



APGRD

ARCHIVE OF PERFORMANCES
OF GREEK & ROMAN DRAMA

Newsletter 23

February 2015

In memoriam: Colette King, drama teacher and director, 1930–2014

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Colette King on 12 October 2014. As a drama teacher and as a director, Colette King played a pioneering role in bringing Greek Drama to wider audiences. Her obituary in the *Guardian* details the significant impact she had on numerous leading actors and directors, and recalls the fact that whilst studying at Oxford in 1956 she became the first female director of the University Dramatic Society – indeed she was nearly denied admission to her own opening night because she was an unaccompanied woman! Colette was also involved in the groundbreaking BBC Radio Broadcasts of *Oedipus at Colonus* (1959) and *The Oresteia* (1962). We are lucky to house letters to Colette from the director of these radio plays, Val Gielgud, in our archive. The *Guardian's* full obituary can be read online at:

www.theguardian.com/education/2014/oct/29/colette-king



AHRC Follow-on Funding: 'Interactive/Multimedia E-books for the Performance Archive'

The APGRD is delighted to have received a Follow-on Funding award from the AHRC to produce two freely downloadable interactive/multimedia e-books based on *Medea* and *Agamemnon*. Previous research that has appeared in our print publications will be considerably enhanced by photographic, audio and video material housed in our collections and by newly commissioned interviews from scholars and theatre practitioners. The e-books will include different pathways so that the research will reach different types of audiences – in schools, universities, in the creative industries and amongst the wider public – around the world. Additionally, the project will produce a toolkit and

make all the software and technology developed in creating the e-books freely available under a creative commons licence. The aim is ultimately to produce e-books to accompany all books published by APGRD researchers. For further information, contact either Dr Tom Wrobel (Curator/Developer thomas.wrobel@classics.ox.ac.uk) or Dr Claire Kenward (Archivist claire.kenward@classics.ox.ac.uk).

Communicating Ancient Greece and Rome – Phase 2

On 15 December our two-year training programme on public engagement culminated with the 20 participants (graduates and early career researchers from 12 different UK universities) presenting their professional outreach projects. Generously funded by the AHRC, our trainees forged collaborative relationships with creative professionals and specialists from a variety of backgrounds, to produce a stunning range of programmes which allowed new audiences to engage with the Classics: from the children of servicemen and women, to the patients of a spinal unit, deaf and partially-sighted museum-goers as well as members of Birmingham's Afro-Caribbean community. They reached out to schools, museums and theatres, modern art galleries, National Trust properties and Working Men's Clubs, making and organising films, animations, theatrical productions, poetry events, lectures and workshops. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the individual projects can be seen here:

www.apgrd.ox.ac.uk/learning/communicating-ancient-greece-and-rome-projects





Classics and Communism in Theatre,

Warsaw, 15-17 January 2015,

by Henry Stead

In the White Villa on Dobra Street - Warsaw's 'Artes Liberales' HQ - representatives assembled from all over Europe to share research into and experiences of ancient theatre in the communist era. The international gathering was organized chiefly by Elżbieta Olechowska (Warsaw) and David Movrin (Ljubljana) [top left], who the year before in Slovenia presented conference participants with the impressive volume *Classics and Communism* (2013). This year they launched *Classical Antiquity on the Communist Stage in Poland* (2015), a critical review of ancient theatre as an ideological medium. Conference papers

discussed the reception of ancient theatre in the USSR, Soviet Ukraine, Belarus, Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany and Bulgaria. Our [C&C](#) panel—including Edith Hall (KCL), Justine McConnell (Oxford), Rosa Andújar (UCL) and me (KCL)—presented the reception of ancient theatre among communists beyond Soviet Europe, from Havana to Stratford East, via Massachusetts and Trinidad. Ljubljana students [bottom right] performed a powerful production of Plautus' *Miles Gloriosus*, and plans are afoot for the next installment of *Classics and Communism*.

Heaney and the Classics, 17 July 2015

A one-day conference exploring the relationship between Seamus Heaney and the Classics will be held in the Ioannou Centre, Oxford, on 17 July. Speakers include: Neil Corcoran (Liverpool); Denis Donoghue (NYU); Rachel Falconer (Lausanne); Rowena Fowler (Oxford); Rosie Lavan (Oxford); Peter McDonald (Oxford), and Bernard O'Donoghue (Oxford). It is hoped that there will also be discussions/readings from Stephen Rea and Fiona Shaw.

For more information please contact apgrd@classics.ox.ac.uk

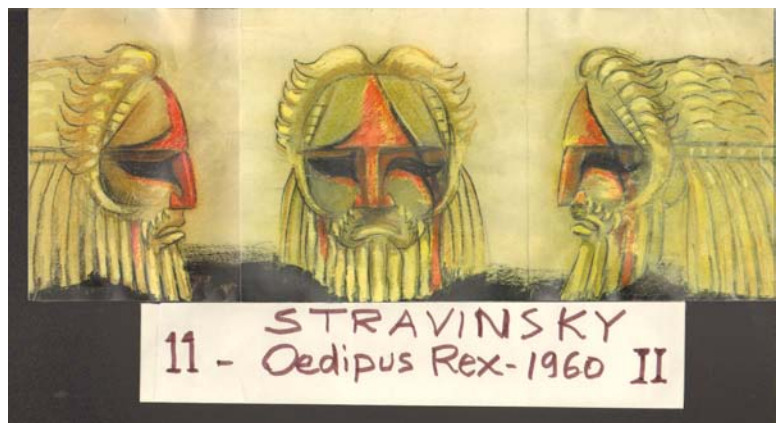


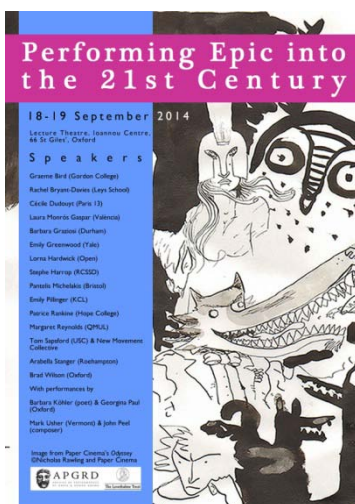
Postgraduate Symposium, 29-30 June 2015: 'Viewing and Spectating'

The 15th Annual APGRD/University of London Joint Postgraduate Symposium on the Performance of Ancient Drama will take place on Monday 29 June (at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London) and Tuesday 30 June (at the Ioannou Centre, Oxford). This year's theme will be: 'Viewing and Spectating in the Theory and Practice of Greek and Roman Drama', and the guest respondents will be Yana Zarifi (Thiasos Theatre Company) and Margaret Coldiron (Director and specialist in Asian performance). The symposium will conclude on the second day, in Oxford, with a discussion and performance of Gardzienice's *Pythian Oratorio*. Abstracts of papers should be sent by 31 March 2015 to postgradsymp@classics.ox.ac.uk (please include details of your current course of study, supervisor and academic institution). The conference is free and there will be some travel bursaries available this year - please state whether you wish to be considered for one of these.

Abd'Elkader Farrah Exhibition and Study Afternoon: Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* (1960) 14 November, exhibition from 3pm, speakers from 4-6pm, followed by drinks reception

We are delighted to be showcasing the work of the theatre designer Abd'Elkader Farrah, with an exhibition and study afternoon themed around the English premiere in 1960 of Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* at Sadler's Wells, directed by Michel Saint-Denis, conducted by Colin Davis, with designs by Farrah. The event will be presided over by RSC's Terry Hands, with talks by Jonathan Cross (Oxford), Stephen Walsh (Cardiff), Jane Pritchard (V&A), and the film director Tony Palmer. For more information please contact apgrd@classics.ox.ac.uk





Performing Epic

September saw the final colloquium of our Leverhulme-funded 'Performing Epic' project. A wonderful set of papers, including a lecture on jazz piano, discussed the performance of classical epic from the 1800s to the present day, and was complemented by the première of a new opera, *Neron Kaisar* (music by John Peel, libretto by Mark Usher) and an enthralling performance by Barbara Köhler and Georgina Paul from Köhler's Odyssey-inspired poetry collection, *Niemands Frau*.

Fiona Macintosh and Justine McConnell are working on a co-authored monograph entitled *Performing Epic*, whilst an edited volume, which will bring together papers from both the 2013 and 2014 colloquia, as well as other chapters solicited over the course of the project, will be edited by them, together with Stephen Harrison and Claire Kenward:

www.apgrd.ox.ac.uk/about-us/programmes/performing-epic

Visiting Researchers

The APGRD is currently hosting three international visiting researchers: Dr Małgorzata Budzowska, Lecturer in Classics from the University of Łódź; Dr Victor Ferry, a Wiener-Anspach postdoctoral researcher, from Université Libre de Bruxelles; and Tom Sapsford, a former choreographer and performer with the Royal Ballet and graduate student in Classics from the University of Southern California (USC). Małgorzata, Victor and Tom will be presenting their research-in-progress from 2-4.15pm on 25 February 2015, in the Ioannou Centre's Outreach Room – everyone is welcome. Małgorzata's visit is part of a European-funded internship on the practice and methodology of archiving, and her research focuses on intertextuality in recent performances of ancient drama in Poland. Victor teaches rhetoric and his current research explores the value of ancient rhetorical exercises for contemporary pedagogy. Tom's doctoral thesis is on the role of the *kinaidos* in fourth-century Athens. In June, he will take a leading role in the week-long APGRD/DANSOX project 'Choreographing the *Katabasis*' with scholars from Classics, English, and Modern Languages working with choreographer Cathy Marston and two professional dancers (for details of the lecture/performance, please see the table of upcoming events below).

Publications News

Congratulations to Edith Hall, whose recent book **Adventures with Iphigenia in Tauris: A Cultural History of Euripides' Black Sea Tragedy** (OUP, 2012) won this year's prestigious Goodwin Award for outstanding contributions to classical scholarship. The award was presented at the Society for Classical Studies' 146th Annual Meeting this January in New Orleans.

Congratulations also to Stephen Harrison who has been announced as successor to Christopher Pelling as the Classics Delegate at the Oxford University Press.

The Oxford Handbook of Greek Drama in the Americas (Oxford University Press)

edited by Kathryn Boshier, Fiona Macintosh, Justine McConnell, and Patrice Rankine is due for publication in April 2015.

Sophocles: Four Tragedies (Oxford University Press)

in a new translation by Oliver Taplin, to be published in Spring 2015.

APGRD on Social Media

You can now follow the APGRD on Twitter and Facebook for more immediate updates about our events and research, as well as informal and interactive discussions about the performance reception of ancient texts.

www.facebook.com/apgrd

www.twitter.com/apgrd

Upcoming APGRD Events - everyone most welcome

<p>25 February 2015 2pm-4.15pm Outreach Room, Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles', Oxford</p>	<p>APGRD Visitors: Research in Progress 'Intertextuality on stage' by Małgorzata Budzowska (Łódź) 'Exercising empathy: ancient materials for contemporary pedagogy' by Victor Ferry (ULB) "'What a performance!": the role of the <i>kinaidos</i> in fourth-century Athens' by Tom Sapsford (USC)</p> <p>Free, no booking required.</p>
<p>9 March 2015 2.15pm Lecture Theatre, Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles', Oxford</p>	<p>On Clytemnestra by Gwyneth Lewis (former National Poet of Wales)</p> <p>Free, no booking required.</p>
<p>11 May 2015 2.15pm Lecture Theatre, Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles', Oxford</p>	<p>Helen McCrory in conversation with Edith Hall, on <i>Medea</i> at the National Theatre (2014)</p> <p>Free, no booking required.</p>
<p>18 May 2015 2.15pm Lecture Theatre, Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles', Oxford</p>	<p>Tragedy in the Trenches: Classics, the First World War and the Rise of Flemish Culture by Maarten de Pourcq (Nijmegen University)</p> <p>Free, no booking required.</p>
<p>18 May 2015 5.30pm Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles', Oxford</p>	<p>Launch Event: <i>The Oxford Handbook of Greek Drama in the Americas</i> and <i>Sophocles: Four Tragedies</i> in a new translation by Oliver Taplin.</p> <p>For information please email apgrd@classics.ox.ac.uk.</p>
<p>5 June 2015 6pm Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St Hilda's, Oxford</p>	<p>Choreographing the <i>Katabasis</i> Lecture/performance with Cathy Marston and Tom Sapsford. A joint event with DANSOX. For information please email apgrd@classics.ox.ac.uk.</p>
<p>29 June 2015 Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London</p> <p>30 June 2015 Lecture Theatre, Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles', Oxford</p>	<p>15th Annual Postgraduate Symposium on Ancient Drama 'Viewing and Spectating in the Theory and Practice of Greek and Roman Drama'</p> <p>Respondents: Yana Zarifi and Margaret Coldiron.</p> <p>For information please email apgrd@classics.ox.ac.uk or postgradsymp@classics.ox.ac.uk</p>
<p>30 June 2015 6pm Jacqueline de Pré Building, St Hilda's, Oxford</p>	<p><i>Pythian Oratorio</i> Performance and discussion by the Gardzienice theatre company. For information please email apgrd@classics.ox.ac.uk</p>
<p>17 July 2015 Lecture Theatre, Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles', Oxford</p>	<p>Heaney and the Classics, one-day conference For information please email apgrd@classics.ox.ac.uk</p>
<p>14 November 2015 from 3pm Outreach Room, Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles', Oxford</p>	<p>Abd'Elkader Farrah Exhibition and Study-Afternoon on Stravinsky's <i>Oedipus Rex</i> For information please email apgrd@classics.ox.ac.uk</p>