

Shock Tactics



The BACCHAE of Euripides

Wilson's School
December 4 - 7

by Wole Soyinka

Wilson's School presents
SHOCK TACTICS in

THE BACCHAE OF EURIPIDES

by Wole Soyinka

Directed by Jeff Shaw

Opening night: 4 December 2002

- Running time: about 2 hours 40 minutes, including 20 minute interval
- Interval refreshments will be available in the foyer
- Please switch off mobile phones
- A video recording will be available. Details at the Box Office stand in the main foyer

The Story of *The Bacchae*

Kadmos founds Thebes by slaying a dragon and sowing its teeth in the ground. From the teeth springs a race of warriors, who marry his daughters Semele, Agave, Ino and Autonoe. Semele is seduced by the king of the gods, Zeus, and boasts to her sisters that she is pregnant with the son of god; but they deride her, and their disbelief seems to be proved right when Semele is killed by a lightning bolt. But the lightning bolt was cast by Hera, the jealous wife of Zeus, not the god himself; and Zeus rescues the unborn child and has it sewn into his thigh. Months later the child is born—Dionysos, a new god, but disowned by his family and spurned by the other immortal Olympians.

Dionysos is raised in Phrygia (in modern Turkey) and recruits a band of female followers, who dress in fawn skins and worship him with ecstatic devotion; he rewards them with the blessings of wine and super-human strength, with which they hunt wild animals and tear them apart bare-handed. Dionysos then travels to Greece, recruiting followers and spreading his dance in all the cities, until he comes at last to Thebes, the city of his birth. There he punishes the women who doubted his divinity by possessing them with a violent and destructive ecstasy; and Pentheus, son of Agave, now ruler of Thebes and his chief enemy, is eventually torn to pieces in the mountains by his own mother, convinced she has hunted down a lion cub.

SHOCK TACTICS are:

Dionysos	Rory Thompson
Slave Leader	Daniel Ward
Slaves	Joe Cruttwell
	Oran Hassan
	Tom McAweeney
	Daniel Simmonds
Herdsman	Andrew Simpson
Master of Revels	David Flaschner
Priests	James Campbell
	Nicholas Hadfield
	Edward Healey
	Michael Sinnerton
Floggers	Alex Hutchings
	Stephen Reid
	Marcus Schmitz
	David Trusson
Vestals/Bacchae	Amanda Akass
	Laura Kerr
	Katy McDonnell
	Marisa Saldhana
	Hayley Smith
	Jo Vinson
Old Slave	James Fritz
Tiresias	Brian Melican
Kadmos	James Barbour
Pentheus	David Clifford
Officer	Ben Gardner
Guards	Luke Hepworth
	Edward Healey
Agave	Laura Kerr

Other parts played by members of the cast

Director	Jeff Shaw
Design	Alan Smith
Scenery	Kevin Hemmings
Musical Director	David Parkinson
Musicians:	
Percussion	Cholan Anandarajah
Percussion	Hemal Chudasama
Percussion and violin	Benjamin Dunn
Drums	Gareth Jones
Percussion and keyboard	James Templeman
Lighting	Michael Priestman
	Leon Joseph
Costumes	Emma Waterhouse
	Deborah Lamble
Technical Manager	Chris Burton
Stage Management	Joe Gallagher
	Matthew Lamble
Sound	Leon Joseph
Sound Assistants	Peter Hanley
	Mark Thorne
Props Manager	Peter Woolley
Assistant Props Manager	Billy Heath
Special Effects Engineer	Anthony Keller
Construction/Stage Crew	Richard Sweetman
	Daniel McCullagh
	Luke Hepworth
	Kieran Bayles
	Stuart Morris
	Chris Parker
Box Office	John Harries

Many thanks to Michael Pegler for his creative input and encouragement, Mr Crozier for printing our posters, Alex Crowley, David Brandon, and all who contributed their time and talents.

A Communion Rite

The Bacchae is both one of the most modern and one of the most timeless plays of the ancient Greek theatre. This free version by the Nigerian playwright, Wole Soyinka, was commissioned for performance by the National Theatre at the Old Vic in the summer of 1973.

Soyinka's text displays abundant evidence of a poet's ear for the cadences and rhythms of chorus and solo verse, as well as commanding dramatic use of the central social and religious myth.

The author writes: 'The legacy of Euripides is enshrined today in many forms, but most conspicuously in the pagan alliance of labour with the Spring mysticism of May Day... I see *The Bacchae*, finally, as a prodigious, barbaric banquet, an insightful manifestation of the universal need of man to match himself against Nature. The more than hinted-at cannibalism corresponds to the periodic needs of humans to swill, gorge and copulate on a scale as huge as Nature's on her monstrous cycle of regeneration. The ritual, sublimated or expressive, is both social therapy and reaffirmation of group solidarity, a hankering back to the origins and formation of guilds and phratries. Man re-affirms his indebtedness to earth, dedicates himself to the demands of continuity and invokes the energies of productivity. Reabsorbed within the communal psyche he provokes the resources of Nature; in turn he is replenished for the cyclic drain in his fragile individual potency.'

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

THE LIFE OF GALILEO	Bertolt Brecht	Dec. 1975
ANDROCLES AND THE LION	Bernard Shaw	Mar. 1976
SWEENEY TODD	George Dibdin Pitt	Dec. 1976
OLIVER!	Lionel Bart	Mar. 1977
BIRDS	Aristophanes	Dec. 1977
TWELFTH NIGHT	William Shakespeare	Feb. 1979
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST	Oscar Wilde	Dec. 1979
ANTONIO'S REVENGE	John Marston	Dec. 1980
THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE	Bernard Shaw	Dec. 1981
ENTER A FREE MAN (STAFF)	Tom Stoppard	Jul. 1982
CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING	Arnold Wesker	Dec. 1982
THE GOLDEN MASQUE OF AGAMEMNON	John Wiles	Feb. 1983
TOAD OF TOAD HALL	A. A. Milne	Jul. 1983
THE ROYAL HUNT OF THE SUN	Peter Shaffer	Dec. 1983
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST (SIXTH FORM)	Dario Fo	Mar. 1984
THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND (STAFF)	Tom Stoppard	Jul. 1984
BEYOND A JOKE (SIXTH FORM)	Derek Benfield	Nov. 1984
HUBERT AND THE FIREWORK	Martin Knight	Dec. 1984
SMOKING IS BAD FOR YOU/ A TRAGIC ROLE/ OUT AT SEA/ MEDEA	Anton Chekov Slavomir Mrozek Euripides	Mar. 1985
WHITE LIARS/BLACK COMEDY (STAFF)	Peter Shaffer	Jul. 1985
MY FAIR LADY (SIXTH FORM)	A. J. Lerner & F. Lowe	May 1986
THE SPORT OF MY MAD MOTHER	Ann Jellicoe	Jul. 1986
JACK AND THE BEANSTALK (SIXTH FORM)		Dec. 1987
FROGS	Aristophanes	Mar. 1987
THE COMEDY OF ERRORS	William Shakespeare	Dec. 1987
THE THWARTING OF BARON BOLLIGREW	Robert Bolt	Jul. 1988
CINDERELLA (STAFF)	John Morley	Dec. 1988
THE INJUSTICE DONE TO TONGUO/ AFTER MAGRITTE	Kuan Han Ch'ing Tom Stoppard	Mar. 1989
OEDIPUS THE KING	Sophocles	Mar. 1990
DRACULA SPECTACULA	J. Gardiner & A. Parr	Dec. 1990
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	William Shakespeare	Mar. 1992
DOCTOR FAUSTUS	Christopher Marlowe	Dec. 1992
CULTURE BEAT	Paul Gerrard	Mar. 1994
HIAWATHA	Michael Bogdanov	Dec. 1994
ALADDIN (STAFF)	John Morley	Dec. 1995
'TIS PITY SHE'S A WHORE (Secombe Theatre)	John Ford	Feb. 1997
GHETTO (Secombe Theatre)	Joshua Sobol	Feb. 1998
THE SEVEN SIDED DICE	Phil Rean & Mike Smith	Jul. 1999
MACBETH	William Shakespeare	Feb. 2000
AMADEUS	Peter Shaffer	Dec. 2000
THE NATIVITY	Tony Harrison	Dec. 2001