Upcoming from the Department of Theatre & Dance

Spring One Act Festival 8-10 April 2011 in the Johnson Studio Theatre

The Country Wife

by William Wycherley Directed by Andrew Vorder Bruegge 13-17 April, 2011 in the Johnson Theatre

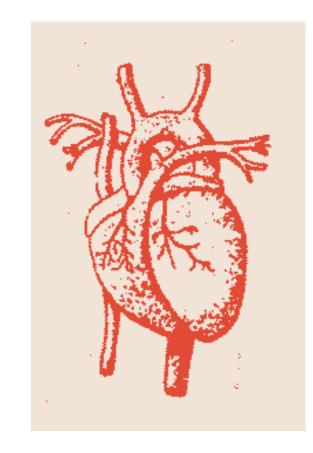
Special Thanks

Biff Edge Andrew Vorder Bruegge

Sponsored by



Phaedra's Love



By Sarah Kane

Directed by Laura R. Dougherty

| Hippolytus | Dennis Dejesus |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Phaedra | Cecily Bigham |
| Strophe | Jesse Powers |
| Doctor/Priest/ | Sean Rodriguez |
| Theseus | |
| Chorus | Amber Westbrook |
| | |

The Public Philip Calabro, Sydney Moore, Norman Burt, Courtney Williams, Hannah Marie Kistler, Sommer Austin

| Jocelin Lehner |
|----------------|
| & Erin Bailie |
| |

Director Laura R. Dougherty

Scene: A royal palace Time: Present day

Cast

Sarah Kane

A British playwright who, despite her brief life (1971-1999), produced provocative plays which churn with intensity, pain, violence, sex, and anguish. The dialogue she wrote is clipped in its rhythm, though deeply steeped in traditions of poetry. Her plays: *Blasted, Cleansed, Phaedra's Love, Crave* and *4.48 Psychosis. Phaedra's Love* is loosely based on Roman scholar and playwright Seneca's version of *Phaedra,* which was based on the ancient Greek play *Hippolytus.*

Seneca's Phaedra

Written around 50 CE, *Phaedra* centers on a queen, who at her nurse's behest, attempts to seduce her chaste and beautiful step-son, Hippolytus, while his father, Theseus, is away. After Hippolytus rejects Phaedra and Theseus returns, Phaedra tells Theseus that Hippolytus tried to rape her. Theseus calls on Neptune to kill Hippolytus. Phaedra, destroyed by grief and guilt, confesses to Theseus and hangs herself. Theseus is left with a dismembered son and a hanged wife.

Director's Note

I am drawn to those plays which give us, as audience, no choice but to *see*, to engage with the complex and multivalent work before us. *Phaedra's Love* exposes the entrails of human brutality and hyperbolic desire, laced together with hints of dark humor. Kane has given us the great gift of a challenge. Stripping sentimentality from sex, and passion from violence she exposes how we give in to desire, and with what relish—a question we are left with is: to what end?

"If there could have been more moments like this."