

Setting designed by *Roderick Jones*  
Lighting design by *Colin Tufnell*

Stage Management *Andrew Burgess*  
*Ashley Young*  
Properties *Penny Brockhurst*  
Costumes *Rosalind King*  
*Denise Spiro*  
*Proscenium*  
*Wardrobe.*  
Sound *Colin Tufnell*  
*Michael Anderson*  
Programme *Colin Tufnell*

For Proscenium  
Box Office *Joyce Gobey*  
Publicity *Jeanne Hawkes*  
Catering *Kit Rothney*  
House Managers *Catherine Gobey*  
*Patrick O'Donoghue*

*Refreshments will be available at the rear of the hall during the interval.*

PROSCENIUM has vacancies for actors, technical and FOH staff.

If you are interested speak to one of the FOH staff or ring one of the following;

*Roderick Jones (Artistic Director)*  
*864 2477*  
*Colin Tufnell (Chairman)*  
*427 6402*  
*Joyce Gobey (Membership)*  
*427 6814*

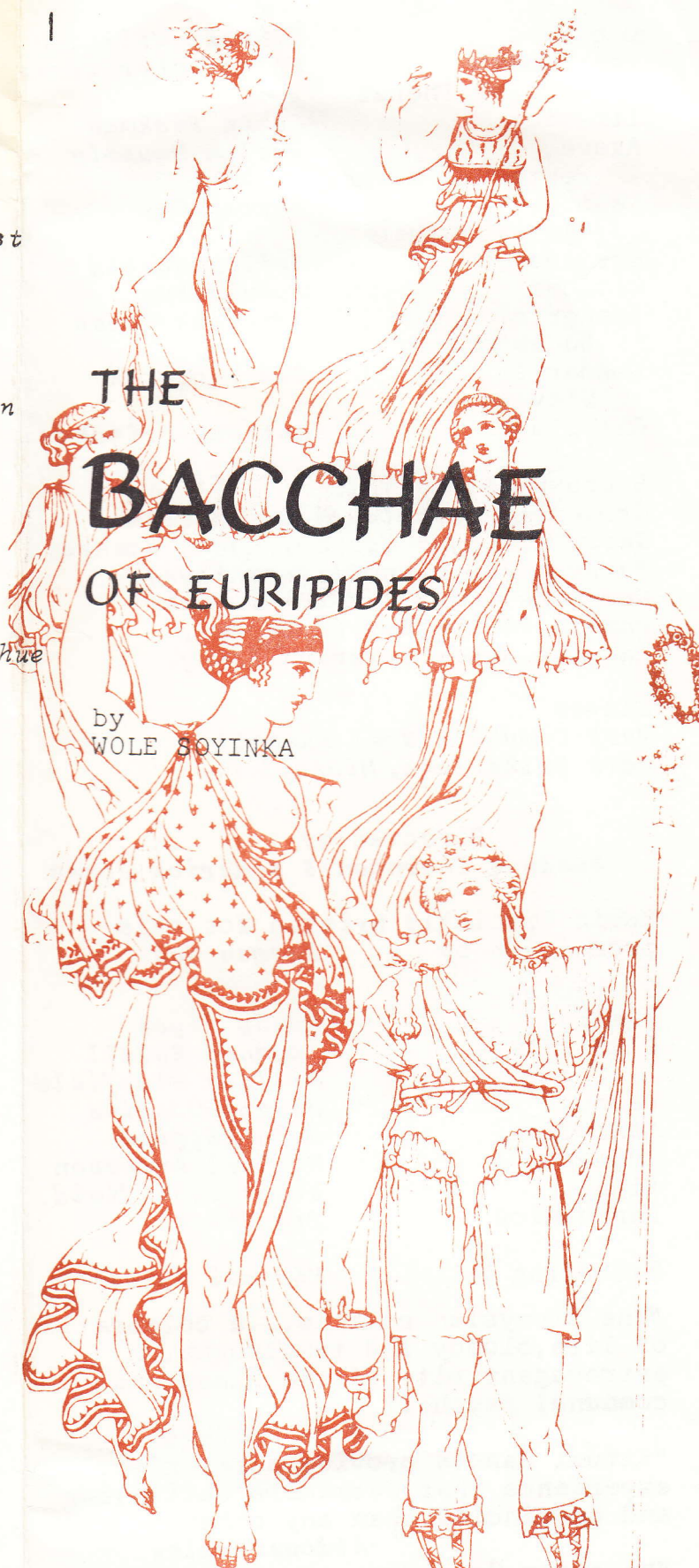
#### NEXT PRODUCTION

I'M TALKING ABOUT JERUSALEM  
by  
Arnold Wesker

The box office can take orders for seats tonight.

MAY 12, 13, 14

PROSCENIUM was founded in 1924 by George Woollands and Margaret Rendle and is affiliated to the HARROW ARTS COUNCIL.



# THE BACCHAE OF EURIPIDES

by  
WOLE SOYINKA

MARCH 77

**Proscenium**



Dionysos	<i>Michael Williams</i>
Pentheus,	<i>Christopher Drake</i>
King of Thebes	
Tiresias	<i>Colin Hickman</i>
Agave,	<i>Evelyn Moutrie</i>
Pentheus' mother	
Kadmos,	<i>Norman Gee</i>
Agaves father	
Herdsmen	<i>Neil McDonald</i>
Officers	<i>John Gobey</i>
Leader of the	<i>Kathleen Jones</i>
Bacchantes	
Leader of the	<i>Sam Thornton</i>
Slaves	
Old Slave	<i>Anthony Pritchard</i>

Bacchantes, Vestals  
*Christine Brindle, Gill Evans, Anne Gerrard, Yvonne Harper, Jeanne Hawkes, Barbara Johnston, Eleanor Kayne, Caroline Lewis, Christine Noah, Pamela Osborn, Barbie Rhodes, Jacquie Russell, Marian Young.*

Slaves  
*Mark Campbell, Noel Russell, Mark Sutherland, Michael Lee*

Directed by  
*Susanne Thornton & Roderick Jones*

Music Specially written for this production by *Norman Gee*

Played by	
Violin	<i>Mandy Joyce</i>
Clarinets	<i>Raymond Bodell</i>
	<i>Gillian Stanfield</i>
Basoon	<i>Jeremy Goggins</i>
Mandoline	<i>John Higgins</i>
Guitar	<i>Michael Anderson</i>
Piano	<i>Nigel Stansfield</i>
Percussion	<i>Tim Smith</i>

Recording by *Michael Sykes*

"The Dionysiac cult is...a celebration of life, bloody and tumultuous, an extravagant rite of the human and communal psyche."

*Wole Soyinka*

"Ritual dances provide a religious experience that seems more satisfying and convincing than any other."

*Aldous Huxley*

"No other Greek tragedy is as permeated by religious imagery as the BACCHAE...the cult of Dionysos blended with old agrarian rites of the nature deities' death and resurrection."

*Jan Knott*

## THE BACCHAE

The play first received its first performance in Athens in 405 B.C. in the year following the author's death. In this adaptation by Wole Soyinka, Professor in Drama at the University of Ife, Nigeria, this ancient story of the advent of the Dionysiac religion in Attica has been blended with certain elements of the worship of Ogun, the Yoruba god of wine and creativity. Wole Soyinka freely acknowledges his reliance on the translations of the play by Gilbert Murray and William Arrowsmith.

### Background of the BACCHAE

Kadmos-founder of Thebes, and sower of the legendary dragon's teeth. He was the father of Semele, Agave, Autonoe and Ino, and the grandfather of Pentheus, son of Agave, and Dionysos, son of Semele.

Dionysos-son of Semele and Zeus, who destroyed her, and in whose thigh the infant Dionysos was sewn up for three months to protect him from the jealous wrath of Hera the wife of Zeus. After being torn to pieces by the Titans, at Hera's orders, Dionysos was reconstituted by his grandmother Rea and restored to life. Zeus finally entrusted Dionysos to the care of the nymphs of Mount Nysa, where he invented wine. Driven mad by Hera, he wandered over the world with a band of satyrs and ecstatic women, who carried the thyrsus (an ivy-twined staff topped with a pine cone). He travelled to Egypt and India, spreading the cult of the vine wherever he went.

In Thebes, meanwhile, Kadmos' daughter Agave had married Ichion, one of the armed men sprung from the dragon's teeth, and bore a son, Pentheus. Kadmos resigned the throne to Pentheus and lived quietly in the city as an elder statesman.

At this point Dionysos (also known as Bromius, Zagreus, and Sabazius) arrived at Thebes, having heard that its inhabitants regard him as a bastard. Bent on revenge, he invited the Theban women, including Agave, mother of the king, to join his revels.

This is where the BACCHAE begins.