

## Vision & Voices: Aquila Theatre in Euripides's Herakles

 Tags: [euripides](#), [herakles](#), [theater](#), [tragedy](#), [visions\\_voices](#)

Resource guide for the February 28, 2012 event.

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### Event Details



When: February 28, 2012 from 7:00 pm

Where: Bovard Auditorium

 Organized by the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Co-sponsored by USC Dornsife College Commons. For further information on this event: [visionsandvoices@usc.edu](mailto:visionsandvoices@usc.edu)
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### Related Research Guides

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### Event Description

 From the [Vision & Voices website](#):


Dedicated to reinventing classical theatre, Aquila Theatre has been called a "classically trained, modernly hip troupe" by the *New York Times*. They will perform *Herakles*, one of Euripides's finest and most challenging plays. Herakles is in the underworld performing one of his famous labors, bringing back the three-headed dog Cerberus. In his absence Lycus, the illegitimate and tyrannical king of Thebes, has determined to kill Herakles's father, wife and three sons. Herakles returns just in time to prevent their deaths, and to kill Lycus instead. However, Lyssa (madness personified) appears and causes Herakles to murder his wife and children.

The Athenian tragedy raises critical questions about the world: What is legitimate violence? How can we be human in a world that can seem inhuman? Can we accept catastrophes that happen to us for no justifiable reason? How do we make a place in our lives for these disasters? The play also shows the need for compassion and community in the face of vulnerability and misfortune. Following the performance, USC classics professor William Thalmann will engage the audience in conversation with Aquila artistic director Peter Meineck.

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- [Greek Drama: From Ritual to Theater](#) 

Abstract: Why do plays well over two millennia old still speak to audiences today? This program traces Greek theater from ancient harvest rites to the golden age of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes. Key scenes from *Antigone*, *Oedipus Tyrannus*, *Medea*, and *Lysistrata* show how these works remain relevant by exploring the timeless themes of honor, class, gender, sexuality, and politics. Essential concepts such as catharsis, hamartia, and the use of masks and a chorus are discussed.
- [Myth, History, and Drama](#)

Abstract: The remains of ancient theatres are spread across the territory of Greece, haunted by the shadows of Homer, of the myths that fill the epics and the tragedies, of the not-so-distant past of human sacrifice: a theatre built on a high acropolis, perhaps religious in character, an amphitheatre in a major city of the Achaean League, the theatre of ancient Psophis, scene of Euripides' *Alcmeon in Psophis*, the smallest theatre preserved, at a site renowned in Homeric times.

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### Necessity

*"Death I count a dreadful fate;  
but the man who wrestles with  
necessity I esteem a fool." -  
Megara*

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### Hope and Despair

*"The bravest man is he who relieth ever on his hopes, but despair is the mark of a coward." - Amphitryon*

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### Recommended Articles

- [Barglow, P., & Murphy, T. \(2011\). An early greek portrayal of a mad mind. The American Journal of Psychiatry, 168\(9\), 893-893.](#)
- [Beta, S. \(1999\). Madness on the comic stage: Aristophanes' wasps and euripides' heracles. Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies, 40\(2\), 135-157.](#)
- [Galinsky, K. \(2009\). The reception and performance of euripides' heracles: Reasoning madness. Journal of Hellenic Studies, 129, 263.](#)
- [Griffiths, E. M. \(2002\). Euripides' heracles and the pursuit of immortality. Mnemosyne, 55\(6\), 641-656.](#)
- [Johnson, J. F. \(2002\). Compassion and friendship in euripides' Herakles. Classical Bulletin, 78\(2\), 115-129.](#)
- [Kirkpatrick, J. & Dunn, F. M.\(2002\). Heracles, Cercopes, and Paracomed. Transactions of the American Philological Association 132\(1\), 29-61. \(Available through Project Muse\)](#)
- [Papadopoulou, T. \(2004\). Heracles and Hercules: The Hero's Ambivalence in Euripides and Seneca. Mnemosyne \(4th Series\), 57\(3\), 257-283.](#)


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### Databases

The following databases are a good place to begin your focused search for scholarly articles, newspaper and magazine articles, conference proceedings, and book chapters.

- [International Index to the Performing Arts Full Text](#) 

IPA draws its current content from more than 100 international performing arts periodicals from 9 countries, and also indexes feature performing arts articles and obituaries appearing in The New York Times and The Washington Post. IIPA covers nearly all aspects of the world of the performing arts, from the most scholarly studies to the latest crazes. Most IIPA records in the current coverage (1998 forward) contain an abstract.
- [JSTOR](#)

Established in 1997, JSTOR's first collection includes core journals in economics, history, political science, and sociology, as well as in other key fields in the humanities and social sciences. This collection also contains titles in ecology, mathematics, and statistics.
- [Project MUSE](#) 

MUSE provides access to the complete content (including all images) of nearly 500 current scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences.
- [ProQuest Research Library](#) 

A multi-disciplinary index suitable for both undergraduates and graduate students. A good place to begin your research.

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-"tragedy"

-"greek drama"

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### InterLibrary Loan & Document Delivery

If USC Libraries doesn't have what

### Recommended Books

Click on the title of each book to see if it is available for check out.


**Euripides - Bloom, Harold**

Call Number: PA3978.E88 2003

ISBN: 0791063569

Publication Date: 2002

History's greatest playwrights are covered in one set- Expert analyses by Harold Bloom and other notable critics- Ideal for class use- A must for all serious students of literature- Edited by an award-winning writer/educator Each Volume, Covering Three To Five Plays, Includes: - User's guide- Editor's note and introduction by Harold Bloom- A comprehensive biography of the playwright- Detailed plot summaries of each play- Extracts from important critical essays that examine important aspects of each work- A complete bibliography of the writer's plays- A list of critical works about the playwright and his works- An index of themes and ideas covered in the plays.

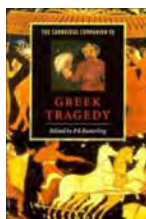

**The Context of Ancient Drama - Csapo, Eric & Slater, William J.**

Call Number: PA3024.C75 1995

ISBN: 0472105450

Publication Date: 1995

An easy-to-use guide to the nature and stagecraft of ancient plays

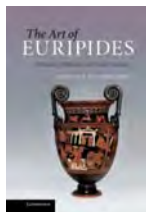

**The Cambridge Companion to Greek Tragedy - Easterling, P. E. (Editor)**

Call Number: PA3131.E28 1997

ISBN: 0521412455

Publication Date: 1997

As a creative medium, ancient Greek tragedy has had an extraordinarily wide influence: many of the surviving plays are still part of the theatrical repertoire, and texts like Agamemnon, Antigone, and Medea have had a profound effect on Western culture. This Companion is not a conventional introductory textbook but an attempt, by seven distinguished scholars, to present the familiar corpus in the context of modern reading, criticism, and performance of Greek tragedy. There are three main emphases: on tragedy as an institution in the civic life of ancient Athens, on a range of different critical interpretations arising from fresh readings of the texts, and on changing patterns of reception, adaptation, and performance from antiquity to the present. Each chapter can be read independently, but each is linked with the others, and most examples are drawn from the same selection of plays.


**The Art of Euripides - Mastronarde, Donald J.**

Call Number: PA3978.M37 2010

ISBN: 9780521768399

Publication Date: 2010-04-01

In this book Professor Mastronarde draws on the seventeen surviving tragedies of Euripides, as well as the fragmentary remains of his lost plays, to explore key topics in the interpretation of the plays. It investigates their relation to the Greek poetic tradition and to the social and political structures of their original setting, aiming both to be attentive to the great variety of the corpus and to identify commonalities across it. In examining such topics as genre, structural strategies, the chorus, the gods, rhetoric, and the portrayal of women and men, this study highlights the ways in which audience responses are manipulated through the use of plot structures and the multiplicity of viewpoints expressed. It argues that the dramas of Euripides, through their dramatic technique, pose a strong challenge to simple formulations of norms, to the reading of consistent human character, and to the quest for certainty and closure.

### Subject Guide



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### Fortune

**"For men's misfortunes oft times flag, and the stormy wind doth not always blow so strong, nor are the prosperous ever so; for all things change, making way for each other." - Amphitryon**

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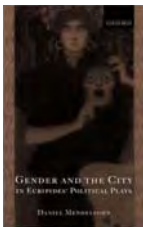
### Herakles Gone Mad - Meagher, Robert Emmet

Call Number: PA3973.H5 2006

ISBN: 1566566355

Publication Date: 2006

"In this volume, the author, translator, educator, and playwright Robert Emmet Meagher presents a new, eminently actable translation of Herakles along with a concise commentary on the play and an extensive essay on the trauma of war, the true face of heroism, and the healing power of friendship and community."--BOOK JACKET.



### Gender and the City in Euripides' Political Plays - Mendelsohn, Daniel

Call Number: PA3978.M43 2002

ISBN: 0199249563

Publication Date: 2003

This book is the first book-length study of Euripides' so-called 'political plays' (Children of Herakles and Suppliant Women) to appear in half a century. Still disdained as the anomalously patriotic or propagandistic' works of a playwright elsewhere famous for his subversive, ironic artistic ethos, the two works in question, notorious for their uncomfortable juxtaposition of political speeches and scenes of extreme feminine emotion, continue to be dismissed by scholars of tragedy as artistic failures unworthy of the author of Medea, Hippolytus, and Bacchae. The present study makes use of recent insights into classical Greek conceptions of gender (in real life and on stage) and Athenian notions of civic identity to demonstrate that the political plays are, in fact, intellectually subtle and structurally coherent exercises in political theorizing - works that use complex interactions between female and male characters to explore the advantages, and costs, of being a member of the polis.



### Heracles and Euripidean Tragedy - Papadopoulou, Thalia

Call Number: PA3973.H5P36 2005

ISBN: 0521851262

Publication Date: 2005

Euripides' Heracles is an extraordinary play of great complexity, exploring the co-existence of both positive and negative aspects of the eponymous hero. Euripides treats Heracles' ambivalence by showing his uncertain position after the completion of his labours and turns him into a tragic hero by dramatizing his development from the invincible hero of the labours to the courageous bearer of suffering. This book offers a comprehensive reading of Heracles examining it in the contexts of Euripidean dramaturgy, Greek drama and fifth-century Athenian society. It shows that the play, which raises profound questions on divinity and human values, deserves to have a prominent place in every discussion about Euripides and about Greek tragedy. Tracing some of Euripides' most spectacular writing in terms of emotional and intellectual effect, and discussing questions of narrative, rhetoric, stagecraft and audience reception, this work is required reading for all students and scholars of Euripides.



### Euripides and the language of craft - Stieber, Mary C. (Mary Clorinda)

Call Number: PA3992 .S75 2011

ISBN: 9789004189065

Publication Date: 2011

This first in-depth account of Euripides and the visual arts demonstrates how the tragedian used language to visual effect, whether through allusion or actual references to objects, motifs built around real or imaginary objects, or the use of technical terminology. The evidence presented in this study corroborates the concern for realism and the genre detail for which Euripides is parodied in Aristophanes Frogs and presents him as a man of his time, like Socrates, fully versed in the ways and means of the visual arts as well as the verbal. In revealing the extent of the visual inclination of Euripides language, this study reflects upon the larger dialogue between text and image, image and text.



### Greek Tragedy in Action - Taplin, Oliver

Call Number: PA3131.T37 1993

ISBN: 0415043123

Publication Date: 1994

Oliver Taplin's seminal study was revolutionary in drawing out the significance of stage action in Greek tragedy at a time when plays were often read purely as texts, rather than understood as performances. Professor Taplin explores nine plays, including Aeschylus' 'Agamemnon' and Sophocles' 'Oedipus the King.' The details of theatrical techniques and stage directions, used by playwrights to highlight key moments, are drawn out and related to the meaning of each play as a whole. With extensive translated quotations, the essential unity of action and speech in Greek tragedy is demonstrated. Now firmly established as a classic text, 'Greek Tragedy in Action' is even more relevant today, when performances of Greek tragedies and plays inspired by them have had such an extraordinary revival around the world.

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