THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE PRESENTS

LYSISTRATA

FEBRUARY 21–25, 1967 AT 8:30 AND FEBRUARY 23
AT 12:30 IN THE FREDERIC WOOD THEATRE

THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE PRESENTS
AS ITS ANNUAL STUDENT PRODUCTION

ARISTOPHANES'
LYSISTRATA

in a new English version
by Donald Soule

CAST
in order of appearance

Lysistrata ..... DONNA WHITE
Kleonike ..... MARIAN PENNER
Athenian Women ..... JEAN GUIGUET, LYNN DECEW
ESTHER BLUMANFALD, ANGELIKA MAESEN
VALEDA HETT, GAIL RINGWOOD
Policewomen ..... THEKLA CUFF, SUSAN OGURZSOFF
Myrrhine ..... JUDITH PENNER
Lampito ..... JUDI FREIMAN
Boiotian Woman ..... LINDA FULTON
Corinthian Woman ..... JENNIFER BUNKER
Old Men's Chorus Leader ..... DARRELL EVANS
Old Men's Chorus ..... BILL GIGLIO, N. GREGORY
BILL PALMER, JOHN PARKER
DAVID PETERSEN, GARY RUPERT
EDEN SHAND
Old Women's Chorus Leader ..... GAYLE PELMAN
Old Women's Chorus ..... JANET BICKFORD
SHERRY DARCUS, EILEEN FOGARTY
RAE MOSTER, LESLEY RACHUK
HEATHER SOLES, CAROL SOON
Commissioner of Public Safety ..... ELLIS PRYCE-JONES
Policemen ..... NICK KENDALL, JACK KHOURY
RICHARD LONG, GORDON MacGREGOR
Kinesias ..... BRIAN BUECKERT
Slave ..... LORNE SALUTIN
Child ..... JEFFREY KELLER
Spartan Envoy ..... ROBERT GRAHAM
Chief Spartan Peace Delegate ..... KEES VAN WESTEN
Spartan Delegates: NICK KENDALL, GORDON MacGREGOR
Athenian Delegates .... JACK KHOURY, RICHARD LONG
Peace .....JACKIE BARLEY

There will be one intermission of fifteen minutes

Directed by
DONALD SOULE

Original Music by
JOHN CHAPPELL

Designed by
DARWIN REID PAYNE

Choreography by
GRACE MACDONALD

Film Sections by
U.B.C. FILM SOCIETY
PRODUCTION GROUP

MUSICIANS

Piano ..... TERRI HOFFERT
Percussion ..... MICHAEL CHAPPELL
Clarinet ..... WES FOSTER
Trumpet ..... GARRY HARTLEY
Trombone ..... SHARMAN KING

PRODUCTION

Technical Director ..... NORMAN YOUNG
Assistant Technical Director ..... BRIAN ARNOTT
Stage Manager ..... SIMON HARGRAVE
Scenery Execution ..... J. G. THOMSON
Lighting Execution ..... IAN PRATT
Properties ..... KERRY WHITE
Makeup ..... LIONEL LUKIN JOHNSTON
Costume Execution ..... GERALDINE RICHARDSON
MARJORIE GORDON
SUE GIBSON
Assisted By ..... PRISCILLA SPANKIE
ELIZABETH HOSKINSON, JOANNE HENNESSEY
ROSEMARY VALE, CAROLINE MARSHALL
PENNY WOLVERTON, ELIZABETH MURPHY
Assistants to the Director ..... NORMA SELIG
SARAH WARREN, JEREMY YOUNG
Assistants to the Choreographer ..... ROBIN LEE
DONNA MUMFORD
Stage Crew ..... DONN ELLIOTT
CHARLOTTE GREEN, JAMES REID
STUDENTS OF THEATRE 350
Projectionist ..... WILLIAM DYER
House Management ..... BRIAN PAISLEY
Box Office ..... MARJORIE FORDHAM
VICKI BRUNO, JUDI FREIMAN
Publicity Assistant .....JACE VANDERVEEN
Production ..... JOHN BROCKINGTON

ABOUT THE PLAY

Lysistrata was written in 411 B.C. when Athens and Sparta and their allies had for twenty years been engaged in the Pelopennesian War, the struggle which seven years later ended the Athenian Empire. The play was written, therefore, for an audience which for two decades had been experiencing the hopes and excitement, the deprivations and despair of war. That such a comedy could be presented and enjoyed under these conditions is a tribute to Greek sanity, even if the conflict it satirizes represented a less praiseworthy side of the Hellenic character.

What makes **Lysistrata** particularly remarkable as an anti-war play is that it treats its subject less as a horror than as an absurdity. Still more interesting is the relationship the play establishes between sex and politics. War, for all its awfulness, is seen as a rather childish expression of male sexual vanity. By relating sex and war in this way, Aristophanes places both these facts of life in a more mature and civilized perspective.

Adapting and producing such a play for a modern audience presents a number of problems. Oddly, of the two main subjects of the play it is Aristophanes' treatment of sex that is most difficult for modern playgoers to respond to freely. Remarkable as it seems, we are more likely to agree on the moral questions surrounding war than on those about relations between the sexes. Thus **Lysistrata** has the reputation of being an "obscene" play, when in fact it presents a perfectly natural, healthy and civilized view of sex, treating it as a subject both serious and funny, healthily natural and farcically grotesque.

Continued

This production is in several ways an experiment. First, it is an attempt to translate not merely from Classical Greek into modern English, but more particularly from the theatrical idiom of fifth-century Athens to that of twentieth-century North America. Ancient Greek comedy was a kind of farce-fantasy-lyric-town meeting, with song and dance. To find modern equivalents, however approximate, we have had to look to satirical cabaret, political oratory, musical comedy and burlesque.

Our second experiment has been to try to recreate by means of newscasts some rough modern equivalent of the fact that Aristophanes' audience was in the middle of a war – an important factor, certainly, in the vital interaction of actors and audience which is a play performed.

The success of an adaptation can only be measured in terms of whether it creates for its audience some meaningful equivalent of the experience the original author intended his audience to have. This is what we have tried to do.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Frederic Wood Theatre wishes to express its appreciation to the many friends of theatre at the University who have generously assisted in the presentation of "Lysistrata".

The Vancouver Sun, The Vancouver Province – Vancouver Weekly Newspapers – C.B.C. – C.H.Q.M. – The Ubyssey – The University Departments of Extension – Classics – Fine Arts – Purchasing – Buildings and Grounds – Traffic – and the University Information Office.

COMING EVENTS

LA PARISIENNE
by Henry Becque

March 31 – April 8

Directed by Klaus Strassmann with Pat Gage

M.A. Thesis Production

'TIS PITY SHE'S A WHORE
by John Ford

Directed by Ken Livingstone

March 8 – 11
Frederic Wood STUDIO

Tickets for all events 228-2678 or 228-3880