Dear School Administrator,

I have the pleasure of inviting you and your students to attend the 2008 Greek Play at Randolph College. We thought you might like to know about this opportunity for further enrichment of your study of the ancient world, and we hope you'll enjoy the chance to introduce your students to Greek drama. Please share this information with whichever classroom teachers you think may be interested—there are clear connections to SOLs in various subjects.

This year our production is Elektra by Sophocles. The play examines the dynamics of revenge and questions the motives of some of the most famous figures from Greek mythology. Elektra is the story of the children of the great Greek general Agamemnon, whose wife Clytemnestra killed him after his return from Troy. The play shows how their children, Elektra and Orestes, exact revenge for their father. But does Clytemnestra deserve her fate? Do the actions of Orestes and Elektra redeem or curse the family? Sophocles confronts us with these questions and challenges us to rethink what we know of these characters.

On October 8 and October 9 at 9:30 a.m. at Randolph College there will be special performances for schools. The Wednesday show is primarily for elementary and middle schools, and the Thursday show is primarily for high schools. Although you are most welcome at the public performances (October 10, 11, and 12 at 4 p.m.), the cast and I will be available after the schools' shows to answer questions, explain the costumes and the masks to students, and discuss the songs and dances.

The 2008 Greek Play contains no nudity, no adult language, and no innuendo. The only brief violence occurs off-stage. If you have concerns about the appropriateness of the Elektra for your students, please call to discuss them. We realize that elementary students will benefit from the experience in different ways than older students, but we believe that the experience is enriching for all ages.

I encourage you to visit our website, www.randolphcollege.edu/greekplay, where we have posted teaching materials (including SOL information) to help you prepare your students for the play. I will also happily provide a study guide that discusses the play and Greek drama in general to any teacher who requests one. Don’t hesitate to be in touch with me with any questions: acohen@randolphcollege.edu or (434) 947-8306.

The details about arranging your visit are enclosed. I look forward to seeing you and your students.

Sincerely,

Amy R. Cohen
Associate Professor of Classics
Director of the Greek Play

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