

City Garage presents

Iphigenia by Charles L. Mee

Part III of City Garage's *Three by Mee* Season

Directed by Frédérique Michel

Production Design by Charles A. Duncombe



December 1—18, 2006
January 12—February 4, 2007

Iphigenia

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Cast

Ed Baccari	<i>Soldier</i>
Crystal Clark	<i>Iphigenia</i>
Troy Dunn	<i>Agamemnon</i>
Alexandra Fulton	<i>Bridesmaid</i>
Sam Littlefield.....	<i>Achilles</i>
Nita Mickley.....	<i>Bridesmaid</i>
Maximiliano Molina	<i>Soldier</i>
Alisha Nicols	<i>Bridesmaid</i>
Bo Roberts.....	<i>Menelaus</i>
Kenneth Rudnick	<i>Soldier</i>
Marie-Françoise Theodore.....	<i>Clytemnestra</i>

Production Staff

<i>Set and Lighting Design</i>	Charles A Duncombe
<i>Assistant Director</i>	Martha Duncan, Jeff
<i>Costume Design</i>	Josephine Poinot
<i>Light/Sound Operator</i>	Irene Casarez
<i>Still Production Photography</i>	Paul M Rubenstein

Place & Time

Thebes, Greece, just before the Trojan War

The play runs approximately 80 minutes and is performed without intermission

City Garage is supported, in part, by grants from:
the Wells Fargo Foundation,
Rocket Science Laboratories,
and the Santa Monica Arts Commission.

Charles Mee's work is made possible by the support of Richard B. Fisher and Jeanne Donovan Fisher.

ABOUT THE TEXT

"I see that there are acts that will set an empire on a course that will one day bring it to an end."

—Agamemnon, *Iphigenia*

City Garage began its *Three by Mee* project with *Agamemnon*, which is the end of the the story of the fall of the house of Atreus. It closes it with *Iphigenia*, which is the beginning, and in that beginning, of course, lies the seeds for the catastrophe that is to come. We know how empires are born. A people, or a nation, masters some powerful new force—military, economic, or technical—and by virtue of this force, begins to dominate its neighbors, then its region, then finally, a greater or lesser portion of the globe. In this way, stories of the rise of empires are all more or less the same. But, to paraphrase Tolstoy, when empires fall, they fall after their own fashion. And these are the stories that fire our imaginations. How do the powerful become powerless? Are they destroyed by their enemies or by themselves? This is the question that Agamemnon, the leader of the Greeks, broods over as he stands on the shores of the sea, ready to embark on the first step of the Trojan War and all the disasters that will follow, including the state murder of his daughter, Iphigenia, the crumbling of his own empire, and his own death at the hands of his avenging wife.

As the play unfolds, the questions he confronts become even less answerable. What does it mean to lead? What should a leader be ready to give up in order to justify the demands he makes of those whom he leads? Is the willingness to sacrifice oneself the highest good or the greatest delusion? And if the cause for which one has sacrificed oneself (or worse, commanded the sacrifice of others) fails, or is abandoned, is that sacrifice rendered meaningless, or worse, criminal? The soldiers he leads are troubled by the same questions. As well they may be, along with soldiers elsewhere in the world at this moment, also in the service of empire and its ends.

"What's been set in motion cannot be stopped," he says toward the end of the play, haunted by the consequences he sees looming before him. We too may be haunted by the same thought. We make our own futures by the decisions we make today. Our destiny, however, does not unveil itself in a moment, but only by degrees. Each new step we take may seem reasonable at the time, the right thing, the only thing to be done. But step by step, the reasonable becomes the unreasonable, the rational, the irrational, the sane, the insane. One day we wake up, and find ourselves in the midst of madness, waste, and disaster, and ask ourselves: how did we get here? Our destiny becomes clear only when we look back, only once it has entrapped us, or we, ourselves.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chuck Mee has written *bobraschenbergamerica*, *Wintertime*, *Belle Epoque*, *Vienna: Lusthaus*, *Snow in June*, *A Perfect Wedding*, *Limonade tous les Jours*, and a number of other plays in addition to his work inspired by Greek plays: *Big Love*, *True Love*, *Orestes 2.0*, *Trojan Women A Love Story* and others. His plays have been performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, American Repertory Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, the Public Theatre, Lincoln Center, the Humana Festival, Steppenwolf, and other places in the United States as well as in Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Vienna, Istanbul and elsewhere. His complete works are available at www.charlesmee.org.

CAST PROFILES

Ed Baccari

Soldier

Ed made his City Garage debut in *Agamemnon* earlier this year and just appeared here in *The Bacchae*. He also recently appeared as Vincent Van Gogh on television's *Medium*. Theatre credits include *The Zoo Story*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *Hedda Gabler*. Film credits include Jake Lead, Arresting Gena, Lake Watch, and many others.

Crystal Clark

Iphigenia

Crystal is new to the City Garage Theatre. She attended Cal State University Northridge, where she received a Bachelor degree in Theatre Arts. Some of her work includes *Blasting Holes in the Night*, for which she traveled overseas to Shanghai, China to perform, and *Lost in a Bush* at the Ivar Theatre in Hollywood. Crystal is very excited to be a part of this production.

Troy Dunn

Agamemnon

Troy was most recently seen as Pentheus in *The Bacchae* and as Agamemnon in *Agamemnon* here at City Garage. He hails from the Midwest and spent most of his professional career in Milwaukee working with the MRT, Theatre X, and Chamber Theatre to name a few. Notable roles include Ariel in *The Tempest*, John Oleanna, Lord Goring in *An Ideal Husband*, Benedict in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Barnum in *Barnum*, and Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*.

Alexandra Fulton

Bridesmaid

Alexandra is an MFA graduate of the American Repertory Theater Institute for advanced theater training at Harvard University. Her favorite roles have been Grit directed by Robert Woodruff in Edward Bond's *Have I None* and Yelena in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* at the MAXT Theater in Moscow. She is excited to be making her City Garage debut.

Sam Littlefield

Achilles

Sam is proud to be making his City Garage debut. A Utah native, and Interlochen Arts Academy alum, Sam has made guest appearances in television shows such as *CSI: NY*, *Angel*, *VIP*, *Cover Me*, and *Everwood*, as well as others. Previous theater credits include *Waiting for Godot*, *God's Country* and *Shakespeare's Sonnets*.

Nita Mickley

Bridesmaid

Nita Mickley grew up performing in Boulder, CO, then moved on to study theater at Barnard College in NYC, in London at BADA, and in San Francisco before finally made her way to City Garage in this fall to play the Tattooed Woman in *The Bacchae*. She is also a violinist and performs with the Santa Monica Symphony.

Maximiliano Molina

Soldier

Maximiliano is happy to have found City Garage and to be experiencing another show here after appearing in *Agamemnon* earlier this year. A graduate of Cal Poly Pomona and the Actors Studio Drama School in New York, he is glad to be back in California. He has been affiliated with companies like the Zoo District here in L.A., Campos Santos in San Francisco, and founding member of MMM... Comedy in New York.

Alisha Nichols

Bridesmaid

Alisha is thrilled to be working with City Garage for the first time. She recently graduated from California State University Northridge with her BA in Theatre. Her past credits include *Balm in Gilead*, *The Lesson*, and *Polaroid Stories*.

Bo Roberts

Menelaus

Bo has previously performed at City Garage in *Blood On A Cat's Neck*; *The Universal Wolf*; *Wantons, Rogues and Libertines*; *George Sand: An Erotic Odyssey in Seven Tableaux*; *Journeys Among the Dead*; *Pre-Paradise*, *Sorry Now*; *Mariage Blanc*; *The Fetishist*; *Katzelmacher*; *Titus Tartar*, *The Girl In the Flammable Skirt*; *The Empire Builders*; *Patriot Act: A Reality Show*; *The Battle: ABC* (which won the Best Ensemble award at the 2006 LA Weekly Theatre

Awards), *Agamemnon*, and *The Bacchae*.

Kenneth Rudnick

Soldier

This production marks Kenneth's City Garage debut. He is very pleased to be working with the company.

Marie-Françoise Theodore

Clytemnestra

Originally from Chicago and newly arrived from St. Paul, MN, Marie-Françoise is proud to again be appearing as Clytemnestra at City Garage after making her Los Angeles theatre debut here earlier this year in *Agamemnon*. In Minnesota, Marie-Françoise performed lead roles at the Guthrie Theatre (*Darker Face of the Earth*), and Penumbra Theatre (*Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *Two Trains Running*). In Chicago, Marie-Françoise appeared on the stages of Steppenwolf Theatre Co, Chicago Theatre Co and the Court Theatre (Iphigenia in *Aulis and Tauris*). She holds an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts from Columbia College Chicago.

STAFF PROFILES

Frederique Michel, Artistic Director

Director

Frederique was born in Paris and studied theatre at the Conservatoire. She has led the company as Artistic Director since its founding in 1987. She received a Dramalogue Award for her direction of *Dissident*. Her 1998 production of *George Sand: An Erotic Odyssey in Seven Tableaux* was nominated for four L.A. Weekly Theater Awards, including Best Director. She was nominated again for Best Director for *MedeaText: Los Angeles/Despoiled Shore* (2000). In 2005 she won the LA Weekly Award for Best Direction (one-act) for *La Leçon*. Her production of *The Battle: ABC* was nominated for Best Direction and received the 2006 LA Weekly Award for Best Ensemble.

Charles A. Duncombe, Managing Director

Production Designer

Charles is a writer, director and designer. He began his partnership with Frederique Michel in 1985, and he has designed all of her work since then. He has won two Dramalogue awards for production design and in 1999 won the L.A. Weekly Theater Award for Best Lighting Design for *George Sand: An Erotic Odyssey in Seven Tableaux* (1998). He was nominated for two L.A. Weekly awards for *MedeaText: Los Angeles/Despoiled Shore* (2000): Best Adaptation, and Best Set. He was nominated again for two L.A. Weekly awards for *Frederick of Prussia/GeorgeW's Dream of Sleep* (2001): Best Adaptation, and Production Design. His play *Patriot Act* won the Fratti/Newman Award for Political Playwriting in 2005 and will open in New York at the Castillo Theater this June as part of their 2007 season.

Jeff Atik

Assistant Director

Jeff Atik is delighted to be a member of City Garage. He is a former company member of Milan's Teatro i. As an actor, Jeff has appeared in films including *Sailor's Girl* (Sundance 2005). He also served as assistant director for *Agamemnon* earlier this year.

Martha Duncan

Assistant Director

This is Martha's third time assisting Frederique, having worked with her on *Titus Tartar* and *Agamemnon*. Martha is very active on stage in the South Bay area, having recently appeared in three productions at The Long Beach Playhouse.

Irene Casarez

Light/Sound Operator

Irene made her City Garage debut in *The Gertrude Stein Project*, and was last seen here in *The Bacchae*.

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www.citygarage.org**

