Syracuse Stage schedules ‘Medea’ live online panel discussion, “Medea’ and the moment’

Gillian Glasco, who appeared in Syracuse Stage’s “Disgraced,” reads the title role in Charles Martin’s translation of “Medea.”

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SYRACUSE, NY – With an online reading of Charles Martin’s new translation of “Medea” scheduled for this weekend, Syracuse Stage has announced a live online panel discussion, “Medea and the Moment,” for Monday, June 8 to discuss issues related to current events that are addressed in Euripides’ tragedy. Participants will have the opportunity to contribute questions and comments to the discussion. The reading is scheduled for June 5 at 7:30 pm and will be available at any time through June 7 at the theater’s website.
Moderated by Joann Yarrow, Stage’s director of community engagement and education, the scheduled seven member discussion panel includes translator Martin, performers Gillian Glasco (Medea) and Matt Chiorini (Jason), Stage artistic director Robert Hupp, associate artistic director Kyle Bass, “Medea” director April Sweeney and LightWork communications coordinator Cjala Surratt. The discussion is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. and last approximately 45 minutes. It may be accessed through a link posted on the company's website at https://syracusestage.org/showinfo.php?id=99. The “Medea” reading, featuring a cast of nine professional actors, can be accessed through the same website June 5 – 7.

The connections between “Medea” and pressing issues of the day are immediate and multifaceted. April Sweeney, the reading’s director and chair of the theater department at Colgate University, said, “Euripides’ ancient play ‘Medea,’ asks us to (re)consider a series of questions that at heart revolve around issues of injustice: who is deserving of rights in a society, who is valued and matters and at what cost?”

Martin noted: “There are so many aspects of ‘Medea’ that appeal to a modern audience. The character of Medea is wonderfully realized. She is a woman who has been abandoned by her husband (along with their children) and she is a stateless person, a political refugee.”

Originally scheduled as part of the 2019/2020 Cold Read Festival of New Plays, “Medea” moved online when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Festival’s cancellation. Viewers accessing “Medea” will see the reading in a format resembling a Zoom meeting enhanced by visual and sound effects. Although the Euripides’ tragedy dates from 431 BCE, “Medea” was included in the Festival, which is dedicated to new work, because Martin’s new translation was published in 2019 by the University of California Press.

“As a festival and as an entity, ‘Cold Read’ is about introducing our audiences to new plays. For me, it’s exciting to present a nearly 2,500-year-old drama as a new play,” said Bass, who serves as the Festival’s curator. “With his fleet and resonant new adaption, poet Charles Martin has made Euripides’ ‘Medea’ fresh and compelling. It speaks convincingly to our now.”

Martin and wife Johanna Keller have lived in Syracuse for about 15 years. Martin is a poet, critic and translator whose many awards and accolades include a Pushcart Prize, the Bess Hokin Award, the Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Merrill Ingram Foundation. He was poet in residence at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City from 2005–2009, and has taught in The Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins, at Queensborough Community College, Syracuse University, in the Stonecoast low-residency M.F.A. at the University of Southern Maine, and at the School of Letters of the University of the South. He has also taught workshops at the Sewanee Writers Conference and the West Chester Poetry Conference.

Although “Medea” will be available free of charge, Syracuse Stage asks for help to raise money for organizations leading local anti-racism efforts. Those who would like to donate can do so at https://syracusestage.org/donatenow.php.

“Medea”
By Euripides
Translated by Charles Martin
Directed by April Sweeney
Curated by Kyle Bass
Technical Consultant: Ricky Pak
Stage Manager: Audrey Flynn
June 5 – 7, 2020 at SyracuseStage.org
Cast
Matt Chiorini* ................................................................. Jason
Binaifer Dabu .................................................................................... Tutor/Messenger
Robert Garland ............................................................................. Chorus 2
Gillian Glasco* .............................................................................. Medea
Lilli Komurek .................................................................................. Chorus 3
Madeleine Lambert* .................................................................. Lead Chorus
Larry John Meyers* .................................................................. Creon
Alessandro Trinca* ...................................................................... Aeges
Laura E. Vivio* ............................................................................ Nurse

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers’ Unions: Actors’ Equity Association, American Guild of Musical Artists, American Guild of Variety Artists, SAG-AFTRA and through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.

ABOUT SYRACUSE STAGE
Founded in 1974, Syracuse Stage is the non-profit, professional theatre company in residence at Syracuse University. It is nationally recognized for creating stimulating theatrical work that engages Central New York and significantly contributes to the artistic life of Syracuse University, where it is a vital partner in achieving the educational mission of the University’s Department of Drama. Syracuse Stage’s mission is to tell stories that engage, entertain and inspire people to see life beyond their own experience. Each season 70,000 patrons enjoy an adventurous mix of new plays, and bold interpretations of classics and musicals, featuring the finest theatre artists. In addition, Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves more than 15,000 students from 14 counties. Syracuse Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the Arts and Cultural Leadership Alliance (ACLA), the University Hill Corporation and the East Genesee Regent Association. Syracuse Stage is a member of The League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the largest professional theatre association in the country.

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Syracuse Stage  I  Artistic Director: Robert M. Hupp  I  Managing Director: Jill A. Anderson