



MEDEA

by Euripides

interpreted, directed and translated by
Annika Strøhm and Saba Salvemini

Project supported by the theatre Spazio Off in Trento and Resextensa.

ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH OR FRENCH SURTITLES





Medea

A woman of heart devoted to the wedding bed and its antique laws, marries a man of reason and action, a man of state and society. This is the story of her rebellion against a world that lacks the values, for her indispensable, of respect, loyalty, trust, responsibility, love. Medea accomplishes the highest sacrifice. The most atrocious revenge. The only way to gore this world is to strike it... in the heart. A story, in which parents do anything for their children's best, and which turns into tragedy in the name of love. A tragedy of love and freedom. A tragedy where the children, all children, are the ones who pay. And in all this, everything is human.... terribly human.

To act out this drama are two actors, just as in ancient Greece.



DURATION

1 hour and 30 minutes approx.



THE TEXT

The text is that written by Euripides. Two characters have been cut, the wet nurse and the pedagogue. The text of the chorus is also cut. The role of the chorus is given to the audience whom the characters sometimes address directly. The spectators in this way are declared witnesses and judges of the events in the house of Medea and Jason. The rest of the text is present in the dialogues and monologues. The translation has been done, with the maximum respect for the text, comparing several translations in different languages, such as Italian, French, English, Spanish and Norwegian with the aim of finding a version that works on stage. The work on the text stays as true as possible to the tragedy written by Euripides.



HISTORY

Selected for INTERNATIONAL PUGLIA SHOW CASE 2012 – a showcase for international theatre operators organized by Teatro Pubblico Pugliese <http://pugliashowcase.teatropubblicopugliese.it/eng/>
Selected for Festa della Toscana 2012. The project won a residency: Residenza Offx3 by SpazioOff in Trento;
Finalist of the Theatre Festival Vd'A – Voci dell'anima to held in the autumn 2011 in Rimini.
Performances for students of several high schools in various Italian cities : Naples, Biella, Bari etc;
Premiere at Teatro Kismet Opera in Bari April 2011 and preview at Teatro Civico 14 in Caserta.

LINK FOR THE VIDEOS:

Promo with dialogue (in Italian): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJcjNc3FBA4>

Trailer with music: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVtLSaTjhpK>

Entire show (in Italian): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EnWfVt_3cs

(The duration of the show is 1 hour and 30 minutes and not anymore 1 hour and 45 minutes as in the video – Nothing has been cut but for a small part in the last scene. As for the rest, the work has simply “tightened in”)



A FEW NOTES:

A simple bare set design is chosen. The actors concentrate on playing the facts of the drama in this story that turns into tragedy. Medea is played by Annika Strøhm, while Jason, Creon, Aegeus and the Messenger are played by Saba Salvemini. A human *mise en scène*. We start from the premise that a classic text includes a force that guarantees the possibility of going outside time and space, an absolute universality of certain sentiments that also express its timelessness. We are not interested in updating the text. We work on the language, a direct language on the verge of colloquialism in which the sudden mythical references can appear in perfectly credible dialogues. We want to give space to human relations and to an essential staging of the text. In this way it may be possible, for an attentive eye, to read between the lines of reality at all levels, levels that the text has offered for centuries; mythical, of initiation, social... Characters free from any mythical attributes and where the strength, (one might say epic quality), lies in the blending of doubt and certainty but where nobody can say exactly what is good and what is bad. The staging of a vision, profoundly non-religious; a vision that drove Euripides to imagine these creatures who have lost all certainties and live with the turbulent sentiments that unsettle the soul. We try not to have a fixed viewpoint but to deliver the facts – facts open to many interpretations. A staging that wishes to show the modernity of a classic text and leave the spectator free to receive the level of reference that is nearest to him.

This performance focuses on the work of the actor rather than on theatrical effects.





They say about "Medea":

"Medea, 2441 years and not feel them...

...A truly great result, intimate but impressive, harrowing and immense at the same time, mostly thanks to the protagonist and the deuteragonist, who's acting was done in a masterly way, and their capacity to carry us into the story."

www.quartaparetepress.it, November 2011

"An extremely complex demonstration of acting and Annika Strøm is superb in designing a sorceress and a woman so similar to our neighbour, with the determination and the temperament of a Anna Magnani. And Salvemini with a simple changing of a jacket or a coat provides to interpret all the male characters. All of them with the same hypocrisy, with the same illusory supremacy over the female universe that hits without pity and leaves knocked out and without will."

Hystrio September 2011

"This powerful staging of the text of Euripides... shows us how the great classics are absolutely always contemporary... and moreover the possibility for the actors to carry out the most outstanding performances..."

Corriere del Mezzogiorno August 2011

ABOUT US:

Annika Strøm Born in 1972, Oslo, Norway. She received her diploma from the Nordic Theatre Academy conducted by Jurij Alschitz and with him she has worked as actress in various performances. She has studied/worked with among others A. Milenin, J.P. Dénizon, P. Bylan, Ida Shigemi. In 2007 she established the association ARETE' ENSEMBLE together with Saba Salvemini. She lives and works in Italy since 2002.

Saba Salvemini born in 1973, Biella, Italy. He has his diploma from the Theatre Academy of Genova. He has worked with, among others, J. Alschitz, A. Milenin, J.P. Dénizon, G. Borgia, S. Gonnella, L. Sicignano, Ida Shigemi. In 2007 he established the association ARETE' ENSEMBLE together with Annika Strøm.

Areté Ensemble

Areté Ensemble is a cultural association in which Saba Salvemini and Annika Strøm are founding members and to which several international artists have collaborated such as Valerio Malorni, Ursula Volkmann and Valentino Ligorio. The company had its first premiere in 2007 with *The night just before the forests* by B.M. Koltès and has then created several theatre performances touring all over Italy and Europe with great success: *Clitemnestra or the crime* (2008), *The Problem* (2010), *Medea* (2011), *A monkey at the university* (2012), *Emperor's new clothes* (2014). They also produce films. Their short films have been selected by Italian festivals and festivals abroad receiving many prizes (Genova Film Festival, Wordless Film Festival, Filmstock Festival, Detmold Film Festival, PiemonteMovie Film Festival...)



STAGE PLAN:

Performance app. 90 minutes length (no break), 3 people incl. 2 actors, 1 technician.

Stage design: 4 big "persian" carpets, two suitcases/trunks, a hall stand (a detachable construction in iron), a door (a detachable construction in iron with a curtain).

Stage dimensions (minimum): 7 m wide X 6,5 m deep.

LIGHT

16 PC light 1 KW:

6 PAR 1 KW

It is possible that the number of lights may change in function of the size of the theatre stage and of the availability of the theatre.

No colour gels.

One change of light in the end.

A simple light design that gives a homogenous lightning to cover the whole stage with 5 brighter spots.

If the light design is to be mounted from scratch it is needed approx. 1 hour and 40 minutes to prepare the stage.

If the light design is more or less settled it will take approx. 30 minutes to prepare the stage.

To dismantle the stage design; approx. 20 minutes.

SOUND SYSTEM

No music during the show. Sound system not necessary