

MEDEA

by EURIPIDES

Medea was originally premiered in c.431 BCE. Traditionalists have tended to confer prominence to

the chronology of the plot, with Medea escaping in a gold-winged chariot after killing her two sons. Such a linear format is now considered flawed, offering only spurious rationale for Medea's murder and undermining Euripides' talent for witty and vibrant writing. Historical indication suggests that much of Euripides work may well have been lost or destroyed - particularly in the great fires of Alexandria - leaving only a jigsaw of scripts which were pieced together by blinkered English conservative academics and expounded as historical and literary truth. Eyewitness' production of Medea uses Euripides original text and frames it very acutely within the post-modernist structure of motivation and consequence. Our production is more concerned with how and why a mother could slay her own children - rather than be bound up with traditional use of chorus, metre and verse within conventional historical requirements.

We wanted to create a Medea that is accessible to modern audiences in the USA, Canada and Australia as well as the UK. In the summer we shall be performing, in our home town of Manchester, to young inner city audiences - some of whom have never experienced theatre. So we felt it crucial to recite Euripides' text (blank verse and stanzaic chorus) in a more contemporary style - our Chorus uses a Manchester accent.

Translation was by **DESPINA GLEZOU** and the adaptation by **PETER MC GARRY**.
Costumes by **WONDER WOMAN**

MEDEA: Joanne Haydock has been acting professionally for 27 years now although she doesn't look old enough. She made her debut in London's West End at the age of 3 and has been 'thesping' ever since. This is her fourth sojourn to Orlando and has previously received fabulous reviews (cheers) for her portrayal of **Lady Macbeth, Molly** and **Fanny Hill**, and returns this year even madder and more psychopathic than before. Jo recently won an award for her portrayal of **MOLLY**.

CHORUS: Sophie Partington trained at the rather elite Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre School from where she made her debut in Strindberg's **Miss Julie**. After completing a stint on the British soap, **Coronation Street** she spurned TV and celebrity status for the theatre, touring Europe and North America with lead roles in **ROMEO AND JULIET**, and **FREE FOR ALL** and has since directed **BLACK AND WHITE IN THE RED**. Sophie has recently returned to the screen in a new film, **SALOME**. Sophie is 28, and like Joanne hails from Manchester.

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