

# Medea

By Euripides

Play no. 141

Opening show: 05/11/1955

Translation into Hebrew from the Robinson Jeffers version: Yaakov Malkin

Directed by: Gulius Gelner

Designed by: Peter Frye

Sets by: Baruch Kadari

Costumes designed by: Shmuel Buki

Music by: Paul Ben-Haim

Conducted by: Fordhaus Ben Tzissy

The Cast

**The Nurse:** Shoshana Duer

**The Tutor:** Zvi Avigad / Menachem Benjamini

**The Children:** Amos Avni, Razon Sharabi

**First Women of Corinth :** Elisheva Michaeli

**Second Women of Corinth :** Pnina Perach

**Third Women of Corinth :** Yona Atari

**Medea:** Hanna Rovina

**Creon:** Shraga Friedman

**Jason :** Israel Becker

**Aegeus :** Albert Hizkiyahu

**Jason's Slave :** Zvi Ben Haim

**Attendants to Medea:** Ruth Orit, Assia Schneider

Medea, a princess of Colchis, is abandoned by Jason who had married her after she had assisted him in overcoming his enemies and gaining possession of the Golden Fleece. They fled to Corinth where Jason got engaged to Creusa, the daughter of Creon, King of Corinth. Jason forsakes Medea and their two children, being resolved to marry Creusa.

Medea bewails her bitter fate and vows revenge. The women of Corinth who come to console her are dismayed and fearful of this woman about whose knowledge of sorcery so many legends have been woven.

Creon, the king of Corinth, appears and informs Medea that he has decreed that she must be exiled from his kingdom, but he allows her to remain one more night to make her final preparations on pain of death if she is not gone by morning.

Jason comes to explain why he has left Medea to marry Creusa. It is not for love of Creusa, but because he hopes to become her father's heir and king of Corinth.

Aegeus, ruler of Athens, and guest in Creon's house, visits Medea to ask her to cure him of sterility. Medea promises a cure provided he will grant her a refuge when she comes to his city.

Medea, who has vowed to avenge herself on Creon's entire family, and on Jason in particular, pretends that she wishes to make peace with them all. She sends her children with Jason to Creusa in an effort to persuade Creusa to allow her children to remain in Corinth with their father. She gives them gifts of gold o present to Creusa, and when they return from Creon's palace all seems to be well. Then Jason's slave and Medea's nurse rush in to relate how the poisoned golden gifts have killed both Creusa and Creon.

But Medea's revenge is not yet fully complete. She hates Jason more than she loves her children. She murders her children so that no trace may remain of their unhappy marriage.