

## THE BACCHAE in DUBLIN The Bacchae by Euripides,

Classic Stage Ireland presents the last work by Euripides

Venue: Project Cube, Project Arts Centre DUBLIN JANUARY 2010

<http://www.projectartscentre.ie>

[www.classicstageireland.com](http://www.classicstageireland.com)

Translation by Peter D. Arnott



Produced by Classic Stage Ireland in  
Project Arts Centre, Dublin  
Directed by Andy Hinds  
Costume Design: Jill Anderson,  
Composer: Toot Sweet  
Lighting Design: Kevin Smith, Movement:  
Emma Martin  
With: Dylan McDonough, Nick Devlin,  
Steve Cash, Lesa Thurman, Patrick  
O'Donnell, Liam Heslin, Michael  
Wallace, John O'Donoghue, David  
Ferguson, Martin Burns  
Chorus: Sarah  
Allen Clarke, Lola Kingerlee, Áine Lane,  
Louise Melinn, Audrey McCoy, Aoife  
Moore, Ann-Marie Taaffe

Full cast:

<http://refs07.securesites.net/snap040/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=Bacchae%20cast>

### Reactions to "The Bacchae"

<http://refs07.securesites.net/snap040/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=the%20bacchae%20reviews>

"The control never falters, and McDonough gives a beautifully libidinal performance of a terrifying divine energy capable of playfulness, warmth, and cold fury. The production is on solid footing... This same razor's edge sense of perilous balance prevails throughout, and credit must be due to director Andy Hinds for holding firm. The cast are uniformly committed to the aesthetic... O'Donnell pulls this [speech] off beautifully, maintaining a simple and sincere sense of rapture and respect for religion that convinces the audience... Thurman's skillful performance... requiring deliberate, delicate moves through levels and stages of emotion and reason ...with a sense of control and balance that seems nigh on perfect, the actor delivers... Limited costumes, limited space, a text that requires vocal precision because there are no great tricks or spectacles to distract you from pure theatrical dialogue. It could so easily feel like an exercise or a show, but it doesn't. It is good, basic, dare we say 'classic' theatre, finely executed and ultimately extremely effective."

- Harvey O'Brien, [\*Irish Theatre Magazine\*](#)

"The production breathes relevance and vitality into the play - aided by Peter Arnott's clear translation - giving convincing voice to some of its limitless dramatic, poetic and philosophical riches... There's one brilliant piece of reportage from two shepherds (David Ferguson and Martin Burns)... [Steve] Cash embodies the tragic nobility of man standing up against the impossible odds of Olympian power... [The play's] tragic power builds compellingly to a gorily impressive conclusion."

- John McKeown, *Irish Independent*

"This is a forceful, attraction production with an impressive young cast; Cash and McDonough are strong in their respective roles while the Bacchae's floral tea dresses are nothing if not deceptive...Director Andy Hinds has a feel for the play's troubling themes...This is a solid, involving take on a classic text."

- Darragh Reddin, [\*Metro Herald\*](#)

“The large female chorus is excellent, extolling the hedonism of Dionysian life with admirable clarity, and the final gripping scene is played with great sensitivity between Cadmus (Nick Devlin) and Agave (Lesa Thurman). Steve Cash is an aptly dictatorial Pentheus...Atmosphere is generated by fine lighting and sound effects, and everything is generally expertly choreographed by director Andy Hinds, who sensibly doesn't try to force any modern parallels on the audience”

- *Michael Moffat, The Irish Mail on Sunday*

“This nuanced Classic Stage Ireland production, directed by Andy Hinds, seeks to articulate the play's complexity... McDonough is charismatic as the androgynous god, seductive and sinister by turns. Nick Devlin and Patrick O'Donnell provide strong support.”

- *Declan Burke, Sunday Times*

“Hinds succeeds in harnessing the actors' vocal skills and in experimenting with rhythm and the distribution of lines to add variance to the text...The choral section in particular are rendered with deep texture.”

- *Sara Keating, The Sunday Business Post*