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Prometheus Bound

Aeschylus

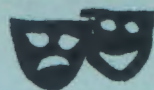
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L.T.S. PRESENTS



AESCHYLUS'
PROMETHEUS



in The Little Theatre

Nov. 12-15 & 19-22

8:30 P.M.

J.C.U. SPEECH DEPARTMENT

OUR NEW LITTLE THEATRE

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to our new Little Theatre, the permanent home of the LTS. It is here that we will stage our major plays, the Readers Theatre programs, the workshop and experimental productions. Additionally, the entire theatre complex is designed to accommodate teaching the theatre courses of the Speech Department.

The facilities include: separate dressing rooms, a Green Room, a storage and work area, an observation classroom, a technical room, the house and the stage.

The house seats 108 comfortably. The chairs are portable, allowing us to arrange them to suit the individual play. Because the seating capacity is limited, we increased the number of performances to eight--with a Thursday through Sunday run of two weeks. Admission is still free, and all seats are available on a first-come basis.

The stage is an open platform without a curtain. Both it and the house comprise an organic unit, the walls of the house merging with those of the stage. The sides and back of the stage are framed in with a permanent architectural redwood facade with eleven openings for variety and fluidity of action. The spotlights are hung openly from the light bridge and side poles in the house.

If you feel that you are in an authentic theatre, then we have achieved our goal.

Cast auditions are held for each play. The specific dates for tryouts and performances are always printed in the university calendar. The Spring play auditions will be held on January 26 and 27 from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. All interested Carroll students in good standing are eligible for the cast and production staff.



PROMETHEUS BOUND is the exemplar that tragedy is essentially the suffering of a great soul who suffers greatly. And it is plain that the poet arranges everything to win our sympathy for Prometheus and against Zeus.

The opening scene leaves no doubt, surely, on which side Aeschylus wishes to enlist our sympathy. Force and violence represent plainly in their persons and in their brutal words and actions the spirit of Zeus' dealing; and the reluctant and compassionate attitude of Hephestus is clearly designed to contrast the hateful glee with which Zeus' vengeance is taken.

Prometheus' patient endurance of the insults and the pain establishes our sympathy and admiration for him, and his magnificent appeal to the elements emphasizes his loneliness and the apparant absence of all animate sympathy. The coming of the gentle Sea Nymphs is the answer of nature to his appeal.

It also appears that the poet wishes to bring a representative of each order of being into contact with Prometheus, so that we should see his conduct from their different points of view. Ocean, certainly, represents the older generation, the old order, an official, so to speak, of the regime of Kronos.

The episode of Io is vital as showing Zeus' dealings with mankind; Prometheus has brought his sufferings on himself, but Io, the mortal, is a perfectly innocent victim of Zeus; injustice. She is the visible symbol of what it is that Prometheus is opposing, is suffering to prevent. And it puts Prometheus face to face with the ancestress of his deliverer; he knows it, predicts it, and his courage, his firmness are redoubled. His defiance brings in Zeus' messenger, Hermes, for the closing of the drama.

PROMETHEUS

Martyr, Fire-Bringer, Champion Of Man

Prometheus is the archrebel and the archmartyr of all humanity. Wherever the human spirit is oppressed by tyranny and injustice, men resurrect Prometheus as the symbol of their anguish.

Prometheus fell because he had dared to challenge the power of the gods. He himself was not a god but a Titan, the immortal race that had ruled supreme for aeons until the gods overwhelmed them in a horrendous battle.

Prometheus survived the cataclysm but he nursed a secret distrust for the gods and made himself the champion of man. Some say that he created man, fashioning him out of earth from a river in central Greece, where in historic times the Greeks thought that the clay still smelled like human flesh.

When men sacrificed animals to Zeus, Prometheus tricked Zeus into choosing fat and bones as his portion, so that men might keep the tastiest meat for themselves. When Zeus retaliated by withholding the civilizing gift of fire, Prometheus stole the fire when Zeus' back was turned.

Infuriated, Zeus nailed Prometheus to a lofty crag where an eagle daily tore his new-healed flesh to rags and feasted on his blackened liver, winter and summer, year after year. But the fettered Titan's defiance never weakened. Zeus might rack his body; Zeus could not break his spirit.

Prometheus' punishment was not all in revenge. He was being tortured to reveal a secret. Zeus, according to an oracle, was destined to be overthrown by a child of his own begetting, who would be even greater than his father. Prometheus knew who the mother would be.

THE CHARACTERS

(in order of speaking)

FORCE.....*Bill Novak*
VIOLENCE.....*Jim Fraley*
HEPHESTUS.....*Richard Snider*
PROMETHEUS.....*Jon McKenzie*
SEA NYMPHS.....*Jennie Lum*
Chris Welsh
Shelley Kaplan
Kathryn Motiska
OCEAN.....*John Renkar*
IO.....*Rachel Gruss*
HERMES.....*Mike Herbert*

SCENE: PROMETHEUS, BY TRADITION,
WAS FASTENED TO A PEAK OF
THE CAUCASUS.

THE ACTION IS CONTINUOUS.

N.B. There will be no curtain calls.

Please: No smoking, drink or
eating in the theatre.

No picture taking during
the performance.

KATHRYN MOTISKA is making her first appearance on stage in her role with the LTS. Kathryn is a junior majoring in accounting.

CHRISTINE WELSH, a freshman history major from Oil City, Pa., worked on stage at her high school, Venango Christian. This is her first role with the LTS.

MARK EMERY appeared in THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER and THE CAIN MUTINY with the St. Ignatius Harlequins. A freshman english major, he is taking his first role with the LTS.

JIM FRALEY, JR., appeared last spring in the LTS production of THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER AND HIS WIFE. Jim, a junior speech major from Detroit, takes the role of Violence.

MIKE HERBERT, a freshman english major, has appeared on stage at his high school and at the Arena Fair Theatre in his home town, Orrville, Ohio. This is his first appearance with the LTS and he takes the role of Hermes.

BILL NOVAK appeared in LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE as a member of the St. Ignatius Harlequins. This past summer he appeared in PAJAMA GAME at the Near West Side Civic Arts Center. Bill, a freshman, takes the role of Force in this, his first appearance with the LTS.

JOHN RENKAR played in A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS at St. Ignatius High School in Chicago. This is his first role with the LTS.

MEET THE CAST

JON MCKENZIE, a senior psychology major, has previously appeared at John Carroll in AGAMEMNON, THE ZOO STORY, and THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER AND HIS WIFE; and at Ursuline College in UNDER MILKWOOD. He has also been featured in Room I, The Theatre in the Lounge, and with the Fine Arts Committee. Last spring Jon appeared in POEM SCAPES OF A REVOLUTIONARY by Kenneth Patchen at the Karamu House. Jon takes the role of Prometheus.

RACHEL GRUSS, a sophomore english major, takes the role of Io in this, her first appearance with the LTS. Rachel appeared in Anouilh's BECKETT and Thornton Wilder's OUR TOWN at her high school in Chester, New Jersey.

SHELLEY KAPLAN is a freshman taking her first role with the LTS as a member of the chorus. She appeared in CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN at her high school.

JENNIE LUM, a junior, has transferred to John Carroll from Albion College in Michigan where she played in SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR and became a member of Theta Alpha Phi. This summer she played in THE ROAR OF THE GREASEPAINT, THE SMELL OF THE CROWD at Cain Park. A speech major, this is her first role with the LTS.



RICHARD SNIDER, the stage manager, doubles his LTS activities as production staff member and actor. Rick has appeared in TOPAZE and THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER AND HIS WIFE and was assistant stage manager for THE ZOO STORY and THE LESSON. Rick is a senior english major.

FRANK WIDYNSKI, a sophomore major in business management, began his technical stage work at Benedictine High School. Since a member of the LTS, Frank has been head light man for THE ZOO STORY and THE LESSON, THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER AND HIS WIFE, and the Theatre in the Lounge.

BARBARA VERCEK, a junior speech major, last semester choreographed UNKNOWN SOLDIER AND HIS WIFE for the LTS. Barbara choreographed OLIVER and WEST SIDE STORY for Chanel High School, and last summer worked on CABARET

YOUR OWN THING for the South Euclid Limited In Company. A member of Dance Masters of America and the Cacchetti Council of America, she is an assistant instructor at the Hazelle School of Dance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Little Theatre Society extends its warmest thanks to all those who assisted us in presenting this production.

PROMETHEUS BOUND was translated by Miss Edith Hamilton and produced from THREE GREEK PLAYS by special arrangement with W. W. Norton & Co., Inc.

Make-up supplied by Bonne Bell, Inc.

