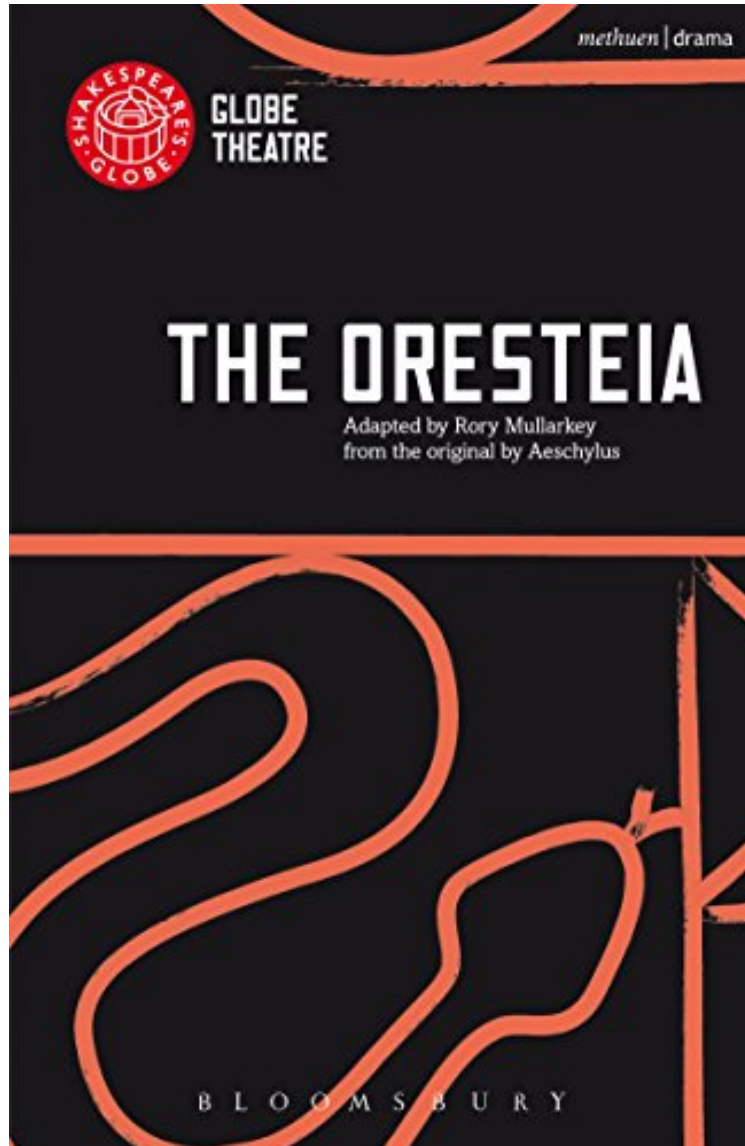


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The Oresteia (Modern Plays)

Aeschylus

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Aeschylus : The Oresteia (Modern Plays) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oresteia (Modern Plays):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The OresteiaBy FiddlemomI am listening to this with my 8th grade daughter. We are both finding it much more interesting than we thought we would, and easier to follow than we expected. The different voices make the characters easy to tell apart, and the actors and actresses are all quite good. We especially liked whoever played Cassandra. We were afraid this might be dry and boring, but it is most definitely not. It is full of emotion and is actually captivating.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Worth your

timeBy Inconstant ReaderThese plays have been around for thousands of years for a good reason. They get right into your heart and brain and live there forever. Afterwards, you will understand thousands of literary references. Read the Orestia. Push on even if it doesn't seem to be your cup of tea. It's very short. And when you are through, you will know that you have read a truly great work of lasting importance.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Buy it for the illustrationsBy kelly coleWhy would any American read a zillion year old greek tragedy?I mean why would anyone be interested in a story filled with murdering wives, treacherous villains, matricidal sons and supernatural avengers?In typical hollywood fashion the whole book even has a happy ending!Phooey!Michael Ayrton, however, produced illustrations that are worth the time to remove and frame. The rendition of Cassandra pulling her hair out is worth the price of a used copy.All you college English majors can decorate your digs with some first class art this way.

He who learns must suffer.Before setting out for the Trojan War, King Agamemnon sacrificed his daughter Iphigenia. Many years later, when Agamemnon returns to his palace, his adulterous Queen Clytemnestra takes her revenge by brutally murdering him and installing her lover on the throne. How will the gods judge Orestes, their estranged son, who must avenge his father's death by murdering his mother?The curse of the House of Atreus, passing from generation to generation, is one of the great myths of Western literature. In the hands of Aeschylus, the story enacts the final victory of reason and justice over superstition and barbarity.The original trilogy, comprising Agamemnon, The Libation Bearers and Eumenides, is distilled into one thrilling three-act play in this magnificent new translation by award-winning playwright Rory Mullarkey.

"The Oresteia is perhaps the most unusual tragedy in the theater of the West, and certainly one of the very greatest." -- David GreneAbout the AuthorJoshua Billings is Assistant Professor of Classics at Princeton University. He is the author of Genealogy of the Tragic: Greek Tragedy and German Philosophy.Oliver Taplin is emeritus professor of classics at the University of Oxford. His books range from The Stagecraft of Aeschylus to Pots Plays. He has recently published translations of Euripides's Medea and Sophocles's Oedipus the King and Other Tragedies.From AudioFileAlthough these Greek plays are 25 centuries old, this production is, remarkably, the first audio release to include the complete trilogy. The strongest play is the final one, THE EUMENIDES, during which Orestes is tried before Athena for the murder of his mother, Clytemnestra. It features a fine performance by Robertson Dean as Apollo, Orestes's advocate. After listening to the trilogy, it's easy to appreciate the challenges of adapting Greek dramatic conventions to audio. For example, lengthy passages are delivered by a chorus, which may seem contrived to modern listeners. Unfortunately, this production magnifies that awkwardness--far too many lines are delivered with injudicious sound effects and multiple voices that are more cloying than dramatic. D.B. copy; AudioFile 2007, Portland, Maine-- Copyright copy; AudioFile, Portland, Maine