

GREEK PLAY 2017: THE BACCHAE

By Claire Romaine and Alison Robins

CAST:

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

Chorus 3

Chorus 4

Chorus 5

Chorus 6

Dionysus – Kiran Rajamani

Pentheus – Rachel Ellerson

Cadmus – Mary Sweeney

Tiresias – Briana Grenert

(Agave--a chorus member – Eli Fisher)

Chorus: Alex Tucker, Leah Borquez, Hannah Davis, Moreen McGrath, Leah Grams, Katie Billings, Emily Schalk, Kate Hawthorne, Wynter Douglas, Eli Fisher, Lydia Brunk, Ann Sippel, Margaret Gorman, Beckie Bull

[Invocation tbd]

Scene 1:

Chorus 1: What a beautiful day in scenic Thebes, where nothing bad ever happens ever.

Chorus 2: What about those two guys who killed each other for control?

Chorus 3: Or the guy that killed his dad and--

Chorus 4: Or the time that woman tried to bury one of the guys who--

Chorus 1: Besides that! Anyways, none of that has even happened yet.

Chorus 5: Wow, it's almost like time is a social construct...

Chorus of "maybe, yes, no, go back to the Symposium"

Chorus 6: Okay, but what about Pentheus?

Chorus 2: Ugh, he's like, the Worst(TM).

Chorus 3: I know! All that hating on Dionysus, it's so rude.

Chorus 4: Yeah, and the fedoras are NOT a good look.

Chorus 1: What's even his problem with Dionysus? Does he hate a good pinot noir?

Chorus 6: It's weird that a guy that dramatic would hate on him, given that he's the god of theatre.

Chorus 5: Who?

Chorus 6: Oh, Dionysus.

Enter DIONYSUS from the center, in a blaze of glory, drama, and camp.

DIONYSUS: Hello, my darling mortals! It is I.

Chorus 5: Who?

DIONYSUS: *(confused)* Dionysus? The twice-born god of everything cool? "Just call me BRO-mius because that's also my name?" Don't you know, you called me.

Chorus 3: What? No we didn't.

DIONYSUS: Yeah, you said my name three times and everything.

Chorus 2: (I thought that only worked for Beetlejuice)

Everyone SHs that chorus member. We can only handle one chaotic deity today.

DIONYSUS: Aren't you guys happy to see me?

Chorus 1: Of course! We love you, you're literally our god. But,
we were kind of having a private conversation...

DIONYSUS: ...I know, just killing the time before beautiful,
gender non-conforming me came to play. You're welcome!

ALL: Huh?

DIONYSUS: Oh, what I believe you were trying to say is "thank
you"

Chorus 4: "Thank you"?

DIONYSUS: You're welcome!

Chorus 4: Wait, that's not what I meant...Why are we thanking
you?

DIONYSUS: Okay, Okay...

*YOU'RE WELCOME [FROM MOANA] BY LIN-MANUEL
MIRANDA*

[DIONYSUS]

I see what's happening here

You're face to face with greatness, and it's strange

You don't even know how you feel

It's adorable!

Well, it's nice to see that humans never change

Open your eyes, let's begin

Yes, it's really me, Dionysus: breathe it in!

I know it's a lot: the hair, the bod!

When you're staring at a demi-god

[spoken: Actually though, I'm a full god. Look it up.]

What can I say except you're welcome

For theatre, revelling, and wine

Hey, it's okay, it's okay

You're welcome

I'm just an ordinary demi-guy

Hey!

What has two thumbs and was pulled from a thigh

When you were waddling yea high

This guy!

When the nights got boring

Who made you wine from the ground

You're lookin' at him, yo

Oh, also I saved Ariadne

You're welcome!

To save the girl and prevent my rage

Also I taught you to dance

You're welcome!

To bring you joy and move your feet

So what can I say except you're welcome

For most of all the ecstasy

You should really pray, it's okay

You're welcome!

Ha, I guess it's just my way of being me

You're welcome!

You're welcome!

And thank you!

At the end, the chorus is still a little confused as to what's happening

Chorus 5: (What are we thanking him for again?)

Chorus 3: (Wine, I guess? I mean, I'm personally not gonna complain.)

DIONYSUS: Alright, woo! Feels good to be back and adored.
I'm gonna go head to the forum and check up on the fam, I'll see y'all later for the revelling?

Chorus 1: Of course!

Chorus 2: (to Chorus 1) Don't you have weaving to do?

Chorus 1: Eh, what's another day?

Chorus 4: Besides, you remember Arachne, the last time someone did too much weaving she got turned into a spider.

DIONYSUS.: Great! Anyways, back to ME! I'm just going to put on this *amazing* disguise, and I'll catch you on the flip side!
Disguise is not amazing. Exit DIONYSUS.

Scene 2:

Enter CADMUS and TIRESIAS.

TIRESIAS: So, uh, have you heard what your grandson did?

CADMUS: Di Immortales, Tiresias, what did he do this time? I knew I shouldn't have given him the crown. All I wanted to do was enjoy a little quality family time. The Gods know we can never seem to get any peace and quiet around here. First it was Europa, then Semele, and now it's Pentheus.

TIRESIAS: I will say that's the one advantage of being turned into a snake, Cadmus: there's no such thing as snake politics or snake family drama.

CADMUS: So what is he up to?

Enter PENTHEUS (fedora-blad), hiding.

TIRESIAS: Well, I heard that he's been trash-talking his cousin, Dionysus. Making fun of him. I even heard he threw a lead tablet with his name on it into a well. He's asking for trouble

CADMUS: Geeze, what a horrible idea. Gods should not be messed with. I should know, I once messed with Ares's pet dragon and he's never let me have a moment of peace since

TIRESIAS: Besides which, I know it's horrible being a king and still not being the most successful cousin in the family, but he's taking jealousy to a whole other level.

PENTHEUS emerges.

PENTHEUS: I am NOT jealous.

CADMUS: Oh, hello there Pentheus, if you're not jealous, then can I ask why you were just eavesdropping on a private conversation?

PENTHEUS: I am *not* jealous, and you are rude. Very rude. Incredibly rude. I am the king, see! Look at my crown! (*points at fedora*).

TIRESIAS: I wish I could help you there pipsqueak, but as you seemed to have forgotten...I can't see. Although I so wish I could see your face when Dionysus smites you.

CADMUS: That's okay, I'll describe it to you. For instance right now, his face is all puffy and red, he looks like a toddler about to throw a tantrum.

PENTHEUS: (*stomps his feet in a very tantrum-like manner*) I do not. Dionysus is the worst. He's not even a god, he's my low-life cousin who pretends to be a god so he can just laze around all day drinking and dancing. And now he's started to coerce my womenfolk.

TIRESIAS: *Your* womenfolk? I feel like they'd have something distinctly unfriendly to say if they heard you talking about them like they belong to you.

PENTHEUS: Gods, it's just so hard to be me. I have to sit on my throne all day, and what are they doing. Weaving? Cooking? Cleaning? Taking on the emotional burdens of men incapable of emotional intimacy with other men? Pft, that's nothing compared to what I have to deal with. Being a manly king is just so difficult, I don't get enough credit.

ALL THE SMALL THINGS BY BLINK-182

[PENTHEUS]

All the king things
True Thebes truth brings
I don't trust him
Nor do I like him
Always I know
You'll be in my court
Watching, waiting, judging what I do

Say it ain't so, I will not change
My life is so hard, carry me home
Na, na, na, na
Na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na

Late night, come home
Work sucks, I know
Dionysus is the worst
Why does everyone believe in him

Say it ain't so, I will not change
Women come back, carry me home
Na, na, na, na
Na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na

Say it ain't so, I will not go
Women come back, carry me home
I am your king, listen to me
Don't be so rude, I am trying

Say it ain't so, I will not go
I am your king, listen to me
Please stop drinking, I'll be so nice
My life is so hard
My life is so hard
I am your king

Scene 3:

Enter DIONYSUS, in disguise.

DIONYSUS: HEY! Why are you hating on Dionysus? Is he TOO good-looking? Is his hair TOO silky-smooth? Does he let people celebrate TOO MUCH?

PENTHEUS: Uh, maybe? Everyone's been acting weird...like, weirder than drunk on wine. Drunk on...?

DIONYSUS: MY AWESOME GIFTS? I mean, DIONYSUS'S AWESOME GIFTS, WHICH ARE NOT MINE, BECAUSE I AM JUST A NORMAL HUMAN ORGANISM.

Chorus sneaks out during this, all sly-like.

PENTHEUS: ...Uh, okay. But again, maybe? Listen, I don't know who you are, but I'm just a guy trying to run a polis, which is pretty difficult considering how hard it is out there for men in positions of power. I *struggle.*

DIONYSUS: You absolutely do NOT struggle! Let's unpack that low-key misogyny later, but how could you suffer when I--I mean, Dionysus, who, again, not me--provides for your city?

PENTHEUS: Please, we all know Dionysus isn't a god. He's just some punk kid that my aunt told that Zeus was his dad and now he's got this huge ego. Like, born from a thigh? Who does that?

DIONYSUS: Cool people! Awesome, god people! Pros Deus, you've been like this since we were kids--

PENTHEUS: Wait, kids? Do I know you?

DIONYSUS: Uhh...

*Chorus re-enters, with leaves and sticks and other random, vicious garb.
Screams are are okay.*

PENTHEUS: What is happening??

DIONYSUS: Aw sick! Y'all look GREAT.

PENTHEUS: Again, what??

DIONYSUS: Say hi to the bacchants, sucker! (*Takes off disguise*).

SUGAR, WE'RE GOIN DOWN BY FALL OUT BOY

[CHORUS]

Are we more than you bargained for yet?

We've been dying to tell you everything

You hate to hear

'Cause that's just who we are this year

Leaving the town, dancing up in the woods

We're just a bunch of bacchants

But you're just a jerk in a crown

Drop a beat, break a face

We're always dancing free and dancing for the right team.

You're goin down, down while we're singing around

And, buddy, you're goin down headless

We'll be dancing while your brain fries

Bacchus's our god now, see it with your eyes

Are we more than you bargained for yet?

Oh, don't mind us we're watching you two from the distance

Wishing you'd shut up and stop mocking us.

Isn't it messed up how he's just cooler than you are?

We're just a bunch of bacchants

But you're just a jerk in a crown.

Drop a beat, break a face

We're always dancing free and dancing for the right team.

You're goin down, down while we're singing around

And, buddy, you're goin down headless

We'll be dancing while your brain fries

Bacchus's our god now, see it with your eyes

Chorus goes to charge at PENTHEUS, wild; DIONYSUS is so tickled pink but notices the Chorus is getting a bit wild and, worried, leaves.

Scene 4:

PENTHEUS: WAIT DON'T HURT ME!

Chorus 3: Why not?

PENTHEUS: Because...uh...*(puts on the horrible disguise)* I'm not Pentheus! Ha, see, I'm just another Bacchant, like you guys! Let's talk about revelling and grapes or whatever it is we love to talk about and NOT attack anyone!

Chorus 4: Are you...are you kidding here or...

Chorus 1: Do you think we're stupid or something?

PENTHEUS: Well, it's not like any of you were educated.

Chorus 5: Yikes, too soon.

Chorus 2: Maybe one day there'll be a chill institution that helps women and other genders get an education but today is not that day!

Chorus 6: We're done with you.

PENTHEUS: What if I...apologized? Is that something kings do?

Chorus 1: Maybe...you'd need to sing it though, and that will never happen, so--

SORRY BY JUSTIN BIEBER

[PENTHEUS]

You gotta go and get angry at all of my honesty
You know I try but I don't do too well with apologies
I hope I don't run out of time, could someone call a oracle?
Cause I just need one more shot at forgiveness

I know you know that I made those mistakes maybe once or twice

By once or twice I mean maybe a couple a hundred times
So let me, oh let me redeem, oh redeem, oh myself tonight

Cause I just need one more shot at second chances

Yeah, is it too late now to say sorry?

Cause I'm missing more than just your sanity.

Is it too late now to say sorry?

Yeah I know that I let you down

Is it too late to say I'm sorry now?

I'm sorry, yeah

Sorry, yeah

Sorry

Yeah I know that I let you down

Is it too late to say I'm sorry now?

[CHORUS]

Please like you'd ever take any piece of the blame; so not true.

You know that there is no way that we could ever forgive you.

You'll rant and you'll rave and honestly we have no say in that

Can you just say he's our god now, and forget this?

It's too late by now to say sorry

Cause we're not digging your misogyny

It's too late by now to say sorry

Yeah we know that you let us down

But it's too late to say you're sorry now.

*Chorus dances and does the "*vocalizing* sorry" bit until...*

Chorus 2: Drats, he distracted us with dancing. Let's get him!

Chorus goes to attack PENTHEUS but...

Scene 5:

...Enter DIONYSUS with TIRESLAS and CADMUS

DIONYSUS: STOP! Don't hurt him. I guess.

Chorus (all): Why not?

TIRESIAS: Because I said so? More exactly, I've foreseen some bad stuff for this polis. Like, pollution bad. And it all stems from a timeline in which y'all go nuts and do something wild like beheading Pentheus like a lion killed for hunt.

Chorus 5: See, time is a social construct!

CADMUS: Also, he's my grandson, so harming him would be, you know, less than ideal. Speaking of, where's my daughter-in-law Agave anyway? I'm sure she's not here, given that she is a level-headed person who wouldn't just jump to the latest fad, but where is she?

AGAVE appears from the Chorus. She's been with them the whole time!

AGAVE: Surprise! I've been with the Bacchants the whole time!

ALL: WHAT?

DIONYSUS: Called it.

TIRESIAS: No you didn't.

DIONYSUS: *sad* No I didn't.

PENTHEUS: Agave! My Kalos! What--how--why--what are you WEARING?

AGAVE: (*ignoring his questions, for the most part*) ...Hey.

CADMUS: Agave, what are you doing here?

AGAVE: I'm sorry, I--wait, no. I'm *not* sorry! Pentheus, you have never listened to a word I've said, and I have good ideas! Like, what if we had indoor plumbing, huh? Or some way to carry water from places with it to places without? You know some sort of duct...for aqua...and I'm just spitballing here.

TIRESIAS: Soon...

AGAVE: And, I *like* Dionysus. Sure, he's obnoxious and, honestly, I probably would've done something rash like behead you if he said so, but it's ridiculous that you can't

appreciate his godliness or recognize the importance of what he gives us. You, the most dramatic person I know!

PENTHEUS: whAT? I have NEVER been DRAMATIC a DAY in my Life, hOW DARE You--

Chorus 4: Besides, no one is as dramatic as Dionysus.

DIONYSUS: By definition.

CADMUS: Dionysus, isn't there something you wanted to say?

DIONYSUS: (*sighs/buffs*) Yeah...Listen, babes, you're wonderful, truly, but it's been brought to my attention (*he looks back at CADMUS and TIRESLAS who glare at him*) that my way of dealing with problems isn't super sustainable for the deity of Thebes.

Chorus 6: By "your way," do you mean the fact that you stirred us all into an ecstatic frenzy and almost had us commit regicide?

DIONYSUS: Duh, obviously. Look, I feel touched that you all look up to me as a role model--

Chorus 4: Literally none of us see you as a role model.

DIONYSUS: --but I need to be more careful when dealing with impressionable mortals! Too much of anything is bad, even revenge. So, absolutely, eat, drink, and revel in my name, but remember to hug your families and eat a vegetable once in a while too, you know?

TIRESIAS: And..?

DIONYSUS: (*another sigh*) And murder is bad.

ALL: HOORAY!

ALL STAR BY SMASH MOUTH

[CADMUS]

Somebody once told me the gods were gonna troll me
I ain't the luckiest of the men.

[TIRESIAS]

I was looking kind of dumb with no fingers and no thumbs
In the form of a snake on the ground

[CADMUS AND TIRESIAS]

Well, the years start coming and they don't stop coming
Respect all the gods or you should really get running
Didn't make sense not to drink some wine
Your brain gets dumb but your head gets fine

So much to do, so much to see
So what's wrong with taking the back streets?
You'll never know if you don't go
You'll never shine if you don't glow

[CHORUS]

Hey, now, you're a Theban, get your fun on, go play
Hey, now, you're a bacchant, get your wine on, go dance
And all that glitters is gold
Only chosen ones break the mold

[PENTHEUS]

I'm a cool king and they say I get cooler
You like me now, wait 'til I get older
But immortal gods beg to differ
Judging by the way I was almost smited

The ice I skate is getting pretty thin
The water's getting warm but I really can't swim
My world's on fire. How about yours?
I really don't like it, but at least I'm not dead.

[Chorus 2x]

[DIONYSUS]

Somebody once asked could I spare some change for wine
I need to get myself away from this place
I said yep, what a concept
I could use a little fuel myself
And we could all use a little change

Well, the years start coming and they don't stop coming
Mad at the king and I hit the ground running
Didn't make sense just to live for fun
My joy is great and my rage is done.

So much to do, so much to see
So what's wrong with setting their hearts free?
You'll never know if you don't go
You'll never shine if you don't glow.

[Chorus]

FIN