

# WESTMONT'S GLOBE SERIES PRESENTS THE WESTMONT DIALOGUE ON THEATRE ANCIENT AND MODERN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

## NOW AND THEN: SOPHOCLES' *ELECTRA* IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

- 1 p.m. Check in at Porter Theatre
- 1:15 p.m. Welcome by John Blondell, Chair
- 1:30 p.m. Keynote: "Ancient and Modern Responses to the Problem of Violence" by Eric Dugdale
- 3 p.m. Music Workshop: "Invoking the Ancient: Musical Authenticity in Classical Drama" with Eric Ederer
- 4:15 p.m. Panel on Sophocles' *Electra*: "Perspectives and Questions" with Joyelle Ball, Dorota Dutsch and Andrea Fishman; moderated by Elaine Pazaski
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner (on your own)
- 7 p.m. Dessert and pre-show talk with dramaturge Andrea Fishman and director Mitchell Thomas
- 8 p.m. *Electra*, by Nick Payne, directed by Mitchell Thomas

Designed to explore issues and perspectives of the theater of the past and their application to the present, "The Westmont Dialogue" on February 8 presents lectures, discussions, workshops and performances focused on a significant play or theatrical figure. In this inaugural year, we focus on Nick Payne's version of Sophocles' *Electra*, in a new production directed by Mitchell Thomas.

Please join us for an afternoon and evening of compelling questions and issues, and an evening of wonderful theatre featuring invited guests and the faculty and student artists of Westmont.

### **Tickets: \$15, which includes all events**

*Dinner is on your own, in the Montecito vicinity*

**Please RSVP by February 5 to Beth Whitcomb at [bwhitcomb@westmont.edu](mailto:bwhitcomb@westmont.edu).**

The performance is outside at night, so please dress warmly!

We look forward to seeing you February 8!



## ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

**JOYELLE BALL** is a doctoral student in UCSB's theater and dance department. She received her master's degree in theatre studies from UCSB and her bachelor's degrees in theatre and English from Westmont, and has continued to actively participate in the Santa Barbara theater community as a director and dramaturge. Joyelle's research focuses on site-specific theatre—on its slippery definition and constantly changing relationship to convention.

**ERIC DUGDALE** is a professor of classics at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. His main area of research is Greek drama. His publications include a translation of Sophocles' *Electra* and *Greek Theatre in Context*, both published by Cambridge University Press. He is co-editor with James Morwood of the series *Greece and Rome: Texts and Contexts*. He is currently writing a book on empathy in Greek tragedy in performance and another on prophecy in the plays of Sophocles. He directs the biennial Festival of Dionysus and loves to see ancient drama come to life on the modern stage.

**DOROTA DUTSCH** is associate professor of classics at UCSB. Her research centers on various forms of social performance. She has published articles and book chapters on Roman comedy, ancient

funeral practices, the language of gesture, and modern political appropriations of Greek drama. She is the author of *Feminine Discourse in Roman Comedy* (OUP, 2008) and coeditor with Ann Suter of *Ancient Obscenities* (University of Michigan Press, forthcoming). Her current project examines writings attributed to women Pythagoreans.

**ERIC EDERER** (composer, musician) is a composer and ethnomusicologist who specializes in the musical traditions of Near Eastern and Mediterranean cultures, both historical and modern. For this production he created a synthesis of these that relies partly on guided improvisations by his fellow performers, both instrumentalists and chorus. In addition to leading the band this evening, he will be performing on two Turkish instruments: ud and tanbur.

**ANDREA FISHMAN** is a teacher, classics scholar, and musician. She has a doctorate in classics, with research and teaching interests in the performance and receptions of ancient Greek drama, female lament in the Greek tradition, women in the ancient world, and ancient and modern Mediterranean music. Andrea is a member of the UCSB Middle East Music Ensemble, and the founder and vocalist of Flor de Kanela, a local Sephardic music ensemble.

**ELAINE PAZASKI** is a third-year theatre major and English minor. She has enjoyed the opportunity to assist direct *Electra* and contribute to the conference. At KCACTF, she will compete both in theatrical criticism and scholarly writing, as well as perform in the revival of *The Pirates of Penzance*. She is looking forward to helping produce Fringe this April, and will direct a short play in collaboration with Emily Feldman, a UCSD playwright, and also will debut her original one-woman show, entitled *Little Chicken Girl*.

**MITCHELL THOMAS** is an actor, director, producer, and professor in the Westmont Theatre Arts department. Recent acting credits include Indy-award winning performances as Gustav in *Creditors* at the Ensemble Theatre Company, the Troll King in *Peer Gynt* with the Lit Moon Theatre, and Wallace Shawn's daring one-man show, *The Fever*. Recent directing credits at Westmont include *Ricochet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Celluloid*, *Macbeth*, *Animal Farm*, *The Bald Soprano* (Indy award), *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Muéveme*, *Muévete*, and *The Saint Plays*.



**WESTMONT**  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS