



## GREEK PLAY AS RELEVANT AS THIS MORNING'S TWITTER FEED

*Euripides' torch being passed to new generation of students at Phoenix Theatre*

### 2018-19 Season

#### 3 Trojan Women

**February 14 – 23, 2019**

By Euripides, Translation by Alan Shapiro

Directed by Jan Wood  
Set Designer Matthew Wilkerson  
Costume Designer Sasha Lazin  
Lighting Designer Jaxun Maron  
Sound Designer Logan Swain  
Movement Director Treena Stubel  
Stage Manager Bethany Bendall

*Written in 415 BCE, this Greek tragedy was the first play about the brutal aftermath of war. It shifts our perspective away from the victors, to tell the story from the perspectives of the defeated Trojan wives, mothers and daughters.*

Continuing in 2019...

#### 4 7 Stories

**March 14 – 23, 2019**

By Morris Panych

Directed by Fran Gebhard

*Fast-paced and full of eccentric characters, this sophisticated satire takes place on the window ledge of a seven-storey building.*

For an ancient anti-war play, the words of Euripides' **Trojan Women** are unfortunately still needing to be heard. Running from February 14 – 23, 2019 at Uvic's Phoenix Theatre, this Greek tragedy is a cry for action, a call for change – and yet, with upwards of 92 000 lives lost to war and conflict last year (in the Middle East alone), we still have not learned the play's lesson.

*"The play is as relevant as this morning's Twitter feed," says Director and Acting Professor Jan Wood. "Turn on the news and you'll find another instance of **Trojan Women** being played out in the world."*

Written in 415 BCE, this Greek tragedy follows the perspective of the wives, mothers, and daughters of the Trojan warriors, who have been defeated. After losing everything they have to the war, the women of Troy struggle with grief and uncertainty as the victors decide their fate. And yet, they accept their inevitable fate with courage.

Wood also believes this lament to the lives of war victims sheds a light on the incredible human ability to endure. *"It is a testament to the ability of the human spirit," says Wood, "... to withstand cruelty inflicted upon others in the name of war, in the name of greed, in the name of lust, of vengeance, of envy, of intolerance, of fear. As the audience, we bear witness, not only to lives lost but to the capacity of humanity to move forward in times of great darkness. Even in our grief, we must look to the path ahead."*

She is excited to see this play in the hands of a new generation and is honoured to be working with 17 talented cast members and an outstanding team of all-student designers and stage managers. *"The **Trojan Women** reminds us that each one of us is a potential victim of war. Young people today are at the forefront of enacting real change in the world. With a greater understanding of the global village, they are well-positioned to find new paths to resolution with compassion and tolerance. Our survival depends upon it."*

The design team has created a contemporary environment that, while instantly relatable, has no ties to any place or time period in particular. It can be anywhere and everywhere. The set design by fifth-year student Matthew Wilkerson presents the battle-worn remnants of a vanquished city, complete with bullet hole-riddled walls and piles of discarded life in the rubble. Fourth-year student Sasha Lazin's costumes emphasize the power dynamics between the Greek military and the everyday, earth-toned clothing of defeated Trojans. Lighting design by fourth-year student Jaxun Maron takes us from dawn of final day in Troy to the bright noon as they depart. Fourth-year Logan Swain's sound design captures the past, the present and the future of Troy. Wood has brought Sessional Instructor and Movement Coach Treena Stubel on board to create choreography and bring a layer of fluidity to this beautiful, tragic play. Stage management is by fourth-year student, Bethany Bendall.

**Trojan Women** marks Wood's debut as a director for the Phoenix Theatre. Her accomplishments on the stage are known in the community through her work with the Belfry Theatre (*A Christmas Carol*, *Life Inside*, *Half Life* and most recently, *Reverberations* at SPARK 2017) as well as her acclaimed performance of Kate Keller in *All My Sons* at the Blue Bridge Repertory last summer. Wood has been a member of the performance faculty at the Department of Theatre since 1996.

The public is invited to a free **Preshow Lecture, Friday, February 15 at 7pm** with Dr. Laurel Bowman, from Uvic's Greek and Roman Studies Department, to discuss how the play would have been originally received by an Athenian audience of largely military personnel who were in the middle of a 30-year war between Athens and Sparta.

Performances for **Trojan Women** are as follows:

**Public Previews @8pm:** Tuesday & Wednesday, February 12 & 13

**Opening Night @8pm:** Thursday, February 14

**Evenings @8pm:** (Tuesday - Saturday) 14 (opening), 15 (preshow lecture), 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

**Matinees @2pm:** Saturdays, February 16 & 23

**Preshow Lecture @7pm:** Friday, February 15 with Dr. Laurel Bowman, Greek and Roman Studies Department

**Tickets:** Weekends@8pm: \$26 | Weekdays: \$26 Adult, \$21 Senior, \$16 Student, (Previews: \$8.00 available after 5pm)

**Phoenix Box Office Opens:** February 5: Monday through Saturday from 12:00 to 8:30pm.

In person or charge by phone at (250) 721-8000.

#### Phoenix Theatre Media Contact:

Adrienne Holierhoek, Marketing & Communications  
Department of Theatre

email: [aholierh@uvic.ca](mailto:aholierh@uvic.ca) | 250-721-7992

[www.phoenixtheatres.ca](http://www.phoenixtheatres.ca) | Box Office: 250-721-8000