THE TROJAN WOMEN

By Euripides/Adapted by Gwendolyn MacEwen

CAST:

Poseidon – Recorded Voice / also one Modern Male Dancer

Cassandra

Andromache

Hecuba

Helen

Chorus of nine Trojan Women

Menelaus

Talthybius

Astyananx

Chorus of four Soldiers (probably non-speaking)

Set piece for female auditioners

CASSANDRA

It’s true that once I used to speak

With the awful voice of my awful Lord.

I held this fire for my God; I adored Him, I *adored* Him!

But now I light this place, this place is lit

With every conceivable colour of Heaven and of Hell!

And when the golden voice inside my skull

Informs me of the future, gentlemen,

It tells no lies because it knows no lies to tell . . .

What good are the gods to us now, I ask you?

Did they stop this disgusting war?

Did they stop you silly boys

From running each other through with your silly swords?

Did they stop the heads from rolling in the bloody fields and valleys,

The mutilated hands and feet and cocks being scattered and strewn

On the ground as on the floors of an abattoir?

*What good are the gods?*

Set piece for male auditioners

TALTHYBIUS

Ulysses had the final say. He said: the son of a worthy enemy, a glorious and therefore highly dangerous enemy . . . should not, as it were,

Grow up!

He shall be thrown from the walls

Onto the rocks.

It will be quick and easy. I will make it easy . . .

I will see that it is done . . .

Accept it, woman! Be brave, be brave!

Look around . . . there’s no help anywhere!

You can’t fight us. You’ve lost everything.

You know it. Come to your senses for your own sake, for your *own* sake . . .