

Euripides

# The Trojan Women

A New Adaptation  
by Meghan Kennedy and Kimber Lee  
Directed by Halena Kays

Dramaturg  
Eleanor Speer Owicki

MFA Voice & Text Coaches  
Verity Branco  
Harrison Butler  
Michael Sullivan

October 30, 31 & November 3, 4, 5, 6 @ 8:00 pm  
and October 31 & November 1, 8 @ 2:00 pm  
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre | Winship Building

College of Fine Arts  
The University of Texas at Austin  
[www.finearts.utexas.edu/tad](http://www.finearts.utexas.edu/tad)  
Fall 2009

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|------------------|-------------------|
| ATHENA .....     | Xochitl Romero    |
| HECUBA .....     | Kate deBuys       |
| CASSANDRA .....  | Smaranda Ciceu    |
| ANDROMACHE ..... | Lesley Gurule     |
| HELEN .....      | Verity Branco     |
| POSEIDON .....   | Keenan Zarling    |
| TALHYBUI .....   | Emilio Banda      |
| MENELAUS .....   | Rodney Richardson |
| CHORUS .....     | Marlane Barnes    |
| CHORUS .....     | Sofia Ruiz        |
| CHORUS .....     | Davina Ugochukwu  |
| CHORUS .....     | Kelli Schultz     |
| SOLDIER .....    | Diego Medellin    |
| SOLDIER .....    | Joshua McGowan    |

## LETTER FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR

Welcome!

What you're seeing in this production is a reflection of what we value most in the Department of Theatre and Dance – our students. These young artists and scholars design, write, act, direct, choreograph, stage manage and produce nearly every aspect of our shows.

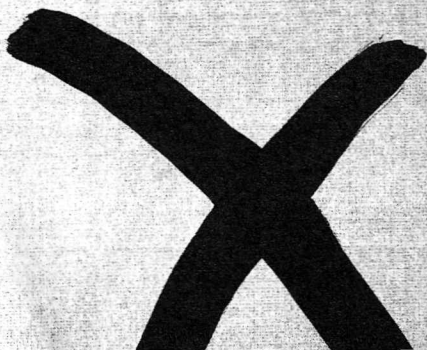
Yes, their work is guided and mentored by notable professional faculty and guest artists who believe deeply in the power of theatre. But the work, ultimately, is theirs. And it will be theirs to take into the world when they have graduated from the University of Texas.

We are a large and complex department that places great faith in our diversity, our ability to collaborate and our common purpose to make a difference through theatrical performance.

We do hope you leave the theatre talking about what you've just seen, having enjoyed as much as we have the talent and efforts of these future leaders and stars.

*Holly Williams*

Holly Williams  
Professor, Department of Theatre & Dance  
Interim Chair



## Dramaturgy Note

The Trojan War began when Helen, Queen of Sparta left her husband Menelaus with the Trojan prince Paris. To win her back and take revenge, a coalition of Greek armies set out for Troy. When they arrived, they surrounded the city and laid siege to it. It soon became clear, however, that the sides were evenly matched. The Greeks could not take the city, but the Trojans could not defeat them on the battlefield. This period saw many deaths, including the Greek champion Achilles and the Trojan champion Hector, but neither side gained a lasting advantage. Finally, after ten years, the Greek army knew that they could only win through deceit. Acting on a plan created by Odysseus, they constructed a giant wooden horse outside Troy's walls and pretended to sail away from Troy. Thinking the Greeks had finally surrendered, the Trojans took the horse inside the city walls. When night fell, Greek warriors emerged from the horse and slaughtered the unsuspecting Trojans. This is the moment in which *The Trojan Women* begins.

Since its first production, *The Trojan Women* has been a dangerous play. Euripides, who lived from approximately 480 to 406 BCE, was arguably the most controversial of all the Athenian playwrights. He was often criticized for his depiction of the gods, whom he portrayed as petty, vindictive, or ridiculous. Like all Greek tragedies, Euripides's plays were written to compete in the annual City Dionysia, one of the most important festivals in Athens. He wrote over 95 plays, Euripides only won the competition five times, probably as a result of these controversies. In contrast, the other major Athenian playwrights Aeschylus and Sophocles won thirteen times and twenty five times, respectively.

With *The Trojan Women*, Euripides offers a pointed critique of his fellow Athenians' treatment of their enemies. Most scholars agree that Euripides wrote *The Trojan Women* at least partially as a response to the Peloponnesian war, which raged between Athens and Sparta from 431 to 404 BCE. In 416 BCE, the year before Euripides wrote *The Trojan Women*, the Athenians attacked the neutral island Melos. Like the Greek armies in *The Trojan Women*, the Athenians murdered all the men of Melos and sold the women into slavery. The play's critique of the senseless brutality of war would therefore have hit quite close to home for audiences, particularly since those who instigated the attack on Melos were still in power and were planning a similar raid on Sicily. *The Trojan Women* is also radical because it focuses on the experiences of women during the war rather than on those of the heroes. In this way, Euripides rejects the romantic tales of bravery and daring and focuses on the real, physical ramifications of war.

## Director's Note

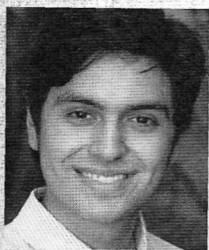
It is a dream to have designers and playwrights together from the start of a new adaptation; the images and sounds you are about to experience have sprung from every member of our artistic team due to their willingness to collaborate and risk. Thank you team.

Thank you, audience, for choosing to see live theater today; it is very punk rock of you. If you have any comments about the show please email me: [halenakays@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:halenakays@mail.utexas.edu)  
Thank you for coming. Have fun.

Women



WHO'S WHO



Emilio Banda



Marlane Barnes



Verity Branco



Smaranda Ciceu



Kate deBuys



Lesley Gurule



Joshua McGowan



Diego Medellin



Rodney Richardson



Xochitl Romero



Sofia Ruiz



Kelli Schultz



Davina Ugochukwu



Keenan Zarling

**HALENA KAYS** (*Director*) Halena is a second year MFA directing student. At UT Halena directed *Lidless* and *101 Ways to...* Hailing from Chicago she has performed and directed all over town for more than 10 years with The Hypocrites, The Factory, The Neo-Futurists, Steppenwolf, Redmoon and Second City. She is the co-founder and former artistic director of Barrel of Monkeys where she directed the majority of their public performances including their long-running show: *That's Weird, Grandma*. She is a Northwestern grad and a member of the Hypocrites theatre company and the Big Apple Circus Clown Care unit.

**JARED OBERHOLTZER** (*Stage Manager*) Jared is an undergraduate stage management student. He has previously stage managed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and was the assistant stage manager for *Big Love* and *Slaughter City*. He has also worked as ASM for the Rude Mechs' 2008 premiere and 2009 remount of *The Method Gun*.

**EMILIO BANDA** (*Talthybius*) Emilio is a senior in the Department of Theatre and Dance and hopes to graduate this upcoming May. He has recently worked and appeared in *Cymbeline*, *Richard III*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* at Shakespeare at Winedale and *The Nomadic Dream Project* and *Our Lady of 121st Street* in the Department of Theatre and Dance. He would like to thank his great loving family for all their love, support, and patience. Gracias!

**MARLANE BARNES** (*Chorus*) Marlane is a third year MFA actor at the UT Dept. of Theatre and Dance with plans to move to Los Angeles upon graduation. Recent credits include "Mabel" in Austin Shakespeare's *An Ideal Husband*, "Mae" in The Provincetown Player's *Wild Party*, and a workshop of the musical *I've Never Been So Happy* with The Rude Mechs.

**ELLEN BARTEL** (*Movement Director*) Artistic Director of Spank Dance Company in Austin, TX. Ellen has been choreographing since the early 1990s and is a first year graduate student MFA dance. In Austin she spearheads the contemporary dance festival *Big Range Austin* and *Dance Carousel*.

**VERITY BRANCO** (*Helen*) Verity is a third year MFA Acting student and is thrilled to be in this adaptation of *The Trojan Women*. Credits include: "Ludmilla/Illchin" in *Black Snow*, "Snug" in *Midsummer*, "Mrs. Cheverly" in *An Ideal Husband* ("Austin Critics Table Award Winner 2009"), national commercial for *Project Runway*- Season 6. Thanks always to my supportive family and best friend Paki. Visit [www.thefoodiegirls.com](http://www.thefoodiegirls.com).

**SMARANDA CICEU** (*Cassandra*) Smaranda is a third year MFA Acting Candidate at UT. She was last seen as "Circe" in *The Psyche Project* and "Nastasya" in *The Idiot* both UT productions and as "Ivan Vasilievici" in Tutto Theatre's production of *Black Snow*. She wants to tell her parents that she loves them more than anything.

**KATIE DEBUYS** (*Hecuba*) Katie is a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and a graduate of Northwestern University. She was last seen on Austin stages as "Sharla" in Capital

T's *Killer Joe* at Hyde Park Theatre. So much love and thanks to friends, family, and E.

**LESLEY GURULE** (*Andromache*) Lesley is a third year MFA actor at the University of Texas at Austin. UT credits include *Big Love* ("Lydia"), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* ("Patty Quince"), and *The Idiot* ("Mrs. Yepanchin"). Many, many, thanks to Jeff.

**ALISON HERYER** (*Costume Designer*) Alison Heryer is a second year MFA design candidate. Her UT credits include costumes for *Big Love* and *The Idiot* and scenery for *410 [GONE]* and *Summer People*. Before attending UT, she spent six years in the Chicago theatre scene, designing at Steppenwolf, Redmoon, Second City, The NeoFuturists, and teaching at Roosevelt University.

**PETER HOLTIN** (*Scenic Designer*) Peter is a second-year graduate student in scene design in the UT Department of Theatre and Dance. *The Trojan Women* is his first mainstage production and only his second realized design after *Funky Snowman*. Peter would like to thank his family, friends, and colleagues for all their support.

**MEGHAN KENNEDY** (*Playwright*) Meghan is a second year Michener Center fellow in playwriting at UT. She holds a BFA from the Tisch School of The Arts at NYU. Her plays have been produced in Ireland, New York, and Texas. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their tireless support. And, to Kimber Lee: Moo.

**KIMBER LEE** (*Playwright*) Before returning to school, Kimber worked as a professional actor and director. Acting credits include ACT, Seattle Rep, California Shakespeare Festival, Intiman Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, and Indiana Repertory Theatre. Her plays have been produced in Seattle, Aspen, New York, and San Diego, where she served as Associate Director for Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company.

**LYN KOENNING** (*Musical Director*) teaches courses in musical theatre audition and performance practices, musical theatre history, and musical theatre acting and vocal technique. She has received multiple nominations as Best Musical Director from the B. Iden Payne Awards and Austin Critics Table, winning the Critic's Table Award in 2005 and again in 2008.

**JOSHUA "J. FRESH" MCGOWAN** (*Soldier*) J. Fresh is a senior receiving a Bachelors in Theatre from UT-Austin this December. (Yay!) J. Fresh is in his last main stage show and was last seen as "Chorus" in *Ashes, Ashes*, "Flip" in *Our Lady of 121st Street*, and "T" in *The 7*; also, independent films like "Flako" in *The Why* and "Jonas" in *Sunken Garden*. Special thanks to his family and his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**DIEGO MEDELLIN** (*Soldier*) Diego is a UT junior completing a double major in RTF and Theatre & Dance. He has worked in several other productions at UT and he is very excited to be a part of *The Trojan Women*. He would like to thank his friends and most importantly his parents for their tremendous support.

**KEVIN O'DONNELL** (*Composer/Sound Designer*) Kevin is very pleased to be working at UT Austin for the first time. A composer and musician based in Chicago, Kevin has received 14 nominations for the Jeff Award (Chicago's theatre award), receiving five. He has also received two After Dark Awards for Outstanding Season (as a composer). A member of the House Theatre of Chicago, and an associate with The Hypocrites, he has also worked with Lookingglass, Steppenwolf, The Goodman, Northlight, and Redmoon Theater amongst many others. Outside of Chicago his work has been heard in NYC (59E59, St. Ann's Warehouse, Cherry Lane, DTW), Houston (Stages Rep), Montreal (Tangent), and Los Angeles (Taper Forum). As a musician he has recorded and toured extensively with Andrew Bird, with whom he is currently working on a film score.

**ELEANOR SPEER OWICKI** (*Dramaturg*) Eleanor is a PhD student in the Department of Theatre and Dance's Performance as a Public Practice program. She holds an MA from the PPP program and a BA from New York University. At UT, she dramaturged *Big Love*, *Still Life with Iris*, and *The Idiot*. She also teaches Theatre History in the department.

**RODNEY RICHARDSON** (*Menelaus*) Rodney is a UT senior who plans to graduate next spring with a BA in Theatre and Dance. He has appeared in such UT productions as *Our Lady of 121st Street* and *The Idiot*. Rodney really digs theatre and enjoys rocking guitar and piano in his spare time. He gives props to his mother and friends for support.

**XOCHITL ROMERO** (*Athena*) Xochitl was most recently seen on Austin stages as "Rose of Sharon" in Zach Scott Theatre's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Her most recent filmwork includes *A Day in the Life of J. Bauer* as well as the film *Dance With the One*, and *Friday Night Lights*. Visit [austinfoodcritics.blogspot.com](http://austinfoodcritics.blogspot.com).

**SOFIA RUIZ** (*Chorus*) Sofia is a senior acting major at UT Austin. Favorite credits include *Fefu and her Friends*, *410 [GONE]*, *Lidless* and Tutto Theatre Company's *Ophelia*. This summer she was part of *Five*, a collaborative performance at Teatro L'Arciliuto in Rome.

**KELLI SCHULTZ** (*Chorus*) Kelli is a sophomore at UT Austin triple majoring in Theatre and Dance/Plan II/ American Studies. Local credits include *House of Several Stories* ("Abigail"), *The 7* ("LaT") and *High School Musical* ("Sharpay") for which she received a B. Iden Payne Award nomination. Kelli is ecstatic to debut on the UT mainstage and would like to thank the wonderful cast and crew as well as her stellar roommate, Courtney, for helping her run lines.

**CHENG-WEI TENG** (*Lighting Designer*) Cheng-Wei received his BFA from Taipei National University of the Arts in Lighting Design, he is a second year MFA student in Lighting Design. After college, Cheng-Wei was a lighting designer and also an associate lighting designer in Taiwan for a few years, such as *The Idiot* in UT Austin and *Love Letters*, and *See You In Air*.

**DAVINA UGOCHUKWU** (*Chorus*) Davina is a UT senior majoring in Theatre and Dance (acting concentration) and English. She will be graduating this December, and is looking forward to beginning law school next fall. She has had the opportunity to participate in several UT productions, including *Ashes, Ashes*, *The Idiot*, and *Dream Sequence*.

**KEENAN ZARLING** (*Poseidon*) Keenan is a senior in the Department of Theatre and Dance who intends to graduate this spring and continue his career in theater. Past shows at UT include *Elephant's Graveyard* and *Cannibal! The Musical*. He would like to thank his family and his roommate John for their support.

## The UT Austin Department of Theatre and Dance Fall 2009 Productions

### There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom

Written by Louis Sachar

October 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 at 8:00 p.m.

October 3, 4, 11 at 2:00 p.m.

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

Tickets \$20/\$17/\$15

Euripides

### The Trojan Women

A New Adaptation

By Meghan Kennedy and Kimber Lee

Directed by Halena Kays

October 30, 31 & November 3, 4, 5, 6 at 8:00 p.m.

October 31 & November 1, 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

Tickets \$20/\$17/\$15

### Pride and Prejudice

By Jane Austen

Original Adaptation by James Maxwell,

revised by Alan Stanford

Directed by Gavin Cameron-Wesb

November 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20 at 8:00 p.m.

November 15, 22 at 2:00 p.m.

B. Iden Payne Theatre

Tickets \$20/\$17/\$15

### Dance Repertory Theatre Fall Showing

#### Preview of Canción del Cuerpo (Song of the Body)

Artistic Director Lyn Wiltshire

Co-Artistic Director Yacov Sharir

December 4 & 5 at 8:00 p.m.

B. Iden Payne Theatre

Free



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ALEXANDRIA SEPULVEDA

**ASSISTANT SCENERY DESIGNER**  
ROWAN DOYLE

**ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER**  
EMILY SMITH

**ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER**  
VICTORIA HENDRIX

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SAMUEL KRAMER  
JONATAN LOPEZ  
MEGAN MCQUAID  
ERIC MOK  
ANDREW NASH  
CHRIS ROBERTSON  
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SHANE WINKLER

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LIZZIE BRACKEN  
SAM DAHL  
SARA GRAUERHOLZ  
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**PROPERTIES MASTER**  
R. SWITZER

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**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE PRODUCING DIRECTOR**  
DENISE V. MARTEL

**SPECIAL THANKS TO**  
JERRY GARCIA  
MICHELLE HABECK  
JAMES INMAN  
MIKE SPATAFORA