-- Susan Werner

Blackfriars Theatre

Providence College
549 River Avenue
Providence RI 02918

aeschylus

agamemnon the murderers: **electra**

sophocles

adapted by john barton and kenneth cavander



It is an old story.
A human story
Told many times.
I don't know if it matters,
I think it must
It won't stop telling.