

women of Trachis

by Sophocles

National Theatre of Northern Greece

women

Deianeira, the wife of Heracles, is waiting anxiously in Trachis for news of her husband who has been away for a long time. Heracles sends an envoy to announce his return. The envoy brings with him a young and beautiful prisoner, Iole. It is soon revealed that Iole is Heracles' mistress.

Deianeira, consumed with love and jealousy, decides to try to win back her husband using a charm which she had kept in secret for many years. It was given to her by a monster: the Centaur Nessos. Years ago, Nessos had tried to rape her but Heracles killed him with his deadly arrows, which carried the poisonous blood of Lernaia Hydra. Just before he died, Nessos advised Deianeira to collect and keep the blood around his wounds, where it had mingled with the blood of Lernaia Hydra: this peculiar liquid, he told her, could help her charm Heracles' heart and make him totally devoted to her.

Deianeira smears a beautiful shirt with the carm and sends it to Heracles as a welcoming gift. But her desire becomes a vehicle of hatred and death. In the blind and dark world of Trachis, Heracles' monstrous adversaries exact, at last, their revenge through a hopeless woman's love.

Women of Trachis is a play of spectacular darkness and poignant lyricism. Considered by many as one of the best plays by Sophocles, it still remains

relatively unknown to contemporary audiences. Participating in the celebrations for this year's 2,500th anniversary of Sophocles' birth, the N.T.N.G. has chosen to perform this paradoxically "contemporary" tragedy of blindness, where forgotten monsters and hidden passions hover in the wings until they finally erupt to demand their share in a world abandoned by gods.

Translation Kostas VALAKAS, Eleni PAPA ZO GLOU

Direction Victor ARDITTI

Set & Costumes Design Damianos ZARIFIS

Music Kostas VOMVOLOS

Choreography Konstantinos RIGOS

Lighting Yorgos TARKASIS

Music Instruction Nikos VOUDOURIS

Dramaturgy Consultant Eleni PAPA ZO GLOU

Assistant director Xenia AIDONOPOULOU

Cast (in order of appearance):

Aneza **PAPADOPOULOU**, Iphigenia **DELIGIANIDOU**, Yannis **PERLEGAS**,
Dimitris **KOLOVOS**, Sakis **PETKIDIS**, Yannis **TSORTEKIS**, Eftichia **YAKOUMI**,
Elena **TOPALIDOU**, Dimitris **KARELIS**, Akillas **KARAZISIS**.

Chorus:

Melina **APOSTOLIDOU**, Evgenia **APOSTOLOU**, Maria **BEGIATZI**, Chrysa
DIAMANTOPOULOU, Anny **DOUMOUI**, Amalia **GOUMA**, Anna **KALAITZIDOU**,
Dimitra **LARENTZAKI**, Pinelopi **MARKOPOULOU**, Natassa **MARMATAKI**,
Meropi **MORFOULI**, Elsa **MOURATIDOU**, Erato **PISSI**, Despina **SARO GLOU**,
Eva **SOFRONIDOU**, Rebecca **TSILIGARIDOU**, Tina **YOTOPOULOU**.

Performances - Tour

JUNE

Friday 25 / Ancient Stadium at Delfi

JULY

Monday 19 - Wednesday 21 / Theatro Dassous - Thessaloniki

Saturday 24 / Ancient Theatre at Filippi, Kavala

Saturday 31 / Open-air Amphitheatre at Nea Moudania, Chalkidiki

AUGUST

Saturday 7 / Ancient Theatre at Dion

Friday 20-Saturday 21 / Ancient Theatre at Epidaurus

Saturday 28-Sunday 29 / Roman Amphitheatre, Patra

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 1 / Theatro Petras, Municipality of Petroupoli, Athens

Friday 10- Sunday 12 / Theatro Dassous, Thessaloniki

of Trachis

National Theatre of Northern Greece

The National Theatre of Northern Greece, based in Thessaloniki, was founded in 1961 and launched its activities in the summer of the same year with performances of *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles, at the ancient theater of Filippi. During 1997-2000, within the framework of activities of the Organization for the Cultural Capital of Europe-Thessaloniki 1997, the N.T.N.G. expanded and renovated its

premises. Today, it occupies three big venues (appr. 700 seats each) as well as a studio theatre. Integrated in the N.T.N.G.'s administrative and artistic organization are the Dancetheatre of the N.T.N.G., the Opera of Thessaloniki and the Drama School.

The N.T.N.G. is at present one of the largest theatrical organizations worldwide. It

annually presents, a programme of approximately 30 different productions: internal productions of theatre, dancetheatre and opera, co-productions with other theatrical organizations and invited productions by theatre organizations from Greece and abroad. The N.T.N.G. runs also a Children's Theatre with performances for schools and educational organizations as well as a series of educational

activities (back stage tours, visits to schools etc). During the last few years, special emphasis has been given to research and publications.

The N.T.N.G. has been a member of the Union of Theatres of Europe since May 1996. It is also a member of the International Theatre Institute and the Greek Centre of Theatre for Children and Youth.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE



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