Oedipus Rex

Sophocles

Follow this and additional works at: http://collected.jcu.edu/plays

Recommended Citation
http://collected.jcu.edu/plays/8

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Communication & Theatre Arts at Carroll Collected. It has been accepted for inclusion in Theatre Productions by an authorized administrator of Carroll Collected. For more information, please contact connell@jcu.edu.
John Carroll
University
Theatre
LEONE MARINELLO
Director

presents

Oedipus Rex
by Sophocles
NOVEMBER 10 and 11, 1956
8:30 P.M.
About the Play

"Tragedy is consummated when the dream of innocence is confronted with the fact of guilt and acquiesces therein." — Fiedler

There can be little doubt that Oedipus Rex is a crucial instance of tragedy. It is the play which best exemplifies the art of drama in its essential nature and completeness. It has this unique position partly because Aristotle based his definitions on it. However, since the time of Aristotle this play has been imitated, rewritten, discussed and produced by many generations. It has been the source of keen interest to actors, dramatists, moralists, psychologists and other students of human nature. Within the past few years Laurence Olivier has hit the peak of his acting career in Oedipus. He and the Greek National Theater Actors have made this play a hit in the capitals of the world. Many modern critics have pronounced Olivier’s production of Oedipus their greatest artistic experience in the theater. Oedipus Rex by Sophocles therefore is very much in place on the stage of John Carroll University where the finest of Liberal Arts should find encouragement.

The outline of the plot will do nothing more than indicate by its dryness the genius is a dramatist. However, in a play in which the background details are far removed from our everyday life, it will be a benefit to indicate the line of action.

When Sophocles came to write his play, he had the myth of Oedipus to start with. His audience was familiar with the age-old story. Laius and Jocasta, King and Queen of Thebes, are told by the oracle that their son will grow up to kill his father and marry his mother. In order to avoid this occurrence they pierce and bind the feet of their young son and leave him on Mount Kitharon to die. However the boy is found by a shepherd who later gives him to the King and Queen of Corinth who raise him as their own. But Oedipus—"Cloudbound"—is plagued by the oracle. He hears that he is fated to kill his father and marry his mother. To escape this fate, he flees from Corinth and on his journey meets an old man. In a dispute on the road, he kills the old man who really is his father. Oedipus comes to Thebes at a time when the Sphinx is preying on the city. He solves the riddle of the Sphinx and saves the city for which he is made king. He marries the widowed Queen. Later, when a drought settles on...
Thebes, the King finds that the gods are displeased that the slayer of Laius has not been punished. Oedipus swears to find the slayer; he discovers that he himself is the culprit and that he has married Jocasta, his mother. He blinds himself so that his error will no longer be seen and goes into exile. A ruined man, he dies at last in Athens.

It is obvious even from this sketch that the myth has more narrative material than Gone With the Wind. In his play Oedipus Rex, Sophocles begins almost at the end of the story. It opens with the plague descending on the city of Thebes after Oedipus and Jocasta have been ruling with great success for many years. The play takes less than a day and consists of Oedipus' quest for Laius' slayer, his painful recognition of himself as culprit, husband of his own mother, and his complete trammelling in the mesh of fate.

The chorus in this Greek play is somewhat unfamiliar to modern audiences. It is not just a mob of random citizens, but it plays an essential role in the drama. It represents the point of view and faith of Thebes as a whole, rather closer to being the conscience of the race than an overheated mob. It holds the balance between Oedipus and his antagonists, marks the progress of the struggle, and restates the main theme throughout.

Concerning the main theme, many are the attempts to rationalize this play. Among them is the psychological theory of Freud and his "son-loving-mother" complex which has come into common parlance today as the "Oedipus Complex". However, considering this play from a completely human point of view, we find in it the tragic lot of great men, caught on the wheel of fortune, the "dream of innocence confronted by the fact of guilt". In the spectacle of another's errors and fate, in the shock and blows of circumstance we see the doubtful doom of human kind created sick, commanded to be sound. Here we find tragedy that is concerned more with man against God than man against man; here the attempt to make the heavens more just in contrast to naturalistic drama from Ibsen on down. It provides for the greatness, the emancipation of the spirit which makes man's suffering meaningful and worthwhile, and generates terror.

H. S. HUGHES, S.J.
The Characters
(In the order in which they speak)

Oedipus, King of Thebes ........................................ John Sillings
Priest of Zeus .......................................................... Ronald Kondrat
Creon, Brother-In-Law of Oedipus ............................. David Davies
Tiresias, The Blind Prophet ....................................... Robert Showiak
Tiresias' Attendant .................................................. Gerry Marinello
Jocasta, Wife of Oedipus ........................................... Eleanor Duray
Messenger from Corinth ........................................... Robert Maynard
A Shepherd, formerly in Laius' service ......................... Richard Murphy
Captain of Oedipus' Guards ....................................... John McBride
Antigone, Daughter of Oedipus ................................. Patsie Marinello
Ismene, Daughter of Oedipus ...................................... Kathy Maynard
Chorus of Theban Men .............................................. John Clifford, John Hanson, Roger Hurley, Thomas Brophy
Chorus of Theban Women ......................................... Patricia Krause, Joyce Grande, Carol Armstrong
First Soldier .......................................................... Peter Wuerpel
Second Soldier ....................................................... Sam Lavelle
Scene Sequence

The action takes place in Thebes, before the Palace of Oedipus

PROLOGUE: Oedipus, Priest, Creon
Parorus: "Prayer to Many Gods" — Chorus

EPISODE I: Oedipus, Tiresias
Ode: "Nemesis" — Chorus

EPISODE II: Creon, Oedipus, Jocasta
Intermission — 15 minutes
Ode: "Man" — Chorus

EPISODE III: Jocasta, Messenger, Oedipus, Shepherd
Ode: "Life is Sorrow" — Chorus

EXODUS: Captain, Oedipus, Creon, Antigone, Ismenia

Crews

Business
George Mehrens
Mike Gilhool
Bill Hutina
Michael Grogan
James Huber
Pat O'Hara
Pat Chicone
Lola Lackner
Joann Artress
Patt Kendro
Bill Schmidt
Marilyn Zapp
Anne Davidson
Anne Mandel
Jeanne Oskey
John Clifford
John Diak
John McFerran

Mary Jo Grone
Nancy Knetes
Eileen Majercik
Judy Alexander
Jill Gigliardo
Joan Haytas

Stage
Chuck Atten
Frank Tesch

Make-up
John Grady
Tom Kirkhope
Bob Monetti
John Foldenauer
Dorothy Holicky

Posters
Mary Joan Gellin
Mary Jo Grone
Tarri Sabol

Publicity
John Hughes
Pat Farrell
Arlene Tropp
David Davis
Art Zammikiel

Program
Paul Yertin
Richard Ottes
Tarri Sabol
The Little Theatre Society
is one of the activities sponsored by the University and promoted by the Speech Department.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Rev. William J. Murphy, S.J. ........................................... Moderator
Mr. Leone J. Marinello .................................................. Director
Richard Murphy ......................................................... President
Patrick Farrell ......................................................... Vice-President—Business Manager
John Hanson .............................................................. Secretary-Treasurer

PRODUCTION STAFF
Donald Burger .............................................................. Stage Manager
Conrad Komatowski ......................................................... Stage Crew Chief
James Atten .............................................................. Electrician
Anthony Rocco .............................................................. Properties
Terri Sabol ................................................................. Costumes
John Bachhuber .............................................................. Sound
John Reardon .............................................................. Make-up
Charles West .............................................................. Bookholder
Richard Ottes ............................................................. Program
John Slattery ............................................................... Publicity

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Rev. Richard T. Deters, S.J. ........................................... Notre Dame College
Rev. Thomas C. Biecker, S.J. ........................................... Ursuline College
Alpha Psi Omega ........................................................... Booster Club
Patrons

Mr. W. S. Anderson, T. F. Harbichoff
Judge & Mrs. Wm. G. Allen
Dr. & Mrs. A. E. Bruckbauer
Mr. Eligio Bani
Mr. Joseph J. Belloino
Mr. John T. Bullmore (Dr.)
Mrs. R. C. Bloomstein
Mr. Issa Botta
Mr. Raimas Brousas
Mr. & Mrs. Jos. Bereal
Mrs. George F. Brooks
Mr. John J. Busch
Mrs. Maria Bursan
Mr. Stanley Cahill
Mr. Thomas E. Carlin
Mr. Charles C. Caronga
Mr. James G. Cassatt
Mr. John J. Chiglman
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Griffin
Mr. Louis Clifford
Mr. Peter R. Cook
Mr. & Mrs. G. V. Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh M. Cowan
Mr. & Mrs. P. J. Cowan
Mr. John J. Curry
Mr. Claude L. Daigle
Mrs. Charlotte W. Davis
Mr. Paul Driscoll
Mr. Jerome Drushal
Mr. & Mrs. John Drusel
Mr. & Mrs. John Drusel
Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Elam
Mr. F. M. Fairbanks
Mr. Jason A. Farwell
Mr. Thomas M. Fassery
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Faugl
Mr. & Mrs. Ed. Fasgreen
Mr. & Mrs. R. F. Faugl
Mr. & Mrs. H. Fitzsimmons
Mr. Frank A. Franks
Mr. John R. Fitzgerald
Mr. Mark C. Fisk
Mr. & Mrs. George Fisk
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fisk
Mr. & Mrs. John Fisk
Mrs. George Fisk
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Fiske
Mr. & Mrs. John Greely
Miss F. Grubelisky
Mr. Joseph A. Grune

Mr. E. G. Folley
Dr. H. F. Frick
Mr. & Mrs. Law. D. Hoek
Mr. F. Hubbell
Mr. Dennis F. Hayes
Mr. Louis F. Jink
Mr. Eben H. Jobb
Mr. Herbert J. Johnson
Mr. John Jankel
Mr. Maria J. Kepner
Mr. Marshall V. Kowacz
Mr. John E. Kehoe, Jr.
Mr. John Kodzak
Mr. John Kindel
Mr. John LaCasse
Mr. & Mrs. T. V. Kramkowski
Mr. Gregory J. Kruse
Mr. John J. Kruze
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Krustel
Mr. & Mrs. J. J. LaCasse
Mr. Anthony J. Lanza
Mr. & Mrs. G. J. Langelier
Mr. Edw. J. Lodges
Mr. Arthur Lohb
Dr. & Mrs. John Long
Mr. O. Earl Low
Mr. & Mrs. Frank E. Lowb
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Lowbough
Mr. Thomas J. McFeron
Mr. Hugh Morel
Mr. Thomas H. Mosack
Mr. William Marks
Mr. & Mrs. William N. Maynard
Mr. George H. Mahone
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Mayer
Mr. John J. McFarland
Mr. C. A. Murphy
Mr. Donald N. Murphy
Mr. Claude Nunza
Mr. & Mrs. George Niccol
Mr. James J. O'Connell
Mr. Frank J. O'Malley
Mr. L. R. Oleson
Mr. L. P. Oleson
Mr. & Mrs. Don. J. Paquin
Mrs. Louis Wilson
Mr. George Fausmar
Mr. & Mrs. Franko

Mr. E. G. Folley
Dr. H. F. Frick
Mr. & Mrs. Law. D. Hoek
Mr. F. Hubbell
Mr. Dennis F. Hayes
Mr. Louis F. Jink
Mr. Eben H. Jobb
Mr. Herbert J. Johnson
Mr. John Jankel
Mr. Maria J. Kepner
Mr. Marshall V. Kowacz
Mr. John E. Kehoe, Jr.
Mr. John Kodzak
Mr. John Kindel
Mr. John LaCasse
Mr. & Mrs. T. V. Kramkowski
Mr. Gregory J. Kruse
Mr. John J. Kruze
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Krustel
Mr. & Mrs. J. J. LaCasse
Mr. Anthony J. Lanza
Mr. & Mrs. G. J. Langelier
Mr. Edw. J. Lodges
Mr. Arthur Lohb
Dr. & Mrs. John Long
Mr. O. Earl Low
Mr. & Mrs. Frank E. Lowb
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Lowbough
Mr. Thomas J. McFeron
Mr. Hugh Morel
Mr. Thomas H. Mosack
Mr. William Marks
Mr. & Mrs. William N. Maynard
Mr. George H. Mahone
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Mayer
Mr. John J. McFarland
Mr. C. A. Murphy
Mr. Donald N. Murphy
Mr. Claude Nunza
Mr. & Mrs. George Niccol
Mr. James J. O'Connell
Mr. Frank J. O'Malley
Mr. L. R. Oleson
Mr. L. P. Oleson
Mr. & Mrs. Don. J. Paquin
Mrs. Louis Wilson
Mr. George Fausmar
Mr. & Mrs. Franko