

# Up against the wall Oedipus

## What's happening with good old Greece?

Greece is the proving ground of democracy.

Greece is also the first country to have a coup run by an IBM with magnetic tapes supplied by the CIA.

Greece has the Groves of Academe.

Greece has a sunny, hot climate, lots of nice white towns, good beaches, Jackie Kennedy, the Mediterranean, and a lot of American tanks and guns to keep everything the way it is.

Maybe we should all pack up and go, but in the McLuhan age Greece is where you are anyway.

Perhaps our university presidents do not hide their souls in a parrot's to protect their minds from the dirt on their hands. But they do put the occasional article in *PMLA* (which may stand for Parrot of the Modern Language Association). Maybe Max isn't at all like rough, crafty General Agamemnon who screws students with their own rhetoric. Max is smoother than that.

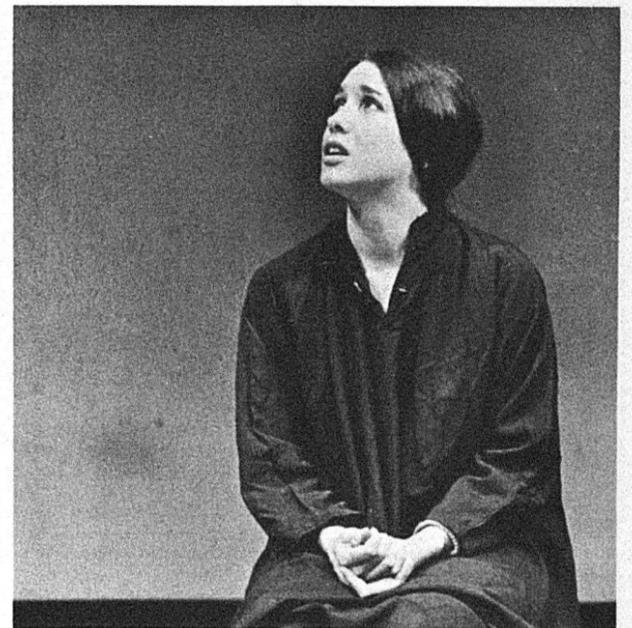
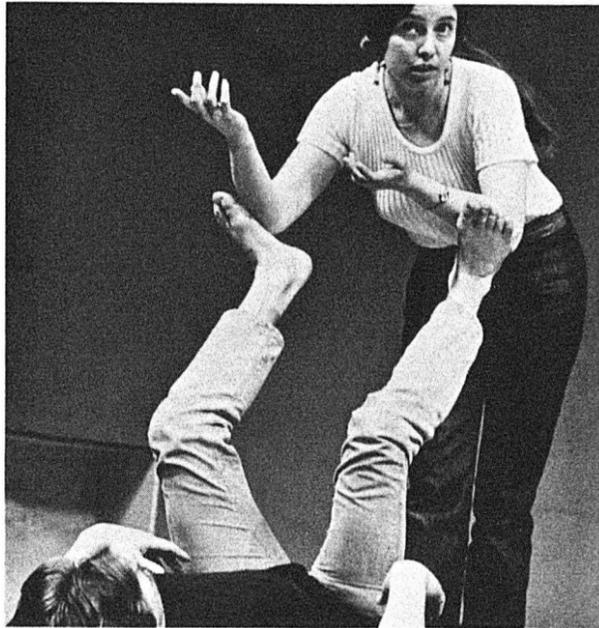
Maybe there are no Menelaus's at the helm of students' unions back home, who place personal power before principle even when a total victory is in sight. Maybe Ted Kemp is not going to appear in this play.

Maybe Wilfred Watson has written another personal nightmare. Maybe the nightmare has already happened and this play is Historical Romance.

Does your professor have tape reels where his tits belong? Watch out for commercials if he does. His program may have been supplied and paid for by someone else.

Maybe Helen and Paris are right to blow Ulysses the Fuzz off the face of the earth along with themselves. Ulysses, you see, had charisma, and he had fuzz. Sort of like Trudeau, only Trudeau is losing both of his. Perhaps that's the way it should end.

But then it never should have started, what with the university in its present condition.



O.K. BABY, LET'S BE REASONABLE ABOUT THIS

... Hecuba lays down the law over Menelaus while Nysa ponders

Wilfred Watson's play is called "Up Against the Wall Oedipus," and like the title suggests it's an image which smashes together the old and the new. Mayor Daley doesn't belong at the University of Thebes, an old-modern institution of post-secondary learning, and neither do Helen, Hecuba, Cassandra, Menelaus, Agamemnon, Ulysses, Paris, and the rest.

When they all meet under the TV screen in the quad it starts to make sense.

See Agamemnon. See Agamemnon co-opt Menelaus. See Menelaus learn about power. See Menelaus co-opt the students. See Ulysses the Fuzz. See Ulysses beat up Helen. See Ulysses fired for over-(re)acting. See . . .

See it yourself. SUB Theatre, March 23-26, 8:30 p.m.

## Behind the wall

*Peter Montgomery, director*—He has directed two other Watson plays—"Thing in Black" at the old Yardbird Suite, and "The Canadian Fact," which opened SUB theatre. Peter lives in 133 Assiniboia Hall and waves his arms a lot.

*Isabel Kapros, assistant director*—Actress and designer, presently working in drama education at U of A.

*Dieter Machtigale, film producer*—production manager, MEETA.

*Norman Yates, sets and costumes*—Professor, art department, U of A. His work highlighted the fall production of "Clytemnestra", and displayed his talent at a one-man show at SUB Art Gallery last fall. He is the man behind the Parrot.

*Frank Phillet and Neil MacIver, music*—Better known as "Magic Music". They have just finished performing their original score for Bertold Brecht's "Caucasian Chalk Circle." Their score for "Up Against the Wall Oedipus" is not "Hair," not Broadway—it is a subtle blend which underlines the driving tempo of the play and its characters.

*Wilf Rowe*—Plays both Agamemnon and Menelaus. Besides his experience in English repertory, Wilf has also played several times at Edmonton's Citadel and Walterdale Theatres, most recently in "Hamp" and "Sleep of Prisoners."

*Ezra Francis*—as Paris, the negro student radical. Ezra is a professor of voice training from South Africa presently working in the drama department.

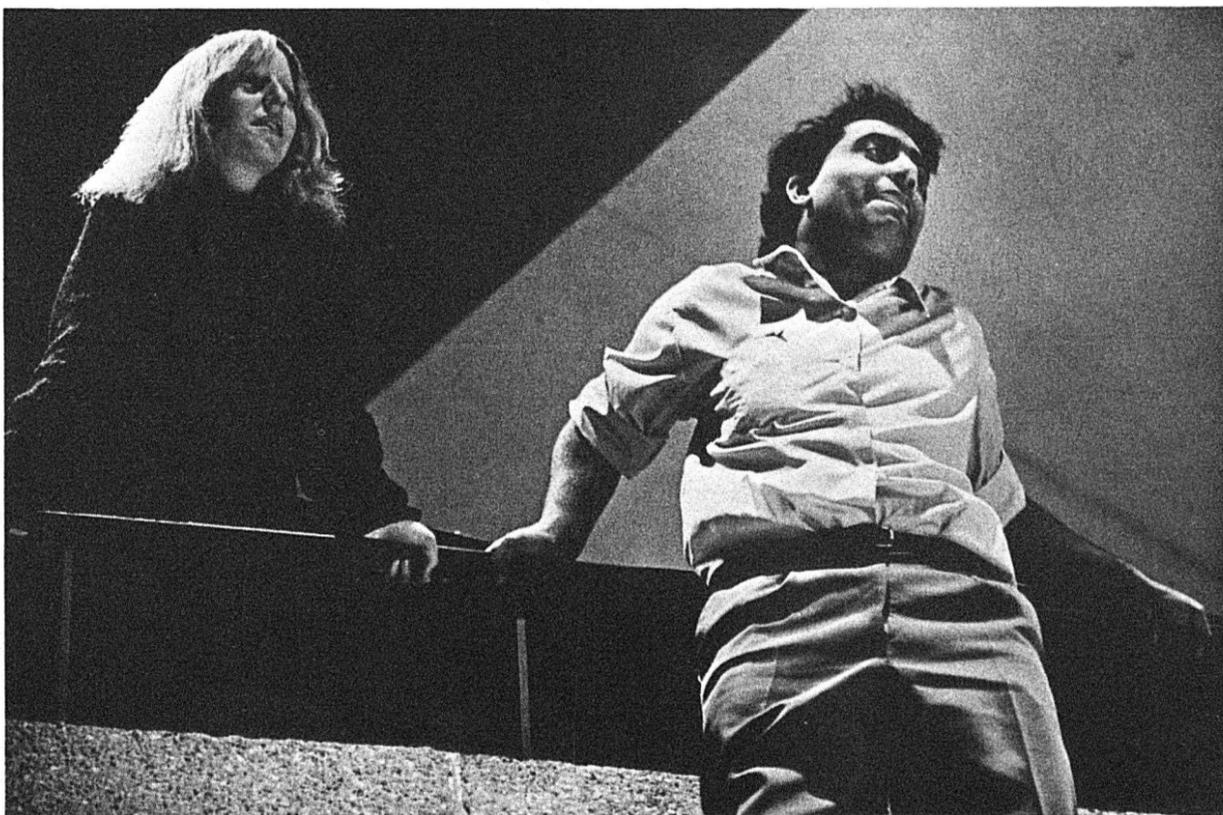
*Klaus Emmaneel*—as Ulysses the Fuzz. A student of psychedelic culture and psychology by way of Toronto and Montreal.

*Sylvia Marshall*—as Hecuba.

*Marilyn Salter*—as Helen Agamemnon. She paints too.

*Lorraine Raboud*—as Cassandra.

Others—*Ralph Melnychuk* (The Mad Slav), and *Netta Prosser*.



THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO WHEN YOU REACH THE WALL

... as Cassandra and Paris are finding out

text and photos  
by brian campbell