The Bacchae

About the Director

UC Davis Granada Artist-in-Residence Barry McGovern is an Irish actor who is regarded by many as one of the leading exponents of the work of Samuel Beckett. Last year he performed at UC Berkeley’s Zellerbach Playhouse in Endgame and Watt (his one-man adaptation of Beckett’s novel) with Cal Performances, and earlier this year he played Vladimir in the multi Ovation Award-winning Waiting for Godot at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles for which he received a nomination as best actor. Since then he has played George Aaronow in Glengarry Glen Ross at Dublin’s Gate Theatre and Watt at the Edinburgh Festival. In February he will perform Watt at the Perth Festival in Australia and at the Barbican in London. He has occasionally directed theatre and opera and has written music for several shows. His recording of Beckett’s Three Novels (Molloy, Malone Dies and The Unnamable), supported by the Lannan Foundation, is available from www.rte.ie/shop.

Director’s Note

The Bacchae was one of the last plays Euripides wrote. He was in his 70’s and had left urban war-torn Athens for rural Macedonia. The play was not performed until c.405 B.C., some time after his death. Unusually, it has a god (Dionysus) as a central character and a female rather than a male chorus. These women are Bacchae or Bacchants, followers of Bacchus (another of Dionysus’ names -- don’t ask). They are in thrall to his cult of Dionysus which is the enjoyment of the pleasures of this world including wine, sexual love, music, dancing and the excitement of group emotion. This latter can lead to extremes if not controlled. Agave and her Bacchic followers are ordinary women who, when provoked, go wild and savage with superhuman powers and just as suddenly calm down again. But the drug-like savagery leaves a trail of misery. The argument of the play is the battle between the Dionysian cult and the Apollonian side of man’s nature, that which is rational and civilized, ordered and controlled, represented by Pentheus. But Pentheus’ righteousness is superficial and hypocritical. He desires to see and do things he publicly denounces. Dionysus was primarily a spirit of life and so liberated the human condition from pain and fatigue, from ugliness and tedium, from the bonds of responsibility, law, pity or affection. The need for human beings to let their hair down now and again is at the heart of the Dionysian equation. The poet Louis MacNeice said of his fellow Irishman:

“Yeats’s efflorescence in old age is perhaps unique in recent poetry. We might compare Euripides who, after a long life spent in struggling with and digesting new ideas, in gradually formulating a skeptical, rationalist attitude, had in his old age the elasticity to admit that there was a case for Dionysus.”

Dionysus is a god who needs to be worshipped; that is, recognized. Pentheus, though secretly having Dionysian thoughts and desires, refuses to recognize him. He refuses to allow the need for carnival. Dionysus, on the other hand, shows no pity and no mercy when thwarted. If a god is not worshipped catastrophe will follow. These two irreconcilable positions lead to tragedy. The female Chorus, who are followers of Dionysus, have the same pitilessness as the thwarted Dionysus. They simply rejoice in the defeat of the enemy and cheer their god, their rock star, their president. Those who are not with us are against us. Human nature doesn’t change.

--Barry McGovern
UC Davis Granada Artist-in-Residence
UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance

presents

The Bacchae

Written by Euripides
Translated by Derek Mahon

with

Carolyn Alessandra, Eileen Asevedo, Bobby August, Jr., Lindsay Beamish, JT Bernhardt, Maria Candelaria, Megan Caton, Kate Collini, Claire D’Angelo, Erica Dean, Alexx Folsom, Ryan Geraghty, Alexandra Greenfield, Anzhi Gu, Dillon Hanna, Callie Heyer, Minkyung (Cecillia) Kim, Anna Kritikos, Houa Lee, Oliver Lee, Mark Merman, Sara Moncada, Mollie Samocha, Marissa Saravis, Shilpa T-Hyland, Mitchell VanLandingham, Amanda Vitiello, Rachel Wagner, Abbygail Williams, Dan Cato Wilson, Cooper Wise, Wendy Wyatt-Mair

CAST (in order of appearance)

Dionysus.........................................................BOBBY AUGUST, JR.
Pentheus.....................................................MITCHELL VANLANDINGHAM
Cadmus.........................................................RYAN GERAGHTY
Tiresias..........................................................COOPER WISE
Herdsman......................................................MARK MERMAN
Soldier #1.....................................................AMANDA VITIELLO
Soldier #2.....................................................LINDSAY BEAMISH
Agave..........................................................MARÍA CANDELARIA

Chorus (in alphabetical order)

BACCHAE CHORUS
Eileen Asevedo
Megan Caton
Kate Collini
Claire D’Angelo
Alexandra Greenfield
Anzhi Gu
Callie Heyer
Minkyung (Cecillia) Kim
Anna Kritikos
Houa Lee
Sara Moncada
Mollie Samocha
Marissa Saravis
Shilpa T-Hyland
Rachel Wagner
Abbygail Williams
Wendy Wyatt-Mair

AGAVE’S BACCHAE
Carolyn Alessandra
Eileen Asevedo
Erica Dean
Houa Lee

SOLDIERS
JT Bernhardt
Alexx Folsom
Dillon Hanna
Oliver Lee
Dan Cato Wilson

COMPOSERS
Barry McGovern
Dan Cato Wilson

SCENIC DESIGNER
Travis Kerr

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Kurt Landisman

COSTUME DESIGNER
Dee Loree Silveira

STAGE MANAGER
Emily Cates

MUSIC DIRECTOR/ARRANGEMENTS
Dan Cato Wilson

CHOREOGRAPHER
Deirdre Morris

DIRECTED BY
Barry McGovern
Granada Artist-in-Residence

The Setting: Before the Palace at Thebes
PERFORMER BIOS

CAROLYN ALESSANDRA (Agave’s Bacchae) is an 18-year-old freshman at UC Davis. This is her first show here and she is very excited! Lyn has done 45 shows over the past 10 years around the South Bay Area. Some credits include playing Rosie in The Wedding Singer at PVHS, stage managing for Curtains! Up Community Theater and middle schools around the South Bay, and being in the ensemble of Singin’ in the Rain at the Norris Center. Her favorite credits, however, are the summer musicals that she directs at her middle school including Camp Rock.

EILEEN ASEVEDO (Agave’s Bacchae/Chorus) was born and raised in Los Angeles with mom, sister Evelyn, and amazing pets. She is a fourth-year majoring in Biological Sciences with emphases in evolution and ecology. Integrating her passion for the sciences and arts gives her an enlightened point of view aiding her approach to everyday events. She is interested in the performing arts and decided to do something fun. Her most recent production was The Haunt at Wright Hall.

BOBBY AUGUST, JR. (Dionysus) is thrilled to be in his second Main Theatre production at UC Davis where he recently portrayed The Player in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead. Bobby is a current MFA Acting student in the Department of Theatre and Dance. He is also the owner and director of the award-winning Made Up Theatre in Fremont, California. His theater specializes in performing completely improvised plays. Some of Bobby’s favorite roles include playing Romeo in a touring production of Romeo and Juliet and Prince Don Pedro in Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing. He also had the privilege of playing Howie in Rabbit Hole and Hook in the world premiere of Time Machine: Love Among the Eloi, receiving Irene Ryan nominations for both performances.

LINDSAY BEAMISH (Soldier #2) has been a professional actress, dancer, writer and experimental filmmaker for over twenty years. She was recently seen in the film The Greatest, starring Pierce Brosnan and Susan Sarandon, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Other work includes lead roles in John Cameron Mitchell’s Shortbus, CSI, Gilmore Girls, independent film Forgetting the Girl (NYC), and Miranda July’s Nest of Tens. She has a BA in Theater and Dance from UC Santa Cruz and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Wyoming. Lindsay is currently pursuing an MFA in Dramatic Art at UC Davis.

MÁRÍA CANDELARIA (Agave) is currently an MFA Acting candidate in the UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance. Last year, María played the part of Porcia in the department’s production of The House of Bernarda Alba. She has performed at the San Diego Repertory Theatre and in the SF Bay Area with Intersection for the Arts, Aurora Theatre and Shotgun Players.

MEGAN CATON (Chorus) transferred last year into UC Davis as a Dramatic Art major. Credits at UC Davis include the Evil Queen in The Haunt and various roles in the UC Davis’ 2012 Edge Performance Festival. Other credits include Rachel in Dinner for UCD’s Dead Arts Society, Sarah in Company at North Coast Repertory Theatre, Mrs. Jefferson in RENT at Ferndale Repertory Theatre, and Mimi in Guys and Dolls at NCRT.

KATE COLLINI (Chorus) is a second-year double-major in Dramatic Art and French, originally from Los Angeles. This is her third play at UC Davis including credits of Mickey the Cop in The Odd Couple, and the Devil in The Haunt at Wright Hall. She has studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute and attended a performing arts high school. She would like to thank Barry McGovern for his kind and inspiring directing as well as her two moms for their unwavering support in her desire to be an actress.

ERICA DEAN (Agave’s Bacchae) is a fourth-year undergraduate majoring in Dramatic Art and minororing in Music. She has great passion for stage and film acting and wishes to pursue them in the future. She has been in the play Feet featured by the UC Davis Edge Performance Festival, as well as Pregg Meg produced the Dead Arts Society campus club.

ALEXX FOLSON (Soldier) is an aspiring writer, director and actor. This is his second UC Davis show. In his free time he enjoys making short films, improvising with friends and being as active and outdoorsy as possible. He is grateful for his experience in The Bacchae and will continue to love the theater.

RYAN GERAGHTY (Cadmus) is a fourth-year Dramatic Art major at UC Davis. He has appeared in multiple productions with the UC Davis Department of Theatre and Dance where roles include Panch in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee and Hamlet in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead. During his tenure at Davis, he has also worked with Studio 301 Productions in Spring Awakening and RENT.

ALEXANDRA GREENFIELD (Chorus) is a third-year undergraduate student of Drama and Theatre Studies at Trinity College Dublin. She is participating in a year-long exchange with UC Davis. The Bacchae is her first production here. Recent credits include: devised projects The College of Clowns and Mind the Gap, both at the Samuel Beckett Theatre, Dublin; a modern adaptation of Peer Gynt at the North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford; and The Laramie Project at DU Players Theatre, Trinity College Dublin.

MINKYUNG (CECILLIA) KIM (Chorus) is excited to be in her first Main Theatre show. She is an international student from Korea, a senior majoring in Dramatic Art. She hopes that The Bacchae will be a great experience.

ANNA RAUD KRITIKOS (Chorus) is a junior pursuing a double-major in Managerial Economics and Dramatic Art. She recently appeared in The Haunt at Wright Hall, The Edge Performance Festival, and as Angustias in The House of Bernarda Alba.

HOUA LEE (Agave’s Bacchae/Chorus) is a double-major in Dramatic Art and Sociology. She recently performed in The Haunt at Wright Hall and spring and fall productions of Play It Again at Cosumnes River College as well as in Hmong Tiger Tales with Theatre Mu. She has acted in numerous feature length and short films, most recently in the award-winning short A Night in the Woods, in the television show I Almost Got Away with It and with the webisode/Youtube show Smosh.

OLIVER LEE (Soldier) is a junior at UC Davis. He was last seen in the Department of Theatre and Dance’s The Haunt at Wright Hall. He is very excited to be working on The Bacchae.

MARK AUSTIN MERMAN (Herdsmen) is appearing in his first production with UC Davis. He recently was involved in The Haunt at Wright Hall and has appeared in many productions with Foothill Theatre Company in Los Altos. He also holds crew credits for many shows throughout the Bay Area.

SARA MONCADA (Chorus) is a second-year Dramatic Art and Psychology double-major. She was in The Haunt at Wright Hall this year and participated in The Edge Performance Festival last spring. She is
excited for the show and happy to work with the cast and crew.

MOLLIE SAMOCHA (Chorus) transferred to UC Davis as a double-major in Biology and Dramatic Art. This is her first production here. Previous credits include Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, Blanche Dubois in *A Street Car Named Desire*, Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Beauty in *Beauty and The Beast*.

MARISSA SARAVIS (Chorus) is a third-year Dramatic Art and English double-major. Past favorite credits include *The Odd Couple*, Female Version (Renee), Tommy (Ensemble), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Golde) and *The Sound of Music* (Louisa), as well as stage manager for Studio 301’s *Rent*. She is also the current vice president/production manager for Studio 301 Productions.

SHILPA T-HYLAND (Chorus) is an exchange student from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, studying English Literature and Dramatic Art. She has also participated in acting and devising courses with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Previous credits include director for *Cinders*, assistant director for *Wind In The Willows* and principal in *Running Lines* with Student Theatre at Glasgow (STaG).

MITCHELL VANLANDINGHAM (Pentheus) is a fourth-year Linguistics major minoring in Dramatic Art and French. Previous acting experience includes *Rosencrantz and Guildenstren Are Dead* (as Rosencrantz; UC Davis), *Henry V* (as the Dauphin and others; Davis Shakespeare), and *Hair* (as Tribe; Studio 301). Directorial credits include *Tis Pity She’s a Whore* (upcoming), 8, *Rent*, and Frank Wedekind’s *Spring Awakening* (all Studio 301).

AMANDA VITIELLO (Soldier #1) was recently featured in the UC Davis Theatre and Dance Department’s *The Haunt at Wright Hall*. She has appeared in New York in the world premiere of Karp’s *Last Test* (Gallery Players Theatre). Other regional theater credits include Hedda Gabler (Chrysalis Stage), *West Side Story*, Chicago (Musical Theatre Los Angeles), and *The Heiress* (Long Beach Playhouse). She received her BA in Theatre Performance from California State University, Long Beach.

RACHEL WAGNER (Chorus) is a third-year Economics and Dramatic Art double-major at UC Davis. She last played Amber Von Tussle in PCRT’s *Hairspray* this past summer. Davis credits include Studio 301’s *RENT* (Maureen), *The Odd Couple - Female Version* (Olave), *Spring Awakening* (Ilse), and Department of Theatre and Dance’s *The Who’s Tommy*. Other favorite credits include *Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy), Cinderella (Cinderella), and *The Miracle Worker* (Helen Keller).

ABBYGAIL W. WILLIAMS (Chorus) is majoring in International Relations and double-minoring in English and Dramatic Art. Credits at UC Davis include the Housewife Robot in *Everlasting Love* and director of *The Blood Laws* for The Dead Arts Society. Other credits include Alice’s daughter, *Big River: The Musical* at Reedley Opera House and the Woman in Yellow, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*.

COOPER WISE (*Tiresias*) is a third-year transfer student and excited to finish his degree at Davis. He graduated from the Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts high school, and has trained at the Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts (PCPA). Previous credits include *The Boys Next Door* (LVA), *The Weir* and *Henry VI* at PCPA, and *Three Musketeers* at Cuesta College.

WENDY WYATT-MAIR (Chorus) is a third-year Dramatic Art and Economics major. UC Davis credits include Magdalena in *The House of Bernarda Alba* and Helena in *The Memorandum*. Previous credits include Kris Perry and Maggie Gallagher in 8, *Clytemnestra in Electra and Iphigenia at Aulis*, Estelle Delaney in *No Exit* and Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

DEIRDRE MURRIS (Assistant Director/Choreographer) is an interdisciplinary performing and visual artist, director, educator and choreographer with over 20 years of experience. She believes that art is the means by which we transform our world. Deirdrè has worked extensively in a social justice theatrical format with a focus on outdoor spectacle performance utilizing unique aerial apparatus and acrobatic stilt as well as infused ritual and butoh influenced movement works. Her choreographic work has been seen at Art Basel’s Volta, Basel, Switzerland, the Santa Fe Opera, Dia de Los Muertos with Diego Pinon in Talpjuanah, Michoacan, Mexico, Jacob’s Pillow, the Bioneer’s Conference, Art Basel Miami and the Adrienne Arsh Center for the Performing Arts of Miami. Deirdrè is currently pursuing her MFA at the University of California, Davis.

DEE LOREE SILVEIRA (Costume Designer) has spent most of her life growing up in the Central Valley. She attended Escalon High School where she participated in the drama club, then Modesto Junior College, finally graduating Summa Cum Laude from CSU Stanislaus with a BA in Technical Theatre. She is now a second year MFA student in Dramatic Art here at UC Davis, with emphasis and true passion in costume design. She hopes to give back to the community and help preserve some of the history of her Native American tribe, and the Native American nation as a whole, through her work.

DAN CATO WILSON (Soldier/Composer/Musical Director/Arrangements), a transfer from Santa Cruz County, joins the Department of Theatre and Dance for his second year as both a performer, musical director/composer and sound designer. Dan is stoked to combine his love of theater with his passion for creating new music and sound in the studio or live onstage: all the while building a portfolio of fresh tunes, fun friendships and good times.
Production Staff
Production Manager
ERIC STEGGALL
DANIEL NEELAND
NED JACOBSON
Production Manager
JANICE BISGAARD
ROXANNE FEMLING
Production Manager
MICHAEL HILL
HEATHER BROWN
BYRON RUDROW
Assistant Stage Managers
JOHN MURPHY
ERICA KALINGKING
Production Manager
AVERY LINCOLN
Production Manager
Scene Shop Teaching Assistant
PEET COCKE
HILARY RHEES
Production Manager
Graphic Designers
AMANDA CHEUNG
RUDY GARIBAY
EINAT GILBOA
Production Manager
TIMMY HUYNH
BRIAN NGUYEN
Assistant Choreographers
JASON PANG
ERICA KALINGKING
Production Manager
AVERY LINCOLN
Production Team
Assistant Directors
PEET COCKE
DEIRDRE MORRIS
Assistant Stage Managers
COURTNEY HAVRILLA
CHEYENNE SPLINTER
Assistant Choreographers
EMILY CATES
MEGAN CATON
Stage Crew
MATTHEW CUMMINGS
MARK SUAREZ
GARRET WARREN
Fly Crew
BRENDAN CROTTY
Properties Master
COURTNEY HAVRILLA
Scenic Design Advisor
JOHN IACOVELLI
Scenic Production Crew
CARMEN AGUIRRE
SAMANTHA MCLEAN
HASS MYKE KUNKLE
JASON LAU
MARK MERMAN
DAVE NESSL
WREN NUNNS
ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER
COOPER WISE
Assistant Lighting Designer
AVERY LINCOLN
Lighting Technician
COREY HIEMER
Lighting Crew
KEVIN ADAMSKI
ANNA CHALMERS
LINDA CHEE
COREY HIEMER
AVERY LINCOLN
WAIT KIT RAM
MICHAEL SALCIDO
TRISTAN WETTER
Video Technician
ANGELEA WEBER
Audio Technician
WAIT KIT TAM
Costume Design Advisor
MAGGIE MORGAN
Assistant Costume Designers
NATALIE LAM
PA HOUA MOUA
Stitchers
NICOLE DEVERA
SUSAN HUEY
YUKO KANAI
ANEL ZARATE
Stock Assistant
ANNA CHALMERS
Costume Production Crew
SHREYA CAREY
ANAMARIA DELEON
RICCI GAY
JOEL HUTCHINSON
ALMA JIMENEZ-HUERTA
MANAMI LI
BANDI LEE
AMANDA MITCHELL
TRACEY MYINT
AIMEE OUELLETTE
HUIRU SHA
JULIE SUNG
DENISE TIRADO
ANNIE WELCH
YVONNE YOUNG
Dressers
DANIELLE BLACK
STEPHANIE BUI
LILY CROSS
CODY HOLGUIN
CHRISTINE PARAWAN
COLETTE RYDER
BRITTANY SHERRON
Sound Design Advisor
NED JACOBSON
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