



ARCHIVE OF PERFORMANCES OF GREEK & ROMAN DRAMA

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Newsletter no. 12 (Winter 2006-2007)

APGRD LECTURES

All lectures will take place in the Lecture Theatre, Classics Centre, 66 St Giles'.

- ☞ **ISMENE LADA-RICHARDS** (Lecturer in Classics, King's College London),
'Dead but not Extinct: On Reinventing Ancient Pantomime in the 18th Century'.
2.15pm, Monday 19 February 2007.
- ☞ **SIMONE BETA** (Professor in Classics, University of Siena),
'101 Things to do with a Greek Comedy: Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* from the 18th to the 21st Century'.
2.15pm, Tuesday 6 March 2007.
- ☞ **FREDERICK NAEREBOUT** (Senior Lecturer, Department of Ancient History, Leiden University),
' "A detachment of beetles in search of a dead rat": The Reception of Ancient Greek Dance in Late 19th-Century Europe and America'.
2.15pm, Monday 12 March 2007.
- ☞ **KATIE MITCHELL** (Theatre Director) will appear in conversation with Oliver Taplin.
2.15pm, Monday 23 April 2007.
- ☞ **BARBARA RAVELHOFER** (Lecturer in English, University of Durham),
'Greek Myth in the Early Stuart Masque'.
2.15pm, Monday 14 May 2007.
- ☞ **ERIN B. MEE** (Professor of Theater, Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania),
'Political Translations of *Antigone* in Manipur, NE India: The Fight for Regional Autonomy Through Regional Culture'.
5.15pm, Monday 25 June 2007.

THE ONASSIS PROGRAMME

The Onassis Programme presented *Swallow Song* in November at the Oxford Playhouse and London's Cochrane Theatre, under the direction of Lydia Koniordou and with translations by Oliver Taplin. Audience responses were enthusiastic and it was a huge pleasure to present a collaboration between Greek and English performers as part of the programme. Continuing our aim to bring the best of international work to the UK, in June we will be presenting, in association with the Oxford Playhouse, *Molona*, a version of the *Oresteia* from South Africa. In October, you can look forward to Seamus Heaney's *Burial at Thebes* at the Oxford Playhouse, and the Clod Ensemble's *Red Ladies* – a startling contemporary take on the female chorus. More information can be found at www.onassis.ox.ac.uk.

ARISTOPHANES IN PERFORMANCE, 421 BC – AD 2007, PEACE, BIRDS, AND FROGS



edited by Edith Hall and Amanda Wrigley, to be published by Legenda Press, Oxford in July 2007.

www.mhra.org.uk/cgi-bin/legenda/legenda.pl?catalogue=b1904350615

Flying to Heaven to demand an end to war, building Cloudcuckooland in the sky, descending to Hades to retrieve a dead tragedian – such were the cosmic missions on which Aristophanes, the father of comedy, sent his heroes of the classical Athenian stage. The wit, intellectual bravura, political clout and sheer imaginative power of Aristophanes' quest dramas have profoundly influenced humorous literature and satire, but this is the first interdisciplinary study of their seminal contribution to the evolution of comic performance. In this collection of interdisciplinary essays by specialists in Classics, Theatre, and Modern Literatures, the international performance history of Aristophanic comedy, and its implication in aesthetic and political controversies, are traced from antiquity to the twenty-first century. The story encompasses Jonson's satire, Cromwell's Ireland, German classicism, British Imperial India, censorship scandals in France, Greece and South Africa, Brechtian experiments in East Berlin, and musical theatre from Gilbert and Sullivan to Stephen Sondheim.

List of contents:

1 Edith Hall – Introduction: Millennial Reverberations of Old Comedy

I. Precedents

- 2 Ewen Bowie – The Ups and Downs of Aristophanic Travel
- 3 Matthew Steggle – Aristophanes in Early Modern England
- 4 Edith Hall – The English-Speaking Aristophanes, 1650-1914

II. Excursus: Publication as Performance

- 5 Rosie Wyles – Publication as Intervention: Aristophanes in 1659
- 6 Charalampos Orfanos – Revolutionary Aristophanes?
- 7 Phiroze Vasunia – Aristophanes' *Wealth* and Dalpatram's *Lakshmi*

III. Revival to Repertoire

- 8 Amanda Wrigley – Aristophanes Revitalized! Music and 'Stage Business' in the 1892 Oxford *Frogs*
- 9 Gonda Van Steen – From Scandal to Success Story: Aristophanes' *Birds* as Staged by Karolos Koun
- 10 Angeliki Varakis – The Use of Masks in Koun's Stage Interpretations of *Birds, Frogs, & Peace*
- 11 Bernd Seidensticker – Aristophanes is back! Peter Hacks' Adaptation of Aristophanes' *Peace*
- 12 Mary-Kay Gamel – Sondheim Floats *Frogs*

IV. Close Encounters

- 13 Betine van Zyl Smit – Freeing Aristophanes in South Africa: From High Culture to Contemporary Satire
- 14 Malika Bastin-Hammou – Aristophanes' *Peace* on the Twentieth-Century French Stage: From Political Statement to Artistic Failure
- 15 Martina Treu – Poetry and Politics, Advice and Abuse. The Aristophanic Chorus on the Italian Stage
- 16 Francesca Schironi – A Poet without 'Gravity': Aristophanes on the Italian Stage
- 17 Sean O'Brien – A Version of *The Birds* in Two Productions
- 18 Michael Silk – Translating/Transposing Aristophanes
- 19 Vasiliki Giannopoulou – Aristophanes in Translation before 1920

ANCIENT DRAMA IN MODERN OPERA, 1600-1800
APGRD Conference , 12 July 2007, Classics Centre, Oxford

The importance of Greek drama for the evolution of European opera is well known but tends not to be distinguished from the influence of Greek mythology more generally. In keeping the focus of this conference on the influence of ancient drama in the first 200 years of opera's development we hope to shed new light both on that development and on the reception of Greek drama. The speakers are drawn from the worlds of Classics, Modern Languages, and Music, and they include people involved in the performance of operatic works as well as some of the leading academics in this field. We are grateful to the British Academy, the Classical Association, the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, and (within Oxford) the Craven Committee and the Faculty of Music for their generous support of this conference. The £20 registration fee includes lunch and all refreshments on the day. Up to 30 postgraduate bursaries are available. Further details are available at www.apgrd.ox.ac.uk/events/confopera.htm, from where you can also print the registration form. Please contact us for a paper copy of the registration form. The provisional speakers and paper titles are as follows:

- Dr Michael Burden** (Director of Productions, New Chamber Opera),
'Myth in Metastasio's works'
- Bruno Forment** (composer and performer; PhD student at University of Ghent),
'The gods out of the machine ... and their come-back'
- Professor Wendy Heller** (Department of Music, Princeton University),
'Playing with fortune: the fate of Pyrrhus in seicento Venice'
- Professor Robert Ketterer** (Department of Classics, University of Iowa),
'The influence of Agostino Piovene's translations of Greek tragedy on his opera libretti in the first quarter of the 18th century'
- Dr Suzana Ograjenšek** (Research Fellow, Clare Hall, Cambridge),
'Andromache in late 17th and early 18th century operas'
- Professor Ellen Rosand** (Department of Music, Yale University),
'Classical themes in Monteverdi'
- Professor Reinhard Strohm** (Faculty of Music, Oxford University),
' "Addio Tebani!" *Oedipus Tyrannus* as opera seria (1729)'
- Jennifer Thorp** (Archivist, New College, Oxford),
'Dance in Lully's *Alceste*'
- Dr Amy Wygant** (School of Modern Languages and Cultures, Glasgow University),
'The Ghost of Alcestis'

After the papers there will be a wine reception and then a short recital of arias from eighteenth-century tragic operas by Ensemble *La Falsirena* (Suzana Ograjenšek, soprano; Luke Green, harpsichord; Henrik Persson, baroque 'cello).

We currently expect the papers to run from 9.30 to 6.15, and the recital to be over by 8.00.

THEORISING PERFORMANCE RECEPTION
APGRD Conference, 14-15 September 2007, Classics Centre, Oxford

Please contact us to be placed on the mailing list for this conference. Further details will be posted at www.apgrd.ox.ac.uk/events/conftheory.htm soon.

7TH ANNUAL RHUL & APGRD POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

This year's symposium, on 'Performing Identities in the Reception of Ancient Drama', will be held in Oxford on Monday 25 June and at RHUL in Egham on Tuesday 26 June 2007. Postgraduates wishing to offer a paper on this theme are invited to send an abstract of up to 400 words to postgradsymp@classics.ox.ac.uk by 16 March 2007, including details of current course of study, name of tutor/supervisor, and academic institution.

APGRD NEWS

We warmly welcome Kathleen Riley and Simon Perris to the APGRD team. Kathleen returns to Oxford as a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow (Classics) to work on a book project called *The Shock of the Old: Modernism and Greek Tragedy*. Her doctoral work will be published as an OUP Classical Monograph, under the title *Reasoning Madness: The Reception and Performance of Euripides' Herakles*, within the next academic year. She is also writing a book on Fred and Adele Astaire. Simon Perris, a new Graduate Associate, is in the second year of his doctorate working with Oliver Taplin on the post-war literary reception of *Bacchae* in English.

At the beginning of this academic year Edith Hall took up the post of Research Professor in Classics and in Drama & Theatre at Royal Holloway University of London. Rosie Wyles (APGRD Graduate Associate and AHRC-funded postgraduate), who is working with Edith on the theatrical reception of Euripides in Graeco-Roman antiquity, also made the move from Durham to RHUL. Edith's latest book, *The Theatrical Cast of Athens: Interactions between Ancient Greek Drama and Society*, appeared with OUP in 2006. February 2007 sees the publication by OUP of *Cultural Responses to the Persian Wars*, edited by Edith Hall with Emma Bridges and P.J. Rhodes. Chapters include discussions of the performance reception of Aeschylus' *Persians* by Gonda Van Steen and Edith Hall, of Handel's *Xerxes* by David Kimbell, and of the movie *The Three Hundred Spartans* by David Levene (www.oup.com/uk/catalogue/?ci=9780199279678).

Peter Brown's new translation of the comedies of Terence was published by OUP in December 2006. Pantelis Michelakis' companion to Euripides' *Iphigenia at Aulis* was published by Duckworth in 2006. Oliver Taplin's *Pots and Plays: Interactions between Tragedy and Greek Vase-painting of the Fourth Century BC*, featuring 84 colour and 40 black and white illustrations, will be published by Getty Publications in summer 2007.

GREECE, ROME AND COLONIAL INDIA:

CONFERENCE TO CELEBRATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

Edith Hall and Phiroze Vasunia (Reading University) are organising a one-day conference on 29 June 2007 at SOAS in London to commemorate the anniversary of Indian Independence. Speakers will include Jatinder Verma of Tara Arts and Erin Mee, an authority on Indian theatre who has directed ancient Greek plays. There are graduate bursaries available courtesy of the SPHS. For full details and a registration form, please contact n.leontieff@reading.ac.uk.

CLASSICS CENTRE MOVE

In February, the APGRD (together with the rest of the Classics Centre) is moving from its long-term temporary home in the Old Boys' High School to the building it formerly occupied on St Giles'. The building has been substantially refurbished and extended, providing excellent new facilities for lectures and seminars. The Chancellor Chris Patten will officially open it as the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies at the end of April 2007.

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