



A riveting retelling of Euripides' *MEDEA* on stage at the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre

This production of *Medea* by the ancient Greek tragedian Euripides draws on the clichés of trash-talk TV in a dramatic blend of video, live music and performance, on stage at the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre, Nov. 13, 14, 15, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Director Natalie Alvarez presents a disquieting critique of popular media culture and its representations of the tragic. This main stage production situates the play in a multi-media television studio recording of a daytime talk show. Designed by David Vivian, *Medea* features compelling performances by the students of the Department of Dramatic Arts.

The private-as-public culture of ancient Athens - where personal conflicts and crimes become public in the Assembly and ancient amphitheatres - finds its modern counterpart in the voyeuristic scrutiny of current media culture. The domestic dispute at the core of the play becomes sensational fodder for television cameras, the modern lenses that replace the omnipresent gaze of the ancient gods; the Chorus Leader becomes talk-show host, while the chorus retains its ancient function as an extension of the audience, passive and complicit witnesses of this tragic story of betrayal and revenge. A surprise musical guest transforms the Chorus' words into chart-topping contemporary rock, bringing us the signature of Niagara's vibrant music scene.

Medea will leave audiences with a greater understanding of how revenge, pain and anger can compel one to seek justice on individual terms. For a media presentation visit:

www.brocku.ca/dramatic_arts/events0809.html

Runs Nov. 13, 14, 15 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 adults; \$12 students and seniors; \$10 Groups, and are available at the Centre for the Arts Box Office, 905-688-5550, ext. 3257. The Department of Dramatic Arts is proud to be a partner of eyeGo to the Arts, encouraging high school students to attend live performing arts through an innovative \$5 ticket program. Visit www.arts.brocku.ca/eyego.php for more information about the eyeGo program.

Media Day: Nov. 6, 2008, between 1 - 2 p.m. at the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre, Brock University.

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For more information or to set up interviews contact:

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Media Backgrounder:

Natalie Alvarez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Dramatic Arts and Great Books/Liberal Studies, with a doctorate from the Graduate Centre for Study of Drama at the University of Toronto. This production of *Medea* continues the investigations she conducted in the final chapter of her dissertation on irreverent stagings of classical plays among several American theatre artists since the 1990s. Natalie last directed Alameda Theatre's *Three Fingered Jack and the Legend of Joaquin Murieta* as part of Toronto's Summerworks Festival in 2006. Since then, she has been immersed in the language of television as a writer and story editor for Global Television's four-part documentary series *The Limelighters* on the Performing Arts Lodge in Toronto, which was recently nominated for Best Documentary at the Yorkton Film Festival.

David Vivian is an Assistant Professor and the Resident Designer in the Department of Dramatic Arts. He holds a Masters in Fine Arts from the University of British Columbia and is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada. Formerly with Concordia University in Montreal, his designs for theatre, film, television, and industry have been seen across Canada. His work at Brock has included *Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible' in an Age of Terror*, *Tenko*, *Our Country's Good*, *The Arabian Trilogy*, *Ring Round the Moon*, *Unity 1918*, and *Marat/Sade*. David researches marginalized and virtual spaces through visual arts and theatre design, the application of digital technologies to the collection of performance ephemera, regional identity construction and transmission through scenographic practice and research. David is a convener of the Scenography Working Group of the International Federation for Theatre Research. As a Director and the Secretary of Scenography Canada Research Society he was a coordinator of the participation of Canadian Schools of Theatre in the Prague Quadrennial of Scenography in 2007. He teaches theatrical design, production, and stagecraft at Brock.