THE AUTHOR AND THE PLAY

Euripides (484-406 B.C.) was an unpopular playwright in his own day. Unlike his contemporaries, Aeschylus (d. 456 B.C.) and Sophocles (d. 406 B.C.), Euripides drew his portraits of individuals and of society with unsentimental, unromantic strokes. Where Sophocles saw a world divinely ordered by Fate and run in a well-oiled, deterministic fashion, Euripides saw a world of chance, accident, and ironic mystery. His play structures reflect this outlook in that they are always unorthodox, unusual, and unexpected. His plots are often disturbing because they do not flow in a Sophoclean/Aristotelian manner but in a unique manner all their own, often combining tragic elements with melodramatic form and comic perspective. He sculptur- es harshly realistic characters in his plays and disturbs his audience by refusing to allow these characters to fall into the machinery of Fate in a logical, predictable manner. Often accused of being the playwright of the “deus ex machina”—the miraculous, supernatural, “here-come-the-cavalry” types of rescues and escapes—Euripides actually employed the gods in a fashion which focuses sharply on the tragic ironies and paradoxes of human life.

The Trojan Women is typical of this Euripidean perspective. The play is episodic in structure: scene after scene flows or erupts onto the stage generated not by the central action of a major character but by the environment itself. Hecuba is not a protagonist in any Sophoclean sense; she is the hub of a dramatic wheel that turns on its own spokes because of external, environmental pressures. Hecuba’s main concern is her own zealous desire for justice which she sees as the special province of the gods, of Zeus. Throughout her increasing weight of suffering she clamors for a justice she can see and validate for herself. She demands the death of Helen as an act of justice and when this is denied her she denounces the gods and claims that they are not only blind, but evil. Her city falls and she is taken into slavery. Ironically for her, Euripides shows the gods having decided to punish the Greeks before any of the action of the play occurs. Hecuba is a tragic figure because her demand for justice drives her to blind blasphemy, attempted suicide, and futile resistance, ignorant of or unwilling to believe that injustice always carries the seed of its own punishment—of justice—with it whether we see it or not.

But Euripides has not written a simple classical tragedy here; he has written a complex human one. And if there is one thing he is a master at it is juggling two themes, two meanings, at once. For while Euripides has drawn a tragic figure in the old queen, he has also etched the image of a heroic woman. In one way, The Trojan Women is a play about getting up, going on, surviving, hanging by a thread to the worst of life rather than the best of death. Hecuba does not die the tragic death; she does not see with excruciating vision her true self; she does not heroically and nobly get up and go on, stoically facing her slave’s future. She gets up, she goes on without reason, without cause because she does so. Euripides offers no judgment. He does not moralize. He paints a complex human tragedy that forces us to draw our own conclusions.

—Bryan Humphrey

GLOSSARY

Names of people and places referred to in the play

ACHILLES—most famous Greek warrior, killed Hector in combat, was slain by Paris by a javelin in the heel, his one vulnerable spot.

AGAMEMNON—King of Argos, brother to Menelaus and co-commander of the Greek forces with him, from the family of Atreus on whom there lies a divine curse.

APHRODITE—goddess of love, offered Helen of Sparta to Paris if he would choose her as his goddess—he did.

APOLLO—god of the Sun, of reason and divine illumination.

CIRCE—a sorceress who lured seamen to dine with her and then turned them into pigs.

CLYTEMNESTRA—wife to Agamemnon of Argos; murders him and Cassandra on their return from the Trojan War.

CYCLOPS—giant creature with one eye, Odysseus blinds one during return journey from the war.

HECTOR—most famous Trojan warrior, killed by Achilles in combat, son to Hecuba, husband to Andromache.

HERA—goddess of Argos, wife of Zeus. She offered Paris all of Argos—Agamemnon’s kingdom—if he would worship her.

HYMEN—god of the marriage bed.

NEOPTOLEMUS—son of Achilles. He sacrificed Polyxena on his father’s tomb and demands Andromache, Hector’s wife, as his own wife.

ODYSSEUS—King of Ithaca, he devised the scheme to trick the Trojans by building the Trojan Horse, demands Hecuba as his slave.

PARIS/ALEXANDER—son to Hecuba and Priam. Hera, Pallas Athene, and Aphrodite offer him gifts if he will decide which of them is most beautiful. He chose Aphrodite and won Helen of Sparta, wife to Menelaus; taking her from Sparta to Troy incited the war.

PENELlope—wife to Odysseus at Ithaca.

POLYXENA—youngest daughter of Hecuba and Priam, sacrificed as virgin on Achilles’ tomb.

PRIAM—King of Troy, husband of Hecuba.

SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS—Scylla, a whirlpool, and Charybdis, a jagged ledge of rock in the ocean, were nautical hazards of legendary fame personified as antagonists to mariners.
THE TROJAN WOMEN
by Euripides
Adapted by Jean-Paul Sarte
Directed and Designed by A. Bryan Humphrey
in partial fulfillment of requirements for
a degree of Master of Arts
Electronic music and sound
designed and performed by
Brent Blair

CAST
Pallas Athene       Kathy Keyes
Poseidon           Del Pentecost
Hecuba             Amy Stuart
Talthybius         Greg Tippitt
Cassandra           Cari Powell
Andromache          Lori Greenlee
Astyanax           Jacob Humphrey
Menoebus           Burton Curtis
Helen               Suzanne Dunlap

CHORUS
Chorus Leader       Janyne Peek
Foreign Lady       Iola Abu-Khader
Hooker              Tracy Goodwin
Old Woman           Monty Hicks
Pregnant Woman      Janette Lowell
Student Protester   Jennifer Mosher
Raped Girl          Amy Ross
Nurse               Laura Wortham
Soldiers            Russell Collins
                    Tim Decker
                    Eddie Mitchell
                    Del Pentecost
                    Jeff Stockberger

PRODUCTION STAFF
Stage Manager       Terence Zeeman
Set Master          John Beard
Sound Master        Brent Blair
Light Master        Jay Blakemore
Props Master        John Akers
Costume Master      George Spelvin
Makeup Mistress     Laura Wortham
House Manager       Cynthia Khoury

CREWS
Set—Anna Davis, Tim Decker, Carrie Douglas, Patrick Henry,
      Reeves Ingram, Del Pentecost, Amy Ross, Greg Tippit
Light—Cynthia Hall
Props—John Deaver, Karen Lamb, David Merbeth, Steve Thomas,
      Debbie Wilson
Costume—Kim Crow, Neale Jones, Janyne Peek, Amy Stuart
Make-Up—Valerie Reichert
House—Randy White, Suzanne Wilcox, Mark Wilson

There will be one 15-minute intermission.
Refreshments will be available in the student lounge.
Our next production will be THE TRAGICAL HISTORY OF DR. FAUSTUS,
directed by Deborah Mogford, April 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 1985

Time and Setting: Troy, the morning after the Trojan Horse invasion.
Performances February 26, 27, 28, March 1, 2, 1985
                  at 7:30 p.m. and March 2, 1985 at 1:30 p.m.
                  Mabee Theatre
Friends of Baylor Fine Arts
1985

Benefactors
Mr. & Mrs. C. T. Beckham
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Humphreys
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Lacy
Ms. Katherine L. Reid
Mr. & Mrs. Vic Newman

Patrons
Dr. & Mrs. James Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Darling
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Turner
Mr. & Mrs. Woody Barron
Mr. Kelley Clark
Mrs. DeWitt T. Hicks, Jr.
Mrs. Lois Smith Strain
Dr. & Mrs. H. H. Trippit
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Kenrick
Mrs. William Lewie, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Simmons
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Bartos
Dr. & Mrs. R. H. Baskin
Mrs. Arlie L. Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Duncan
Mr. & Mrs. John Gilliam
Mr. Milton T. Gregory

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The Health Camp Co.
Mr. & Mrs. John Holmberg
Dr. Sharon G. Johnson
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Mark
Mr. Gordon Rountree, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. John Sanders
Mr. & Mrs. John Scales
G. Stratton
Mr. Cecil Streich
Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Brown
Mrs. F. P. Goddard
Ms. Mary Owen
Mr. Milton Wilson
Mrs. Anne L. Aynsworth
Mrs. Joe R. Riley
Dr. & Mrs. Rodney Richie
Dr. & Mrs. Robert F. Corwin
Dr. & Mrs. William Carden
Mr. Thomas Johns
Ms. Dorothy Kronzer
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Adams
Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Schwetman
Mr. & Mrs. G. Robert Claypool
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mayben

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Praco Pawn Shop
Army-Navy Surplus
Jack's Pawn Shop
American Derringer Co.
Optical Dispensary
Children's Choir, Seventh and James Baptist Church

Sound Production thanks to:
Mr. Barry Hopper's trumpet students,
Sergio Quesada and Jeff Stockberger,
and Dr. Richard Willis for the use
of the electronic studio.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS
Bryan Humphrey
Cynthia Khoury
Suzanne Wilcox
Mark Wilson

UNDERGRADUATE ASSISTANTS
Brent Blair
Jay Blakemore
Tim Decker
Janyne Peak
Amy Ross
Amy Stuart
Greg Tippit
Laura Wortham
Terence Zeeman

THEATRE PRODUCTION STAFF
Marcia Cooper
Faye Heine
Richard Hill
Katryn Richardson
Elizabeth Sherry