



The Hellenic Society Prometheas

Invites you to a Presentation by:

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“Women and Gender in Athenian Drama”

Over the past 40+ years, scholars and theater practitioners have been mining the connections between women, gender and Athenian democracy in the ancient plays, performed in honor of the god Dionysus at the annual City Dionysia. The roles that women discharged as fictional characters in tragedy and comedy pose important methodological and interpretative questions. To begin with, the powerful portraits of characters such as Clytemnestra, Medea, Antigone and Lysistrata stand at variance with the norms of silence, modesty, and seclusion, enjoined by law and custom upon Athenian citizen wives. In order to appreciate the imaginative potential and detail with which playwrights invest their cast of female characters, we need to address the distance between stage and real life. How did the audience relate to female characters, especially those who committed violence and resisted male authority? Focusing on select examples from tragedy and comedy, this presentation will illustrate the central roles that women played in the exploration of the ethical, social, and political conflicts, vital for understanding the legacy of Athenian drama.

The lecture will be in English; Reception will follow the discussion



Illustration by Carla DeMello,
IRIS Design Team, Cornell University Library

Friday, May 23, 2014 at 8:00 pm
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
7701 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817

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