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THE CAMBRIDGE GREEK PLAY 2026 *ION* BY EURIPIDES

WED 14 – SAT 18 OCT

The triennial Cambridge Greek Play returns to The Arts Theatre Cambridge. Following the success of 2022's *Persians* and *Cyclops* double bill, a new creative team led by director **Rosalind Parker** present an exciting and modern production of **Euripides' *Ion***, performed in Greek with English surtitles.

The story begins with mortal woman Creusa's rape by Apollo, and her abandonment of their child. Years later, Ion, raised an orphan at Apollo's temple in Delphi, is coming of age. When Creusa and her husband visit the oracle at Delphi to ask for Apollo's assistance in conceiving a child, a tale of mistaken identity, reunion and retribution begins to unfold.

The tradition of performing a play in Greek every three years at the University of Cambridge extends back to 1882, with alumni including Rupert Brooke, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Tom Hiddleston.

The cast is led by **Dylan Hughes** in the titular role, who currently stars as Henry Betts-Taylor in the BBC series *Ludwig* alongside David Mitchell and Anna Maxwell Martin. Dylan's previous screen credits include *Maternal* (ITV, 2023) and *Malory Towers* (BBC, 2021-22). Dylan is a second-year English student at the University of Cambridge.

The cast also features **Iris Tadie** as Creusa (*Private Lives* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, ADC; *Dog's Case*, Corpus Christi Playroom), **Daphne Stavride** as Athena (*Sweet Charity* and *Oedipus Tyrannus*, ADC Theatre), **Claire Saint-Amour** as Messenger, **Eva Cotton** as Priestess (*This Side of Life*, Edinburgh Fringe & ADC Theatre; *Once Upon a Time in Fenland*, New International Encounter), **Sylvester Bloggs** as Old Man (*Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Smörgåsbord* and *Lysistrata*, Corpus Playroom), **Senan McSweeney-Davis** as Old Man (*Henry IV Part I*, Shakespeare in the Gardens; *Bloody Poetry*, ADC Theatre; *Emma*,

Corpus Playroom) and **Jacob Coughlan** as Xuthus (*A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Great Gatsby* and *The Addams Family*, ADC Theatre).

The cast is complete by the chorus of **Bella Ofo**, **Kate Woodman**, **Helen Brookes**, **Delphi Phillips**, **Elena Brown-Moreno**, **Corinna Scullion**, **Sophia Uppington** and **Izzy Megilley**.

Co-producers **Jennifer Wallace**, Harris Fellow and Director of Studies in English at the University of Cambridge, and **Rebecca Lämmle**, Professor of Classics (Greek Literature) at the University of Cambridge, said:

*“Euripides’ **Ion** feels surprisingly modern, a family tale involving childlessness, the sexual predatoriness of the gods and a young man trying to figure out his identity. We’re thrilled to bring this music-filled production of a rarely performed masterpiece to Cambridge, in a long, star-studded tradition of performing plays in ancient Greek dating back to the 1880s.”*

The production is directed by **Rosalind Parker**, whose credits include *My Heart is in the East* (LaMama NYC, 2022), *Mirrored to the Core* (Disability Arts Online, 2021-22), *I Object*; Nyman’s *Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*, and Kate Whitley’s *Unknown Position* (Institute of Contemporary Arts, 2016) and *From Paris with Love* (Opera North, 2014).

Joining Rosalind on the creative team is designer **Leanne Vandenbussche**, whose credits include *A Visit to Friends* (Aldeburgh Festival/Britten Pears Arts, UK), *Comedy on the Bridge* and *Twice Alexander* (Royal Academy of Music/Royal Academy Opera, UK), *All is Energy* (International Theatre Amsterdam, NL) and *Sold!* (De Toneelmakerij, NL).

The production is composed by **Richard Causton**, described as “one of the finest of the new generation of British composers” (The Guardian) and a fellow of King’s College and Professor in Composition. Causton’s composition will be played by professional musicians from Greece: **Apostolis Koutsogiannis**, recorder player and composer; **Alise Silina**, accordionist; **Konstantinos Glynos**, q’anun player (Eastern Mediterranean lyre), alongside student musicians: **Tom McDonnell** (Clarinet), **Emlyn Cox** (Violin), **Harry Scott-Burt** (Cello), **Jude Ellacott** (Percussion).

The University of Cambridge team for *Ion* is made up of Language Coaches **James Diggle** and **Anthony Bowen**, producers **Jennifer Wallace** and **Rebecca Lämmle**, and Treasurer **James Clackson**.

PRESS NIGHT WED 14 OCT, 7.30PM

ENDS

For more information, photographs and to arrange interviews, please contact –

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LISTINGS INFORMATION

Venue: The Arts Theatre Cambridge, 6 St Edward’s Passage, Cambridge, CB2 3PJ

Dates: Wed 14 – Sat 18 Oct 2026

Performance schedule and ticket price:

Wed – Sat: 2pm & 7.30pm

Tickets from £20

There are pre-show talks with academics from the University of Cambridge before every matinee performance at 1pm. Tickets are free but pre-booking through our Box Office is essential.

Box Office: 01223 503333 / www.artstheatre.co.uk

NOTE TO EDITORS**About The Arts Theatre Cambridge:**

The Arts Theatre Cambridge is a registered charity, no. 1212452.

For 90 years, The Arts Theatre has been a cornerstone of Cambridge's cultural life, a place where people, ideas, and performance come together to inspire and delight.

Founded in 1936 by John Maynard Keynes, The Arts has long been a place where generations of artists have begun their journeys and where audiences have discovered the joy of live performance. A proudly independent charity, the newly revitalised Theatre is alive with energy bringing together an exciting programme of drama, musicals, comedy and family shows.

As the Theatre looks to the future, it is entering a bold new chapter. Plans are underway to build a 200-seat rooftop studio theatre, creating fresh opportunities to present and produce new work, support emerging talent, and deepen its engagement with the wider community.