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The University of Dayton

UD THEATRE DIVISION PRESENTS MEDEA

DAYTON, Ohio, February 2, 1983 -- "We could bill it, 'Bring your valentine and teach him a lesson!'" comments Professor Lawrence Selka, director of Medea, the second play in the University of Dayton's 1982-1983 theatre season. Curtain time is 8 p.m., Thursday, February 10, Friday, February 11, and Saturday, February 12. According to Selka, this classic Greek tragedy deals with a surprisingly modern theme: "You could call it an ancient treatment of 'Kramer vs. Kramer.'"

Medea, written by Euripides in 431 B.C., is a richly dramatic--almost melodramatic--tale of vengeance. "What Euripides is dealing with," explains Selka, "is love--human relationships that have gone sour." Medea, who will be played by Jaye Liset, is a sorceress with mystical powers. "Jason, in pursuing the Golden Fleece, came upon her, and they fell in love," explains Selka. "So she, to aid him, kills her father and her brothers." Medea then travels with Jason (played by T. Scott Browne) to the city of Corinth. In Corinth, the king, Kreon (played by Jeff Raum), suggests that Jason marry his daughter, and Jason, an opportunistic adventurer, promptly abandons Medea and their two sons. Forsaken by the man she loves, Medea vows revenge, and while she must commit horrifying crimes to achieve her goal, she at last succeeds in destroying everything that Jason loves.

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The last of the three great Greek tragedians, Euripides had difficulties with the government because of the controversial nature of his plays. He blamed evil on mankind and not on the gods. In most of the classical Greek tragedies, explains Selka, the main character has, by the end of the play, restored balance and gotten everything under control. In Medea, however, "We see life out of control, but it doesn't come back to control. It plays itself out, and there's utter destruction."

This production of the play, with a cast of 14, is based on a translation by Rex Warner; however, Selka adds, "We've edited the script a great deal." The play has no intermission and lasts about an hour and a half. Tickets for the performance are $1.75 and are available at the Kennedy Union Ticket Office.