



Metro / The Focus

Classic Greek Theatre Presents: Oedipus at Colonus

While many Shakespeare festivals thrive throughout the country, Portland, Oregon will be the site of the first annual festival of ancient Greek drama in the United States. Throughout September until October 1, Classic Greek Theatre will be presenting *Oedipus at Colonus* at Reed College located at SE. Woodstock. *Oedipus at Colonus* will be given ten fully professional performances in the 600 seat outdoor Cerf amphitheatre on Reed College campus. The style approximates the original as closely as feasible, employing a Chorus, masks, and costume design based on the early vase paintings.

Mysterious and beautiful, *Oedipus at Colonus* shows the last hours of Oedipus, the man whom "the gods raised highest and brought lowest." After tearing out his eyes in response to the discovery that he had unknowingly committed the crimes of incest and patricide, Oedipus wandered in exile for many years as a beggar, accompanied only by his daughter Antigone. Reaching the sanctuary of Colonus, he realizes he has come to the place where, according to prophecy, he is to end his days. The same prophecy declared that a war would take place for his home city of Thebes and that whoever tended his grave would prevail. The war for the throne of Thebes is about to begin - between Oedipus'

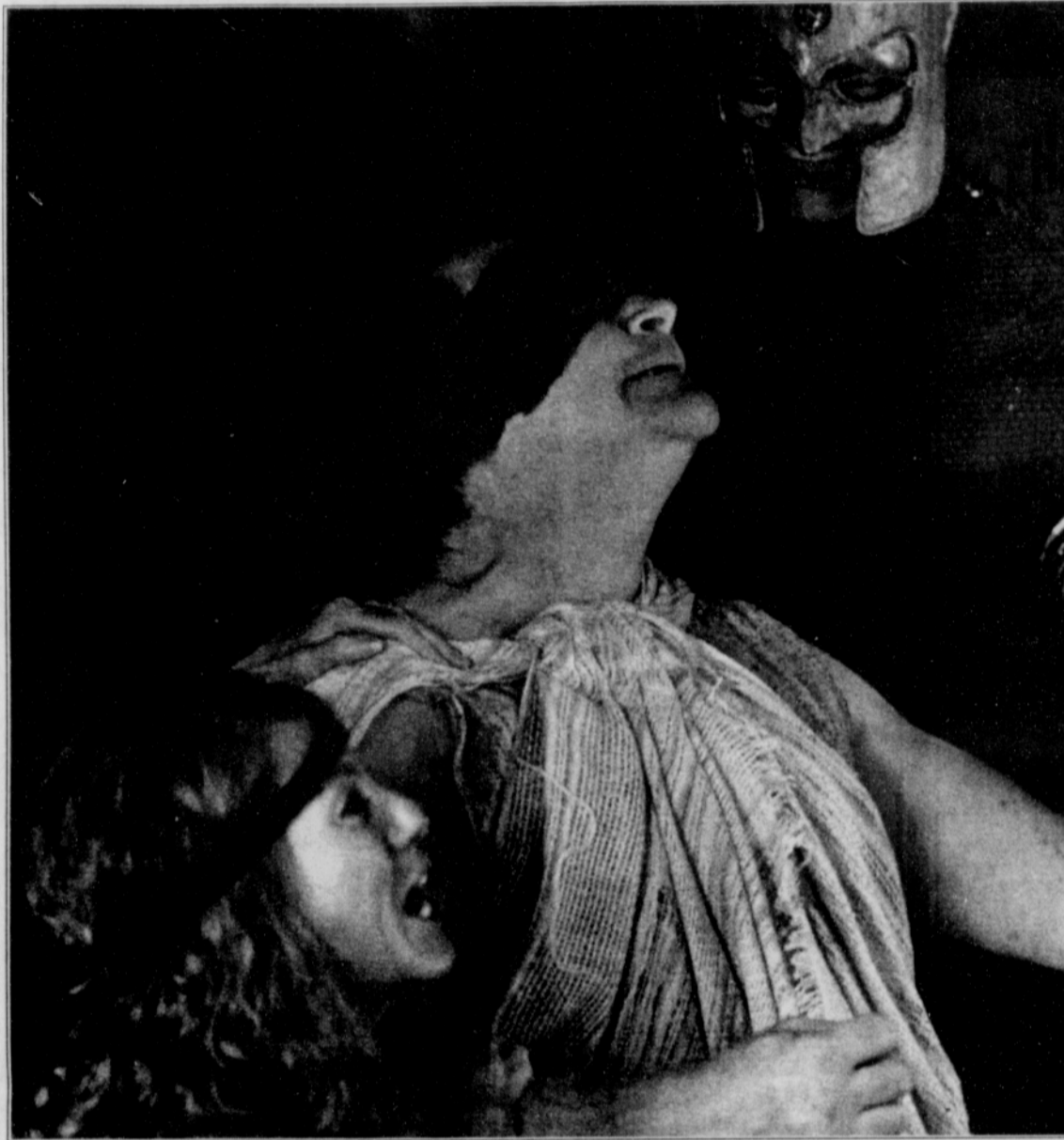
two sons, Eteocles and Polyneices. Each attempts to persuade their father to join his side. Oedipus refuses both and curses them to die in the

he never meant to commit.

Sophocles lived to be 92 and is said to have written 120 plays, of which only 7 survived. *Oedipus at*

play in Athens, the Spartans were camped only a few miles away, gathering strength for the attack that would bring to an end the half

Greek drama annually. This year, they are spreading their wings. To celebrate their fifteenth year of operation, Classic Greek Theatre will become an annual



Theresa Koon as Antigone, Eric Hull (middle) as Oedipus and David Heath as Creon.

same instant, each killed by the other. A sudden strange thunderstorm occurs, the sign that it is time for Oedipus to leave this earth. Sightless, he leads Theseus to a secret place, where he is taken from mortal life to live among the gods, exonerated from crimes

Colonus, arguably his greatest masterpiece, was his last play, first produced two years after his death. The death of Sophocles coincides with the end of the Periclean age and the political supremacy of Athens. While Sophocles was writing this

century of enlightened democracy and freedom of thought that gave the west so many of the standards - aesthetic and political - we live by today.

Since 1996, Classic Greek Theatre has provided Portland audiences with one

festival of Greek drama, supplementing the classical-style performances with film programs, symposia, workshops, guest artists and speakers and other satellite events.

For more information regarding Festival 2000, call 503/258-9313.

The Native American Film Festival

On and off the Res with Charlie Hill, a compelling new documentary by Sandra Osawa, will kick-off a 5-week Native American Film Festival on September 26 at the historic Kiggins Theater in downtown Vancouver. This exciting series is FREE and will be held on Tuesday evenings from September 26 to Oct. 24 at 7:30-9 p.m. and include the screening of the film and post-film discussion with the producers or commentators. Dr. Candice Goucher, Coordinator of the College of Liberal Arts at Washington State University Vancouver, will serve as moderator for the series.

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The 12th Avenue Project

The 12th Avenue Project consists of 52 signs along the left hand side of SE 12th that develop a written narrative about a young girl on a journey, much like the viewer's own experience. The story relates to the surrounding community, subtly affecting the motorist and pedestrian. It references topography, landmarks and landscape as well as historical facts that have influenced and created the

local neighborhoods. This project uses speed to explore scalar relationships between automobiles and pedestrians and the resultant perception of community, neighborhood, distance and time. There are two sizes of text on each sign, one for motorists and one for pedestrians, that highlight the difference of perception in relation to speed. The story may go so far as to invite motorists to park their cars and walk in order to 'get the full story'.

Artists Nan B. Curtis and Martin Houston have created The 12th Avenue Project, a temporary site-specific street sign project that will run along SE 12th Avenue between Division and Sandy Boulevard, about 1.3 miles. The project will be installed from September 18 - December 18 and is part of in situ PORTLAND, a

program of the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC), in collaboration with the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA).

The purpose of in situ PORTLAND is to bring challenging temporary artworks into the public realm to serve as a catalyst for dialogue about art and/or community issues.

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