

TROY
UNIVERSITY.

Department of
Theatre and Dance

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor
Dr. Michael Thrasher, Dean, CCFA

CHAOS

Troy University Department of Theatre and Dance and
The College of Communication and Fine Arts Present

CHAOS

February 15-18 and 22-25, 2024

Trojan Center Theater

Artistic Staff

Director

Deborah Hicks

Assistant Director

James Boyd

Costume Designer

Andrew Haueter

Lighting Designer

James Arakas

Scenic Designer

Peta McKenna

Technical Director

Jennifer Glass

Sound Designer

Chris Ahlf

Choreographer

James Boyd

Stage Manager

Will Moncrief

Intimacy Choreographer

Caitlin Hicks

Cast

Chaos: Ceara Calton

Understudy: Gabby Deaton

Eros: Quintin Moore

Understudy: Morgan Jensen

Eris: Gabby Deaton

Understudy: Madison Alward

Gaia: Alina Dunn

Understudy: Ashley Hood

Tartarus: Cedrick Scruggs

Understudy: Leah Kennedy

Nyx: Taylor Griffith

Understudies: Carsyn Harris,

Alyssa Manning

Erebus: Antonio Christian

Understudy: Malachi Leakes

Hemera: Emily Ward

Understudy: Sarah Sinclair

Aether: Max Lippman *guest artist*

Understudies: Morgan Jensen, Quintin

Moore, Cedrick Scruggs

Ouranos: Malachi Leakes *will be performing the the role of Erebus tonight*

Understudy: Antonio Christian

Themis: Jaala Hall

Understudy: Josephine Spidle

Potentialites/Gifts:

Gaia:

Life: Ashton Fisher

Laughter: Amber Cayce

Dreams: Madison Alward

Understudy: Charlee Kirkland

Tartarus:

Anger: Jasmin Aranda

Loneliness: Katie Bozeman

Terror: Anna Grace Johnson

Understudy: Josephine Spidle

Nyx:

Insight: Carsyn Harris

Power: Alyssa Manning

Mystery: Gracie Avalos

Understudy: Mikiya Smith (2/24)

Erebus:

Dark Serenity: Sky Stracener

Understudy: Libby Wiley

Earth Builders: Melody Chen,

Jessica Fleischmann, Ellie Flowers,

Sadie Glawson, Charlee Kirkland,

Sarah Sinclair, Josephine Spidle,

Ella Stults, Naomi Thiems, Ryan Tucker,

Kelsie Williams, Holly Winchester

Understudy: Mikiya Smith (2/16, 2/18,

2/22, 2/23)

Tartarus:

Echidna: Ashley Hood

Understudy: AG Johnson

Corps: Gracie Avalos, Katie Bozeman,

Antonio Christian, Mikayla Gracia,

Morgan Jensen, AG Johnson,

Leah Kennedy, Malachi Leakes,

Mackenzie Leger, Aleksandra

Mach, Leia Riehl, Mikiya Smith,

Sky Stracener, Libby Wiley,

Kelsie Williams

Understudy: Naomi Thiems

Fates:

Clotho: Libby Wiley

Lachesis: Melody Chen

Atropo: Sadie Glawson

Understudies: Elle Fox (2/22),

Lily Kate Gwen (2/16, 2/17, 2/22),

Carsyn Harris (2/24)

Sky:

Asteria: Ryan Tucker

Understudy: Kelsie Williams

Gracie Avalos, Katie Bozeman,

Ashton Fisher, Jessica Fleischmann,

Josephine Spidle, Sky Stracener,

Kelsie Williams

Understudies: Jasmin Aranda,

Aleksandra Mach (2/17, 2/23, 2/24),

Naomi Thiems

Sea:

Pontos: Sam Hotalen

Understudy: Antonio Christian

Thalassa: Leia Riehl

Understudy: Micahya Burton

Corps: Madison Alward,

Micahya Burton, Melody Chen,

Ellie Flowers, Morgan Jensen,

AG Johnson, Alyssa Manning,

Mikiya Smith, Sarah Sinclair,

Holly Winchester

Understudies: Jessica Fleischmann,

Sadie Glawson

Hours:

Eunomia: Michaya Burton

Dice: Morgan Jensen

Eirene: Sarah Sinclair

Auxesia: Jessica Fleischmann

Understudy: Josephine Spidle

ACT I

According to the Ancient Greeks, before time, there was Chaos, nothingness, only space, a chasm devoid of all form. Growing lonely in her vast emptiness, Chaos springs out of herself complete, a well-spring of unbound potential and unmatched power. In our story, she, influenced by Eros, god of Desire, no longer craves emptiness. Gaia—Earth and ancestral mother—springs forth from Chaos whole but featureless and immediately decides her form. Struck by the beauty Gaia creates, Chaos chooses to give over to Gaia the potentialities of life, laughter, and dreams. To her son Tartarus, chosen to rule the fiery pit beneath the Earth, Chaos is quick to impart the gifts of terror, loneliness, and anger. These, he willingly embraces and spreads among the flames that writhe behind the iron walls of Tartarus.

Prologue: The Story of Chaos

Scene 1: Eros Arrives

Scene 2: The Rise of Chaos and the Giving of Gifts

Scene 3: Earth's Genesis

Scene 4: The Pit Beneath the Earth

Choreographer: Jerome Stigler

ACT II

Eros, the driving force behind the generation of new life in the cosmos, finds himself alone. Eternally seeking ways to sow desire, he celebrates his newness by blessing all he touches and leaving behind him the winds of passion. His work is interrupted by Eris, the goddess of Discord, whose antics seem harmless but forever prove far more destructive than they appear. Consider the Trojan War--all her doing. Having set the stage for passion, Eros exits and Nyx, goddess of Night, appears. Her beauty entices Erebus, the god of Mist and Darkness, and the lingering passion of Eros ignites their desire. Insight, Power, Mystery, and Dark Serenity—the gifts Chaos bestows on Nyx and Erebus—celebrate the couple and they give birth to Twin Lights, Hemera, Day, and Aether, Light. These four uncertain how to establish the cycle of day and night finally determine how to move in tandem so that the forces of Earth, Sky, and Sea pull together, laying the groundwork for the potential of Order. In the meantime, the Fates aid Chaos as she begins to fade.

Scene 1:The Blessings of Eros

Scene 2:The Trouble with Love and Discord

Scene 3:The Coupling of Night and Darkness
Choreographer: Adrienne Hicks

Scene 4:The Inescapable Daughters of Nyx

Scene 5:Light Dawns

ACT III

Ouranos succeeds in engaging Gaia's interest, then gathers the heavens in her honor, after which they watch as Pontos awakens the sea. With the heavens dispersed and the sea calmed, Themis, the goddess of Divine Order, appears. Attended by her daughters, the Hours, she is poised to impose herself on an unsuspecting Chaos. Having given so much of herself to her children by this point, Chaos seeks encouragement from the Fates and musters what little power she has left to turn and face Themis, who, with the help of Time, proves the stronger of the two. As Chaos diminishes in strength, we say goodbye. With the absence of Chaos, Themis leads the celebration of order thus beginning the "great cycle from chaos to order and back again to chaos."

Scene 1: Turning Night Into Day

Scene 2: Moving Heaven and Earth

Scene 3: Gaia's Choice
Choreographer: Jerome Stigler

Scene 4: The Chaotic Energy of Fate

Scene 5: Swept Into Sea
Choreographer: Dominique Angel

Scene 6: It's Time

Scene 7: Order Comes for Chaos

Scene 8: Imposing Order

Scene 9: Farewell

Scene 10: Celebration is in Order

Scene 11: The Chaos that Began Everything...

Musical Selections

ACT ONE:

Title: The Story of Chaos
Narration: Stephen Fry
Composer: Debbie Wiseman
Music: National Symphony Orchestra

Title: Stardust
Composer: David Chappell
Music: Avalon Zero

Title: Gaia
Composer: Tanju Demirhan
Music: Tanju Demirhan Music

Title: Grave
Composer: Martyn Corbet & Murugan Thiruchelvam
Music: Elephant Music

Title: Fight in the Shade
Composer: Tyler Bates
Music: 300 Original Motion Picture Soundtrack

Title: Feral Spirit
Composer: Paleowolf

Title: Inferno
Composer: Snorre Tidemand
Music: Epic Score Orchestral

ACT TWO:

Title: As The Ice Melts
Composer: Richard Schrieber
Music: Elephant Music

Title: Night of Wonder
Morning of Trouble
Composer: Debbie Wiseman
Music: Edie, Original Film Soundtrack

Title: Chokehold
Composer: Sergiu-Dan Muresan
Music: Elephant Music

Title: Skit
Composer: Ben Preston
Music: Elephant Music

Title: Discordia
Composer: Dimitris Tsolis
Music: Atropos Music

Title: Limitless
Composer: Hannu Honkonen
Music: Elephant Music

Title: Entirely Beloved
Composer: Debbie Wiseman
Music: Wolf Hall Original Television Soundtrack

Title: Chokehold
Composer: Sergiu-Dan Muresan
Music: Elephant Music

ACT THREE:

Title: My Destiny
Composer: Jonas B. Ingebretsen
Music: Epic Music

Title: Flood
Composer: Debbie Wiseman
Music: Orchestra of the Guildhall School

Title: Petrichor
Composer: Evalian Massey
Music: Evalian Massey

Title: Phoenix
Composer: Remy Barjolin

Title: Eventual Motion
Composer: Richard Schrieber
Music: Elephant Music

Title: Journey of Discovery
Composer: Matthew R. Putnam
Music: Elephant Music

Title: Belief
Composer: Richard Schrieber
Music: Elephant Music

Title: Mogul
Composer: Cody Still
Music: Elephant Music

Title: Pressured
Composer: Hannu Hannoken & Ros Stephen
Music: Elephant Music

Title: Loyalties
Composer: Martyn Corbet & Murugan Thiruchelvam
Music: Elephant Music

Title: Tempest
Composer: Debbie Wiseman
Music: National Symphony Orchestra

Title: King
Composer: Murugan Thiruchelvam
Music: Music: Elephant Music

Character Bios

I am Chaos, a vast chasm of limitless power, a void filled with unbound potential, the nether abyss of infinite darkness preceding the creation of the cosmos. I am the space within which I give birth to the primordial architects, to whom I pass on my power. These, my children, Gaia, Tartarus, Nyx, and Erebus, stand as the first order of divine beings from whom all the gods, heroes, and monsters of Greek myth spring. I am the source, all and nothing, androgynous, formless, without agency, perpetual and divine. I am the beginning. Might I also be the end?

I am Eros, the most famous and influential of all primordial forces and the god most blamed for the failures of man. I am the life urge: the will to live, to create, to be loved, to love. I am love, desire, passion, free will. My powerful being enhances and makes room for creations that follow me. Aware of the needs of all, I spark desire in the hearts of all, endowing them with life and ensuring their existence. Without me, Chaos would have never come to be.

Unsettled by peace and delighted by chaos, **I am Eris** born of Nyx. My greatest joy is to create discord and then watch from a distance the ensuing mayhem. Craving no recognition, I plant my golden apple and wait patiently for it to disrupt and destroy. Bloodshed, fear, confusion, and madness are some of my favorite tools to use against the unsuspecting. My sharp wit, cunning, and certainty allow me to scheme my way into the confidence of those I use. I am both your closest friend and fiercest enemy and likely the catalyst of all chaos.

My name is Gaia, elemental goddess of the earth. One of the first primordial deities born, I am the mightiest daughter of Chaos. I sprang whole at the dawn of creation, and only I decided the form I would take, and what a majestic form it is. Lonely in my beauty, I chose Ouranos as mate. From our union, all the heavenly gods of Greek mythology descended. The ancestral mother, I am described as the giver of dreams.

I Am Tartarus, the first Son of Chaos and the third primordial deity. I bend the will of tortured souls and demons hurled into the fiery bowels and dark depths of my kingdom. I am not Hades. I am worse. I am everything that is terrifying, dark, cruel, and fiery. No human, god, god-kissed or beast escapes my damnation. I Am Tartarus.

Known as Nyx, I am Night, enchanting and magnetic. A child of Chaos, I have been gifted power, insight, and mystery. I inspire both awe and apprehension. I had numerous offspring, many of whom my husband Erebus found hard to love, so I brought forth the rest, all on my own. I, alone, understood the necessity of balance and counterbalance and recognized my responsibility to bring into this world not what was beautiful but what was required. Without me, there would be no darkness or light, no reality or dreams, no discord or peace, no death or life.

I am Erebus the primordial god of darkness and shadow and last son of Chaos. Part of the darkness that existed before the world's creation, I have always been and I always will be. I am the seductive dark mist that encircles the world, the enigmatic darkness where both serenity and uncertainty dwell.

I am Hemera, goddess of Day. My mother is Nyx, goddess of Night. Because of my radiant youthfulness, the earth is filled with light each day, encouraging life to begin anew. Challenging the lack of order at my creation, I now guide the hours. Without me there would be no contrast to Night, no progression of day and night, of weeks or months, no cycle of time. Because of me there exists a natural and lasting rhythm for living.

The son of Nyx and Erebus, I am the light to their Darkness. The heavens are blue bright because of my shining though I am no relation to the sun. My sister, Hemera, and I dispel the mists of night to reveal the brilliant beauty of Day, but when my mother draws her dark veil across the sky, Hemera and I retreat to the caves of Tartarus to await the twilight before dawn.

I am Ouranos, the primordial God of the Sky and heavens. Gaia's first born son, she created me equal to herself and chose me as husband. Our offspring were mighty and terrifyingly monstrous. You may know them as the first generation of Titans, the Cyclopes, and the Hecatoncheires, enormous fifty-headed giants. Both hating and fearing them, I flung them deep into Tartarus, underestimating the power of their mother. I would eventually know her wrath when our son Cronos stripped me of my manhood and assumed my power.

I am Asteria, the Titan goddess of falling stars with the strength befitting the offspring of Titan parents. Associated with dreams, prophecy, and sorcery, I am the mystical allure of the night sky. Because I value harmony, I am very empathetic and feel deeply for those I love.

I am Pontos, the primordial god of boundless sea. The son of Gaia, I am also the sea itself and all that it includes. To Thalassa, my counterpart, I have given command of all sea creatures while I rule the vastness of its waters. Anger me and there is nothing more treacherous; please me and there is no more temperate beauty.

I am Thalassa, goddess of the sea. With my counterpart, Pontos, I watch over the sea and all its creatures. Ethereal and nurturing, powerful and strong, I am the mother of all sea creatures, a calming yet mighty force among the precarious nature of the sea. I am often depicted emerging from the sea intertwined with waves. I am often blamed for the sea's destruction, but it is not the sea but the wind that destroys.

The mother of monsters, I am Echidna, half serpent, half nymph. You may recognize my offspring: the multi-headed Hydra, the fire-breathing Chimera, the merciless Sphinx, only three of my many horrifying creations. My very existence sends shivers through realms of gods and mortals alike. I live in the Underworld ruled by Tartarus. My presence serves as a reminder of the eternal dance between creation and destruction, beauty and horror, and strikes awe into the hearts of those who dare utter my name.

My name is Clotho. I am the youngest and most mischievous of the three fates. Known as "the spinner," I spin the thread of fate for each baby born whether human or god and am therefore feared by both gods and mankind. I live a paradox because, though I am responsible for declaring the end of life, I also decide how colorfully life is lived. I carry great weight on my shoulders knowing all I know but I am immovable in my knowledge. Sneaky and unseen, I am easy to find once you know how to look for me.

I am Lachesis, the second of the three Fates. Feminine and gentle, meticulous in my appearance and manner, I am often depicted holding branches of flowers. Paradoxically, however, I am allotter, measurer, and inspector of the thread of life, which means I have the sole responsibility of deciding the misfortunes each should will face and at what moment these hardships will occur, an obligation difficult for a gentle spirit.

I am Atropos, the oldest of the fates. Wiser than my sisters, I am inflexible, stubborn, and wholly opposed to interference. While my sister chooses when life expires, it is my responsibility to choose the cause of death for all in my charge, and no one escapes the severity of my choice. I take my responsibility seriously and hold myself accountable as, at the end of the day, it all comes down to me: your life is in my hands. I have never doubted the importance of the role I play in the story of life.

I am Themis, goddess and personification of divine order, justice, law, and custom. Gaia and Ouranos, my mother and father, gifted me with foresight and prophecy. Through me and my daughters, the Horai, Time begins and Order settles upon the land. Aware of all that is good and just in the world, I clearly, rightly, and calmly bestow order on Chaos.

Director's Notes

Walking my dog three years ago and listening to a random music mix, I was struck still when Stephen Fry's "The Story of Chaos" set to the music of Debbie Wiseman began to play. I sat down in front of Rose Hill on Murphree St. and listened over and over again. Though I had never heard this piece before, it felt like I was hearing it from somewhere deep within me. That is the power and mystery of myth. It is "the music we dance to" Campbell writes, "even when we cannot name the tune." I felt soul connected to this piece and knew I was listening to the inspiration for what might become a dance concert. The story of Chaos, one of hundreds of creation stories around the globe, tells the story of those gods "from whom all other gods, heroes and monsters of Greek myth spring," so we are bringing to life the lesser known great grandparents of those twelve Olympians with whom we are most familiar.

Last May, when we decided to dive in, we plunged headfirst into a project that has proved to be more meaningful than I could ever have imagined. Typically, collegiate dance concerts are comprised of separate pieces which are only loosely related thematically and are choreographed separately by faculty or guests, a part of our students' education we love providing, but CHAOS is different. Students have had the privilege to be a part of a very rare opportunity, one that has allowed them to participate in the creation of an original full-length work, thus, adding to an educational experience that has enriched them in so many, many ways. Not only do they now have an understanding of the work it takes to create a full-length dance narrative from scratch, but they have also experienced the magic of working on something that was meant to be. However magical, this process has been long and arduous, but these dancers have been patient and have taken their work to heart. They have created their own character books, complete with mood boards that have helped them embody more fully their mythical role; they have had fun creating a family tree of the gods and their offspring adopting one another as parent or child; they have decorated huge Jenga blocks that represent their character; they have discovered their character in video games, in cartoons, in television series, in advertisements, and, of course, in the literature they are reading in World Lit class, but they have also discovered chaos in Cell Biology class. What I have heard on a weekly basis is, "Deb, I have never felt like this about any other show I have been in."

This expression was not at all surprising to me. Mythology ignites spiritual potentialities in every one of us and connects us with the mysteries of the cosmos, so, without realizing it, the inexplicable connections these dancers have felt during this process are the early stirrings of the power of myth, power that lives in our souls and our cells. In my book, anything that helps us connect to that which is far greater than ourselves I have to believe is soul work and worth pursuing.

Tonight, you will enjoy the work of Dominique Angel, who awakens the sea's beauty; of Adrienne Hicks, who shines light on the seductively dark; and of Jerome Stigler, who transports us to the world beneath the earth and then sends us soaring above it, but it is James Boyd, choreographer, director of choreography, whose artistic brilliance has infused our story with life. The amount of work he has done is nothing short of Herculean, and I do not exaggerate. In eleven very short weeks, he has spent countless hours far beyond creating and setting movement. I don't think he has slept since October. There are no words that could possibly express my appreciation for the amount of energy and time he has invested; the respect I have for the way he works with our students; or the awe I have felt upon seeing his work come together to touch the story we envisioned. My deep gratitude falls far short of his desert.

Madeline L'engle, author of *A Wrinkle in Time*, only one of many books, writes, "When we lose our myths, we lose our place in the universe." I look around our world and cannot help but see that we are in the throes of losing our place. If nothing else, I hope that this journey will have helped our dancers uncover more about themselves than they knew before we began and are now more prepared to find their place.

It has been an honor to have helped with this production, to have been a part of our dancers' discoveries, to have the opportunity to sit in the middle of creation, to have gotten the chance to delve into myth with our students. It has been somewhat nostalgic, reminding me poignantly of what I once so loved about teaching.

We hope you enjoy experiencing the richness of the Protogenoi of pre-ancient Greece. We certainly have.

Production Support Staff

Asst. Costume Designer: Victoria Tidwell

Asst. Production Manager: Maggie Scarbrough

Asst. Stage Managers: Grace Bennett, Jenna Kelley,
Ashlyn Bradford, Aidan Kisker, John Ingram, Paige Brummer

Scene Shop Assistant-Student Staff: Katie Bozeman, Lydia Standifer

Properties Shop-Student Staff: Anna Grace Willis, Will Hornsby

Costume Shop Supervisor: Joyce Bamman, Andrew Haueter

Costume Shop Assistant-Student Staff: Riley Turberville, Victoria Tidwell

Hair and Makeup Supervisor: Emma Remaley

Hair and Makeup Crew: Libby Wiley, Jenna Kelley

Wardrobe Crew Supervisor: Riley Turberville

Wardrobe Crew: Nox Dickens, Kole Hovis,
Ella Stults, Hannah Sanderson, Moth Zedler

Electrics Shop Manager-Student Staff: Will Corbitt

Electrics Shop Asst. Manager-Student Staff: Aidan Kisker

Master Electrician: Aidan Kisker

Lightboard Operator: Cody Woodfin

Soundboard Operator: Ashlyn Bradford

House Manager: Caleb Quick

Assistant House Manager: Taye Bass

Ushers: Will Corbitt, Weezie Brand, Avery Gallahar,
Terrance Lawrence, Adie Carter

Audience Engagement Team: Anna Grace Johnson (Manager), Gracie
Smith (Asst. Manager), John Ingram, Ashton Fisher, Lily Kate Gwin, Alexis
McNeal, Sami Taylor, Izzy Braddock, Caden Blackwell

Box Office: Caleb Quick (Manager), Colton Suttles (Manager), Lizzie
Weed, Chandler Greer, Adie Carter, Sami Taylor, Maggie Scarbrough,
Izzy Braddock, Karly Johnson

Graphic Designer: Anna Gordon

Special Thanks

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor

Mrs. Janice Hawkins

Dr. Kerry Palmer, SVC Academic Affairs

Dr. Jim Bookout, SVC Financial Affairs

Sohail Agboatwala, SVC Student Services and Administration

Dr. Michael Thrasher, Dean, CCFA

Herb Reeves, Dean, Student Services

University Marketing and Communications

TrojanVision

Kyle Gassiott and Troy Public Radio

Will Jacks and Photography Students

RICOH Graphics and Printing

Robert Woodmansee and Physical Plant

Joey Hudson

The Tropolitan

Jarime Reed

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Departmental Secretary II.....	Jane Barwood
Lecturer, Dance.....	Dominique Angel
Assistant Professor, Lighting Design.....	James Arakas
Associate Professor, Department Chair	Tori Lee Averett
Lecturer, Costume Shop Supervisor	Joyce Bamman
Lecturer, Dance.....	James Boyd
Associate Professor, Assistant Chair, Performance	Quinton Cockrell
Technical Director.....	Jennifer Glass
Assistant Professor, Costume Design	Andrew Haueter
Lecturer, Dance.....	Adrienne Hicks
Coordinator of Dance.....	Deborah Chappell Hicks
Lecturer, Musical Theatre, Playwriting	Tommy Newman
Assistant Professor, Dance.....	Jerome Stigler
Adjunct, Production Manager	Brittany Dee Bodley
Adjunct, Theatre Performance	Alex Piper

Upcoming Events

Dog Sees God - March 21-24

Into the Woods - April 18-28

**Theatre and Dance Admission and
Scholarship Auditions and Interviews:**

February 24 and March 23



Registration opens in March!

June 24-28 - Mini-Spotlighters (Ages 4-7)

June 24-28 - COMICAMP (Ages 10-14)

July 7-12 - Creative Drama Camp (Ages 8-13)

July 21-27 - Performance, Tech, and Film
Intensives (High School and College)

Visit troy.edu/theatreanddance for more info!