

IPHIGENIA

Euripides wrote the two Iphigenia plays against the background of the war between Athens and Sparta, which began in 431 BC, and ended with the total defeat of Athens in 404 BC.

Athenian audiences, increasingly aware of imminent defeat, could understand the irony of youth's willing sacrifice to war seen in the Aulis play, and although Tauris has a *happy* ending, there is enough darkness left from the story of the doomed house of Atreus and in the stress on the futility of the Trojan War, for this play's irony to be evident as well.

Iphigenia in Aulis is Euripides' last play, and was not finished at his death in 407 BC. Scholars suggest that a number of scenes were written by other hands, possibly including the poet's son.

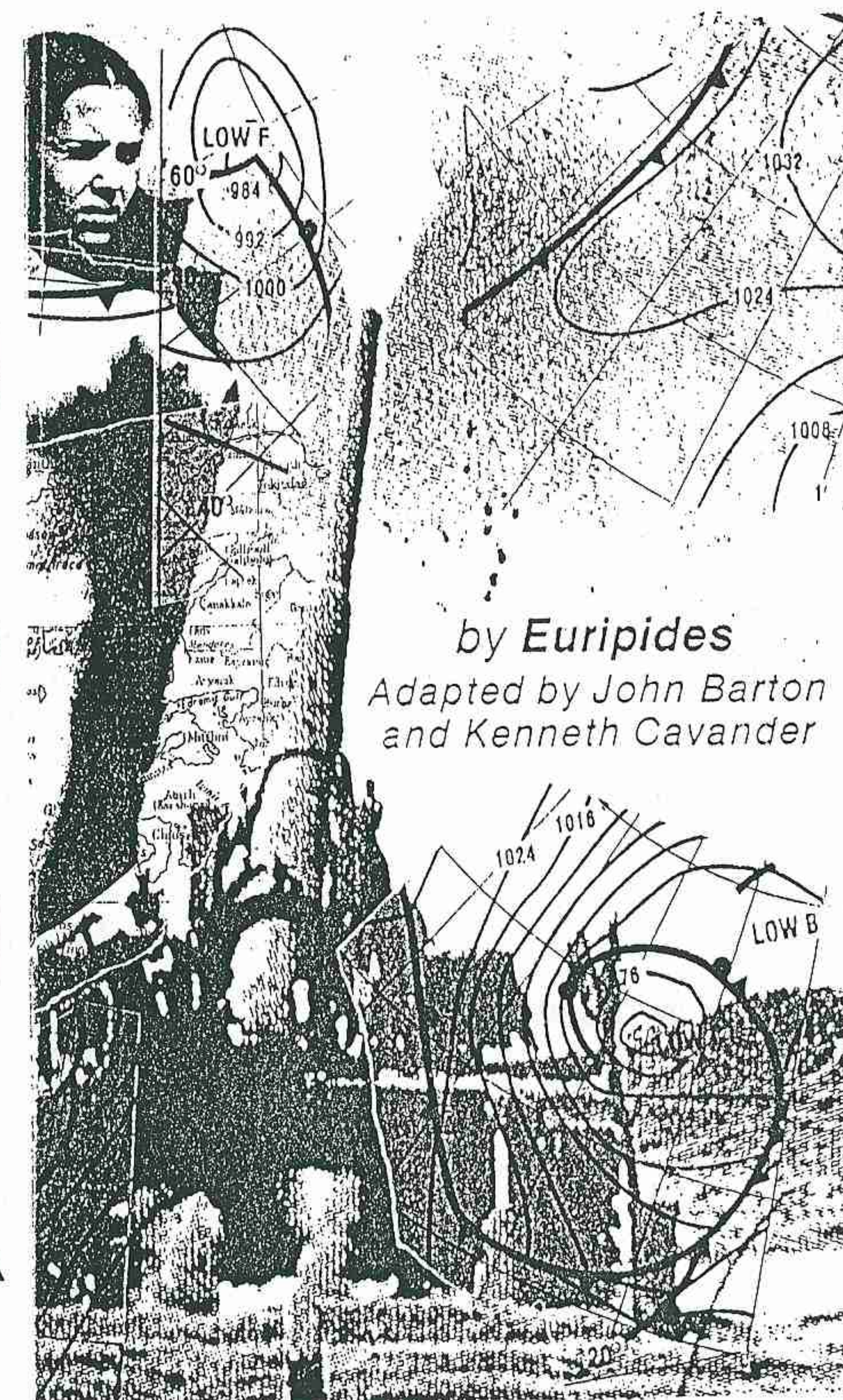
Iphigenia in Tauris is also a late play, and dates from the time when Euripides was about to go into voluntary exile at the court of Archelaus, King of Macedon.

As so often happens, people who criticise a nation at war meet with grudging admiration for their skill, but little popularity. Teaching men to look within themselves, rather than to Olympus, was not a comfortable doctrine for Athenians, and led to Socrates being condemned to death ten years later.

The adaptations that are being presented, are from a cycle of ten Greek plays that were given as a trilogy by the R.S.C. in 1979. The *Prologue* and *Epilogue*, which appear to have been derived from Robert Graves's *Greek Myths*, have been used to give a background against which the story of Iphengenia can be seen. Barton and Cavander cut the original plays considerably, but the essential message remains, and is relevant to an audience that has seen the devastation that Saddam Hussein and the Gulf war, have brought to millions of people.

Alan Chambers

IPHIGENIA



by Euripides

Adapted by John Barton
and Kenneth Cavander

Questors Studio

25-31 May, 1 June at 7:45 p.m. 1991

IPHIGENIA *by* Euripides

Cast

PROLOGUE

Eurynome
Callonike
Myrrhine
Artemis
Athene
Hera
Aphrodite

Val Wilding
 Pam Gower
 Sara Girkin
 Cathy Wallace
 Sheila Tiffany
 Anne Gerrard
 Anne Sawbridge

IPHIGENIA IN AULIS

Agamemnon
Old Man
Menelaus
Talthybius
Clytemnestra
Iphigenia
Achilles
Patroclus
Nurse

Tony Bromham
 Brian Ingram
 John Sweet
 Paul Vincent
 Dorothy Barber
 Pamela Major
 Clive Paget
 Paul Botly
 Sarah Conway

IPHIGENIA IN TAURIS

Iphigenia
Soldiers

Orestes
Pylades
Thoas
Athene

Pamela Major
 Paul Botly
 John Sweet
 Piers Bearne
 Kelvin West
 Brian Ingram
 Sheila Tiffany

CHORUS

Anne Gerrard,
 Sara Girkin, Pam Gower,
 Anne Sawbridge, Sheila Tiffany,
 Val Wilding, Cathy Wallace

Production

Director
 Set Designer
 Lighting Designer
 Sound Designer

Alan Chambers
 Norman Barwick
 John Johnson
 Ian Howlett

The director would like to thank Brian Ingram for help with the Chorus, Barbara Neville for advice on story telling, and Grace Craddock and Sylvia Wall for help with wardrobe.

Stage Manager
 Deputy Stage Managers

Assistant Stage Managers

Sarah Conway
 Daniela Mamo
 Geoff Moore
 Phillipa Back
 Margaret Berry
 Nathalie Bonte
 Diana Kilburn
 Jane Plumptre
 Lavinia Riachi
 Anne Scurfield
 Michael Kewick
 Geoff Moore
 Guy Morrough
 James Hatch

Properties
 Construction

Lighting Operator
 Sound Operator

with thanks to:

Mary Angus, Chris Collier, Eddie Cullen, Roger De Toney,
 Raquel Farrington, Paul Hardy, Kath Harrington, Kathy Skinner,
 Jon Webster, and Peter Wyld.