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**PRESS RELEASE – 7th August 2009**

**Full Tilt Theatre Company presents**

## **ORESTES: RE-EXAMINED**

Directed by Emma Gersch, Designed by Alexie Kharibian, Lighting by Alex Musgrave  
Movement by Kitty Randle, Music composed by Katherine Hare

**16th September to 3rd October 2009**

**PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 7.30PM**

A radical re-telling of the classic Greek tragedy *Orestes*, which opens at Southwark Playhouse in September, invites the audience to play the role of jury and decide the outcome of the play.

*Orestes: Re-Examined* is a new interpretation of the third part of Aeschylus's revenge trilogy, *The Oresteia*. The production is directed by Emma Gersch, and produced by Full Tilt Theatre Company, resident at the Drama Department, Bath Spa University.

The theme of justice is at the heart of this particularly dark and emotionally charged re-telling of the tragedy. Orestes - having murdered his mother Queen Clytemnestra in revenge for her murder of his father, Agamemnon - has been captured and held prisoner by the Furies, a chorus of protestors who revere the dead queen and worship her memory. The story of death and revenge is played out before the audience who, in the manner of a jury in a court of law, must decide the outcome. The final scene of the play is chosen by the audience, who must search their own consciences and morality to weigh up the evidence presented by the performance and decide the verdict.

The audience arrive as VIP delegates to the first International Conference of Argos, greeted by a show of apparent calm and political control. However, they are shortly arrested, quite literally, by the Furies, demanding to be heard, and brought into the dark heart of their world, Southwark Playhouse's atmospheric theatre space beneath the railway lines of London Bridge, where the story unfolds.

The production was devised by Emma Gersch with students at Bath Spa in the winter of 2008-9. True to the founding spirit of the Full Tilt Theatre Company, the production was developed and produced as an ensemble piece and enhanced through the use of original choreography and music.

"The process of reinvention is always a profound experience, which enables the ensemble to really explore and grow" says Emma Gersch. "Given the strong themes of justice, revenge and forgiveness we decided to tour the show to prisons in the South West. The expected heckling and laughing from prisoners was quickly replaced by alert engagement and an honest and touching debate about justice ensued."

**For press information and reviewing tickets please contact Chris Smyrnios on 020 7407 0234 or e-mail [chris.smyrnios@southwarkplayhouse.co.uk](mailto:chris.smyrnios@southwarkplayhouse.co.uk). Rehearsal photographs and production shots will be available from the 31st August; there will be a photo call on Thursday 17th September at the theatre from 12.30pm.**

# Listings Information

## Producer

Full Tilt Theatre Company

## Production

ORESTES: RE-EXAMINED

## Venue

Southwark Playhouse  
Shipwright Yard  
(Corner of Bermondsey Street and Tooley Street)  
London SE1 2TF

## Nearest Tube: London Bridge

## Performances

16th September to 3rd October 2009  
Monday to Saturday  
Evening performances start at 7.30pm sharp  
Saturday Matinees at 3pm

## Box Office

### Online

[www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk)  
24 HOURS/NO BOOKING FEES

### By Telephone (New No.)

020 7407 0234  
NO BOOKING FEES

### In Person

The Ticket Office at Southwark Playhouse is open 1 hour prior to the start of a performance

### Ticket Prices

£8, £13, £18  
'Airline Style' Pricing  
The earlier you book the cheaper the tickets!

### Concessions

Disabled people can bring one companion free of charge.  
There are no other concessions