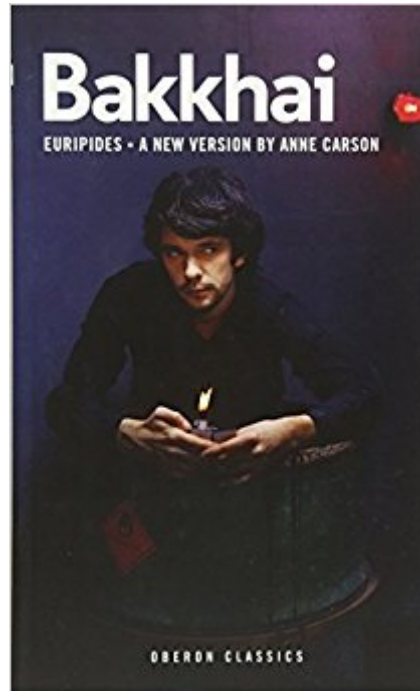




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Bakkhai (Oberon Classics)



Synopsis

A powerful new translation of the Greek classic by award-winning Classics scholar, poet, and writer Anne Carson. Pentheus has banned the wild, ritualistic worship of the god Dionysos. A stranger arrives to persuade him to change his mind. Euripides's electrifying tragedy is a struggle to the death between freedom and restraint, the rational and the irrational, man and god.

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Customer Reviews

'This second drama in the Almeida's vital Greek season is not a revolutionary re-ordering... It does, though, cleverly refocus the play. Anne Carson, the superb Canadian poet who has provided a fine translation, is a classicist. No one is likely to quarrel with her interpretation. And no one could dispute the suppleness of her verse, which moves from teasing demotic bathos... to tumbling lyric waterfalls and an extraordinary, jazz-like swing for the Chorus. When you look at the lines on the page, squeezing and fanning out, you can almost hear the pulse.' Susannah Clapp, *Guardian*;
'Anne Carson's new translation captures the original's concern with ideas of balance and doubleness, but it also has a gritty immediacy... The result is two hours of raw and exacting theatre... it convincingly makes the case for why it's still worth engaging with a play written almost 2,500 years ago.' Henry Hitchings, *Evening Standard*; 'This is the real Greek, bloody-fantastical thing... a mostly faithful translation rather than a "new version" by Anne Carson blending irony with pure poetry... this production puts no single foot wrong in dance, delirium or idyll: it's the complete

experience, and though it's so potent at such close quarters, its operatic dimension should make it a visitor to the Proms' vast Albert Hall amphitheatre next season. In the meantime, I want a copy of Carson's text... now available in a publication from Oberon - since it's far too rich to absorb on a single hearing.' The Arts Desk

Anne Carson's translation of Sophocles' Antigone received its world premiere at Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg, in collaboration with the Barbican in London, starring Juliette Binoche and directed by Ivo van Hove; the production will tour throughout Europe and the United States. Anne is currently adapting The Bakkhai for the Almeida. Classic Stage Company in New York has produced Anne Carson's An Oresteia (a trilogy adapted from Aeschylus' Agamemnon, Sophocles' Electra and Euripides' Orestes) in repertory. Works include: Autobiography of Red; Red Doc>; Antigone; Nox; If Not, Winter: Fragments of Sappho (translation); The Beauty of the Husband; Men in the Off Hours; Economy of the Unlost; Plainwater: Essays and Poetry; Glass, Irony and God; Eros the Bittersweet: An Essay; Deception: Poetry, Essays, Opera; Grief Lessons: Four Plays by Euripides (translation).

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