

# AGAMEMNON at the Getty Villa

## DIONYSUS AT WORK: THEATER AT THE GETTY VILLA An Overview and a Look Ahead

L'Atelier Arts, Ghost Road, Troubadour Theater Company, and SITI Company  
All Set to Experiment in the Villa Theater Lab

**Special Event: Grupo Yuyachkani to Present Acclaimed *Antígona***

**Next Year in the Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater:  
A Zany Take on Aristophanes' *Peace*, Courtesy of Culture Clash**

### A BRIEF OVERVIEW

At the Getty Villa, an innovative theater program enhances the visitor's experience of the ancient world. Live performances of classical drama offer insight into the social, cultural, and political realities of life in ancient Greece and Rome, while in the Museum's galleries, the connection is deepened between modern audiences and the stories underlying the tragedies and comedies on stage.

Classical dramatists explored basic, human stories that often parallel our contemporary experiences. Because of their universality, these archetypal stories are ever powerful and resonant, attracting each new generation of theater artists to interpret them anew.

Each summer, a major production is staged in the Villa's Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater, an outdoor theater based on ancient prototypes. Euripides' *Hippolytos* was the inaugural production in 2006, followed in 2007 by *Tug of War*, a bawdy Roman comedy. This year director Stephen Wadsworth helms a reenactment of Aeschylus' tragedy *Agamemnon*, and next year Culture Clash dives head-first into Aristophanes' *Peace*.

The Villa Theater Lab Series is a workshop-residency program presented throughout the year in the Auditorium, in which the Museum invites teams of artists and ongoing ensembles to the Villa to create fresh takes on classical theater and culture. The Getty provides each Villa Theater Lab company with the time and resources to rehearse and present 3-4 public workshop performances. The Series is integral to the Villa's mission to cultivate new approaches to the classical canon, and has proven tremendously stimulating to the participating artists and enormously popular with the theater-going public. Audiences

-more-



have enjoyed work-in-progress presentations by the Latino Theater Company, Theatre Movement Bazaar, the Antaeus Company, Culture Clash, Lookingglass Theatre Company, the Impanema Theater Troupe, and a host of other artists from throughout California and across the U.S.

"The Getty Villa's theater program offers the public a bountiful mix of experiences," says Karol Wight, senior curator of antiquities for the J. Paul Getty Museum. "Between the outdoor theater production and the Villa Theater Lab presentations, our programming conveys to audiences the importance theater had in antiquity, and how it continues to inspire contemporary playwrights and companies today."

## **A LOOK AHEAD**

### **Villa Theater Lab**

Tickets \$7; Advance tickets required and available beginning on a specific date the month prior to the performance. Please check [www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu) for updated information.

#### **L' Atelier Arts – *Surf Orpheus***

Director Corey Madden, composer Bruno Louchouart, and choreographer Jacques Haim blend music, movement and myth into a contemporary musical theater experience. Researched and developed over two years at the Theatre and Dance Department, University of California, San Diego, the creators have re-envisioned this ancient love story through the lens of Southern California's surf culture, the sounds of contemporary music, and images of the beach, the sea, and our dreams.

Friday, October 17, 2008

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Sunday, October 19, 2008

*Tickets available beginning Tuesday, September 23 at 9:00 a.m.*

#### **Ghost Road – *Orestes Remembered: The Fury Project***

Combining elements from *The Eumenides* by Aeschylus and *Orestes* by Euripides, this project by Los Angeles-based experimental performance ensemble Ghost Road is set in the near future, where the world has been left impoverished and barren by war and environmental pillage. Drawing visual inspiration from Depression-era photographs from the Works Progress Administration, this adaptation explores possibilities of where we may be heading as a people, a culture, and a society.

Friday, February 20, 2009

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Sunday, February 22, 2009

#### **Troubadour Theater Company – *Oedipus, "The King"***

What happens when Sophocles meets Graceland? Find out when the Los Angeles-based Troubadour Theater Company, a free-wheeling, no-holds-barred, Commedia dell'Arte-flavored ensemble of actors, musicians, and comedians, tackles the ancient Greek tragedy. Their fast-paced, laugh-filled, loose adaptations of classic plays (*As U2*

*Like It, Fleetwood Macbeth*) and films (*It's a Stevie Wonderful Life*), as well as their original productions and sketch material, guarantee that this will not be your father's Oedipus cycle.

Friday, April 17, 2009

Saturday, April 18, 2009

Sunday, April 19, 2009

**The SITI Company – *Antigone***

Director Anne Bogart and the members of her New York City-based ensemble—founded to redefine and revitalize contemporary theater in the United States through international cultural exchange—bring to the Villa the first public presentations of their latest project, an adaptation of Sophocles' *Antigone* by Irish dramaturge and translator Jocelyn Clarke.

Friday, May 15, 2009

Saturday, May 16, 2009

Sunday, May 17, 2009

**Special Event**

Tickets \$20; \$15 students/seniors. Advance tickets required and are available beginning the month prior to the performance. Please check [www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu) for updated information.

**FITLA (International Latino Theatre Festival of Los Angeles)**

**Grupo Yuyachkani – *Antigona***

Yuyachkani, one of South America's most internationally acclaimed touring theaters, offers poet Jose Watanabe's widely lauded adaptation of Sophocles' classic play, seen through contemporary Peruvian eyes. Actress Teresa Ralli gives an electrifying solo performance, portraying all the characters in this tragedy of the arrogance of power. In 2004, the Los Angeles Times lauded the production as "suffused with primal power" and lamented the fact that it played in the city for only two performances. As part of the FITLA International Latino Theatre Festival of Los Angeles, this extraordinary rendition of *Antigone* will at last find the larger audience it so richly deserves.

Friday, November 14, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 15, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 16, 8:00 p.m.

**Next Year in the Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater**

**Aristophanes' *Peace***

In 421 B.C., the twenty-seven-year-old Aristophanes launched a ribald and scathing theatrical assault on the entrenched military-industrial complex of Athens. On Mount Olympus, the ogre War has imprisoned the goddess Peace and holds sway over all of Greece; meanwhile, on Earth below, three rustic patriots hatch a plot to saddle their faithful dung beetle and fly to the heavens, to engineer the goddess's rescue and restore Peace to the land. Return to the Getty Villa next September to see the comic heroes of Culture Clash join forces with the revolutionary spirit of Aristophanes in a free adaptation of his zany, utopian escapade.

**September 2009**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Mike Winder  
Getty Communications  
310-440-6471  
*[mwinder@getty.edu](mailto:mwinder@getty.edu)*

**About Public Programs at the Getty Villa:**

The Getty Villa offers a variety of public programs including theater, musical performances, film screenings, Family Festivals, lectures, and seminars. These events complement the J. Paul Getty Museum's permanent antiquities collection and changing exhibitions, as well as reflect the scholarly activities of the Getty Trust's four programs. The predominant focus of the Villa's public programming is on theater, rooted in Greek and Roman plays of antiquity. A major production is presented each fall in the outdoor Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater. The Villa Theater Lab, a series that acts as an incubator for the development of new approaches to the classical canon, is featured each winter and spring in the Auditorium.

**About the Getty:**

The J. Paul Getty Trust is an international cultural and philanthropic institution that focuses on the visual arts in all their dimensions, recognizing their capacity to inspire and strengthen humanistic values. The Getty serves both the general public and a wide range of professional communities in Los Angeles and throughout the world. Through the work of the four Getty programs—the Museum, Research Institute, Conservation Institute, and Foundation—the Getty aims to further knowledge and nurture critical seeing through the growth and presentation of its collections and by advancing the understanding and preservation of the world's artistic heritage. The Getty pursues this mission with the conviction that cultural awareness, creativity, and aesthetic enjoyment are essential to a vital and civil society.