



Macquarie Ancient History Association

~ 2008 ~



A FESTIVAL of GREEK DRAMA

THE FESTIVAL:

Macquarie Ancient History Association invites secondary school students to take part in the annual Festival of Greek Drama in 2008. The festival is open to all secondary students. It requires them to present a performance of a scene from any Greek play of the Fifth Century BC.

The festival will be conducted in two stages:

Stage 1

The Regional Festival will be held during June if required, at venues to be arranged by the Association. Schools will be directed to the nearest available venue. Judges will be arranged by MAHA and the Host schools.

Stage 2

The City Festival – The Dionysia. The regional winners will compete at the Finals held at Macquarie University on Friday 25th July, 2008. The same scene must be presented. Judges will be arranged by the Association. The performances will be preceded by a short opening ceremony. At the end of the Festival, the judges will report briefly and the results will be announced.

Prizes will be awarded to the best performances in tragedy and comedy, as well as to the best performance by a principal actor.

SOME SUGGESTED SCENES: (They are not prescriptive)

Aeschylus, *Persians*

Atossa: Good friends, those who have learnt what suffering is, know this... (line 598)

Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*

Chorus: King, Heir of Atreus! (line 783)

Euripides, *Trojan Women*

Chorus: Hecabe, see! Andromache is coming (line 568)

Sophocles, *Oedipus*

Oedipus: Dearest, what now? (line 950)

Sophocles, *Antigone*

Creon: You, tell me briefly. (line 1446)

Aristophanes, *Wasps*

Beginning of Act II to end of first choral song.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

31 st May	–	Online Registration Closes
June	–	Regional Finals (if required)
25 th July	–	The Dionysia, Macquarie University

THE RULES FOR PERFORMANCE: (Important)

A scene selected from any Fifth Century BC Greek play, in translation, involving two or more actors and a chorus of no more than twenty. The text may be edited, however, the integrity of the play must be maintained. There must be a brief introduction (2-3 minutes) by one of the performers introducing the situation at the start of the extract, this may include brief details on the story so far to allow the audience to easily follow the plot of the extract being performed. Do not tell the story of the whole play. The performance, excluding the introduction, must not go beyond **fifteen (15)** minutes. This time limit will be strictly enforced and any performance exceeding the fifteen minutes will be penalised. Only limited time will be available for setting up the performance.

As in antiquity, the scene presented may be accompanied by appropriate dance and music. Competitors must provide their own instruments, cd players, etc.

Costumes must be simple (in accordance with traditional costumes) – a robe, tunic or rehearsal blacks. Elaborate or expensive costumes are not appropriate. Footwear, if worn, should be simple: high heels or platforms may not be worn. Actors may wear or carry something symbolic of their character. Suitable make-up may be worn. Masks, half-masks or painted faces may be worn, but should not impede clear speech. Simple props may be moved into position before the performance. Modern adaptations are not acceptable.

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

www.ancienthistory.com.au
PLEASE REGISTER BY 31st May 2008

REGISTRATION FEE:

Registration is **\$30 per school (including GST, non-refundable).**

Please make cheque payable to
Macquarie Ancient History Association
ABN: 90 952 801 237 and post to:

The Secretary
Macquarie Ancient History Association
Division of Humanities
Macquarie University NSW 2109

Please give at least one week's notice if you have to withdraw from the Festival.

