



CAPPELLA Twelve Centuries of New Music
Amelia LeClair, Director **CLAUSURA**

Newton Theatre Company and
Cappella Clausura Present

EURIPIDES'
**IPHIGENIA
AMONG THE
TAURIANS**

TRANSLATED BY REBECCA HADAS



Directed by
Melissa Bernstein

Musical Direction &
Arrangement by
Amelia LeClair

June 3-5, 2022
The Hyde Bandshell

THE TEAM

ACTORS

Paige Clark* – Iphigenia
Elliott Purcell* – Orestes
Maggie Kearnan – Pylades
Caroline Cole – Chorus Woman
Chiara Durazzini – Herdsman
Karin Trachtenberg – Thoas
Shalini Prasad – Messenger
Valerie Goldstein – Messenger
Gena Hooper – Athena

CHORUS

Chant composed by Kassia of Byzantium (c.810) and transcribed by Diane Touliatos. Arrangements and text underlay by Amelia LeClair, with text from translation by Rachel Hadas.

Chihiro Asano
Mar Fayos
Burcu Güleç
Barbara Hill
Jeannette Lee

PRODUCTION TEAM

Melissa Bernstein – Director
Amelia LeClair – Music Director/Arranger
Bernie Bernstein – Technical Director
Kenneth Fang – Stage Manager
Nicholas Manthei – Lighting Designer
Adam Seltzer – Sound Technician
Maisie Bernstein – Costume Designer

*Denotes member of the Actors Equity Association





Paige Clark*



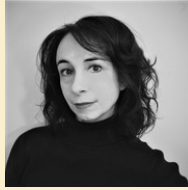
Elliott Purcell*



Maggie Kearnan



Caroline Cole



Chiara Durazzini



Karin Trachtenberg



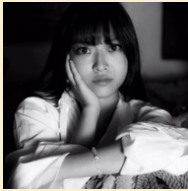
Shalini Prasad



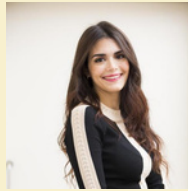
Valerie Goldstein



Gena Hooper



Chihiro Asano



Mar Fayos



Burcu Güleç



Barbara Hill



Jeannette Lee



WHO'S WHO

Paige Clark* (Iphigenia) is excited to be returning to NTC after being a part of *Iphigenia at Aulis* and *The Oresteia*. Previous area credits include: *Macbeth*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Romeo & Juliet* (Actors' Shakespeare Project), *The Three Musketeers* (Greater Boston Stage/Front Porch), *Allegiance* (SpeakEasy), and *She Kills Monsters* (Company One). She holds a BFA in Acting from Boston University's School of Theatre and has studied at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Paige teaches also and directs at Newton South High School as well as sings in her rock band, Poor Yorick. www.poor Yorickboston.com

Elliott Purcell* (Orestes) has been seen live on the NTC stage in *Ethan Frome*, *Helen*, *The Oresteia*, *Living in Exile*, *Mansfield Park*, *Song of Achilles*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Marie Antoinette*. They have also been seen virtually in *The War of the Worlds*, *Rebecca*, *All About Eve*, *Under Milkwood*, and *Antigone*. Recent Local Credits: *The Seagull* [Arlekin Players Theatre]; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (IRNE Nomination Outstanding Actor), *Hand to God* (Elliot Norton Nomination Outstanding Actor) *appropriate* [SpeakEasy Stage Company]; *Our Town* [Huntington Theatre Company]; *Old Money*, *King Lear*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *Romeo and Juliet* [Commonwealth Shakespeare Company]; *Laura and Meet Me in St. Louis* [Greater Boston Stage Company]; *A Measure of Normalcy* [Gloucester Stage]; *The Weird* [Off the Grid]. Education: Boston College '14.

Maggie Kearnan (Pylades) is a Brighton-based performer, playwright, director, designer, educator, and scenic painter. She has painted sets for many local schools and theatre companies including Company One, Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Central Square Theatre, and the Boston College Theatre Department. She spent five years as a director and technical director for the Arlington Catholic Drama Club where her work included directing ensemble productions of Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* and Marlowe's *Dr. Faustus*. Maggie's short sci-fi play *Treadmills & Windmills* was recently featured in the Brooklyn Rail Magazine. Her full-length plays have had readings with Fresh Ink and Theater@First. Her virtual drama *IDK [What This Is]* was produced at Boston College in 2021. NTC virtually produced her two-woman thriller *The Mrs.* in August 2020. She appeared in five NTC Zoom Radio Hour productions, and most recently played *Macbeth*. She is excited to finally make her in-person debut with NTC!



WHO'S WHO- CONTINUED

Caroline Cole (Chorus Woman) is so excited to be returning to the Newton Theater Company stage once again! This show has been such a wonderful challenge and joy. Some of her past NTC credits include *Macduff's Son (Macbeth)*, *Sally Brown (You're a Good Man Charlie Brown)*, and *Junie B. Jones (Junie B. Jones and Some Sneaky Peaky Spying)*. Enjoy the show!

Chiara Durazzini (Herdsman) is delighted to be collaborating again with the Newton Theatre Company after the children's show *Pinocchio – A Commedia Adventure* in 2020. A native of Florence, Italy, Chiara is the co-founder and artistic director of the Commedia dell'Arte and Renaissance music company Pazzi Lazzi Troupe for which she performs, teaches and directs. She is also the co-artistic director of the affiliated All'italiana – Boston Italian Theatre Company which involves Italian speakers in a theatre lab and in staging shows by Italian playwrights. She has trained with the actors of Odin Teatret and studied extensively Commedia dell'Arte at the Scuola Sperimentale dell'Attore near Venice. She obtained her Master's degree in Art, Music and Theatre from the University of Bologna, Italy.

Shalini Prasad (Messenger) is an integrative designer, brand consultant, graphic artist, and educator. She runs her design practice under DeSha Consulting and teaches visual communication and typography at the College of Art and Design at Lesley University. She is also a classically trained dancer, and an actor. Shalini is a proud member of the Newton Theatre Company, on the board and on stage. Shalini moved to the US 20 years ago from India, has lived in 15 cities, with Newton as her home for the past three where she lives with her dog, two daughters, and husband (sometimes in that order). You can find her in a happy trance doing the following: improv cooking, singing, home decorating, doing word games, running, playing the guitar, solving math problems and watching mindless award shows.

Karin Trachtenberg (Thoas) is delighted to be reuniting with Newton Theatre Company for a fourth season of Greek drama. A classically trained actress and Philhellene, Karin credits NTC with sparking a passion for plays from antiquity. After *Iphigenia*, she heads to Greece to train and perform at The Hydrama Theatre and Arts Centre. Learn more about Karin's thespian adventures at www.karintrachtenberg.com



WHO'S WHO- CONTINUED

Valerie Goldstein (Messenger) grew up in Newton and is currently a student at Syracuse University majoring in Policy Studies. She has enjoyed theatre throughout her life, including playing several roles in Newton Theatre Company's *Pinocchio* and co-directing *The Monologue Project: Common Threads*. Past credits include: *Lia's Love Story* (Writer/Director; South Stage), *Fatal Pride: A Queer Retelling of Moby Dick* (Ahab; Syracuse Communication and Rhetoric Studies Department). Valerie thanks Melissa and everyone at NTC for giving her this opportunity to continue her passion for theatre.

Gena Hooper (Athena) is thrilled to be back in front of a live audience. She has been in numerous NTC classic summer Greek tragedies, as well as in *Marie Antoinette* and *The Witches*. When NTC pivoted to online plays, Gena performed in *War of the Worlds*, *Rebecca*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. She studied theatre at Rice University many years ago, and is delighted for the opportunities to engage in shared theatrical experiences. When not onstage, Gena focuses on volunteering and her loving, busy family.

Chihiro Asano (Chorus) is from Tokyo and graduated with her Master of Music degree in Vocal Pedagogy from NEC in 2022. Her performances span opera, chamber works, and contemporary experimental music. Recent credits: Hiroko Watanabe in Jack Perla's *An American Dream*, Ljubica in Ana Sokolović's *SVADVA*, Carmen in *Carmen*, Maddalena in *Rigoletto*, Dame 3 in *The Magic Flute*, and Witch 2 in *Dido and Aeneas*. Chihiro is also passionate about teaching and voice science; she presented her research on the Japanese female voice in Anime at the Pan American Vocology Association (PAVA) Conference in 2021.

Mar Fayos (Chorus) is a Jazz vocalist, composer, producer of live music events, educator, and social activist from Barcelona, Spain. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Berklee College of Music in 2018. Mar also received a Master's in Contemporary Performance in Jazz (Voice) from the Berklee Global Jazz Institute in 2020, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude in June. She was a semi-finalist in several international music competitions and has been nominated to receive an Artist Award at the Rootstock 2020 Music Festival. In 2021, Mar released her first album of original music, called *Mi Propia Religión*. The vocalist currently works in music higher education at the Berklee College of Music, Bunker Hill Community College, and at Escola Taller de Músics de Barcelona.



WHO'S WHO- CONTINUED

Burcu Güleç-Bradford (Chorus) is a Boston-based vocalist, composer, improviser and educator from Ankara, Turkey. She performed as a Turkish National Radio/Television soloist for three years before graduating from Berklee College of Music, later completing her Master's degree at New England Conservatory. In 2021, she received the 'Emerging Artist Award' from St. Botolph Club in Boston, MA. She holds a Bachelor's Degree on Child Development from Hacettepe University where she worked with deaf and hard-of-hearing children, creating curriculums on music and language development. Burcu has appeared at venues including the Hatch Shell, Massachusetts State House, WBUR CitySpace, and Shalin Liu Performance Center. She has toured the U.S. singing performing in a variety of genres.

Barbara Hill (Chorus) is highly regarded for her artistry and versatility and specializes in performing and recording the music of the Middle Ages through the present day. As a soloist, she has appeared with Musica Sacra (Boston), Masterworks Chorale, Seven Times Salt, the Old North Festival Chorus, and is the soprano cantor at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. As an ensemble member, she performs with Ensemble Altera, Cappella Clausura, Emmanuel Music, and the GRAMMY-winning ensemble The Crossing. An enthusiastic supporter of new music, she especially enjoys the opportunity to premiere and record new works. She is thrilled to be making her Carnegie Hall debut as a soloist in Heidi Breyer's *Amor Aeternus: A Requiem for the Common Man* this July. Barbara is a member of Beyond Artists and donates a portion of her artistic earnings to organizations such as 350.org. (beyondartists.com) barbaraallenhill.com

Jeannette Lee (Chorus) is a mezzo soprano from Hong Kong. She received an honorable mention at the semifinals of the 2019 Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod Pendine Voice of the Future. With the Cantata Singers, she recently appeared as alto soloist and Reginald Mobley's cover in Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and the alto soloist in Bach's BWV 130. She also sang in the Asian premiere of Jacobsen's *For Sixty Cents* with Cong Quartet. She participated in University of Michigan's Singing Down the Barriers to learn more about African-American song literature, and actively participated in song projects with Boston Opera Collaborative and Cantata Singers Chamber Series. Jeannette is engaged to premiere Guerilla Opera's newly commissioned chamber opera *HER:alive/un/dead* by Singaporean composer Emily Koh in the summer of 2022 and in Boston Opera Collaborative's Opera Bites production as Becca in Beth Ratay's *In the House of Serenity* in 2023.



MEET THE DIRECTORS



Melissa Bernstein (Director) founded Newton Theatre Company in 2013 and has directed most Newton Theatre Company shows. She was also the Founder and Executive Director of the Newton Youth Players. Over the program's history she directed over 50 productions involving close to one thousand youth actors. Melissa holds a Ph.D. in Theatre from the University of Colorado at Boulder, an MFA in Playwriting/Theatre Education from Emerson College and a BA in Theatre from SUNY-Binghamton.



Amelia LeClair (Music Director) received her Master of Music in choral conducting and subsequently founded Cappella Clausura in 2004 with the intention of enlightening audiences about female composers throughout history. Over the past two decades, Amelia has worked with many local arts institutions, including Choral Arts New England, the Newton Cultural Council, the Greater Boston Choral Consortium, and more; she is also an Affiliated Scholar at the Brandeis University Women's Studies Research Center.



THE HISTORY OF THE ATREIDAE

Years before the start of the Trojan War, Agamemnon, son of Atreus, is King of Mycenae. His brother, Menelaus, becomes King of Sparta after marrying Helen. In turn, Helen's sister Clytemnestra comes to Mycenae to marry Agamemnon. The two have several children, including Iphigenia and Orestes.

Some time later, war breaks out after Paris takes Helen from Sparta to his homeland, Troy. Agamemnon assembles the Greek forces at Aulis so that they can sail to Troy and demand Helen's return, but the troops are met with a setback: Artemis has halted the winds that will carry them across the sea. The priests say that the only way to appease her is for Agamemnon to sacrifice his oldest daughter, Iphigenia. Agamemnon agrees to do so. All of the Greeks, including Clytemnestra, believe Iphigenia to be dead— although Euripides posits that Artemis spirits her away at the last moment.

While the war drags on, Clytemnestra remains in Mycenae. She sends her youngest child, Orestes, to stay with relatives and plots her revenge against her husband for murdering their daughter. After a decade, Agamemnon returns home victorious. Less than a day later, Clytemnestra murders him in his bath.

Once he has come of age, Orestes returns home to avenge his father. He murders Clytemnestra but is subsequently plagued by the Furies— monsters who torment killers of their own blood kin. Although Athena eventually absolves him of guilt, Apollo gives him one final task to purify himself: he must journey to Tauris and return a statue of Artemis to its place in Athens.



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— Chita Rivera



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