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When Dionysus lands on Erin: Greek tragedy on Irish grounds

Kentrotis Zinelis, D.

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Stellingen behorend bij het proefschrift

When Dionysus Lands on Erin

Greek Tragedy on Irish Grounds

1. Seamus Heaney is mostly known as a poet rather than a playwright, yet it was the powerful reconciliatory message conveyed through *The Cure at Troy* that helped solidify his standing as a Nobel laureate.
2. Tom Paulin's steadfastness regarding the unflinching moral triumph of Antigone in *The Riot Act* mirrors Creon's black-and-white disposition more closely than he might have imagined.
3. Although *By the Bog of Cats* departs the most from the adaptations discussed in the thesis, Hester Swane embodies the mythical qualities that render her the closest to a Greek tragedy heroine.
4. While *The Riot Act* and *The Cure at Troy* allude to Ireland's political partition, it is *By the Bog* that reflects a deeper, integral divide: that of Ireland's sense of self.
5. The plays analysed in this thesis reflect a triptych of violence and justice known to Ireland: Antigone endures violence for a cause she deems just, Medea inflicts violence as retaliation for her unjust treatment, while Philoctetes harbours violence within himself as a justified means of protest.
6. W.B. Yeats spurs as much as he haunts the Irish creative imagination.
7. It is the appropriation of the Greek component in the plays under scrutiny that enables them to come across as acutely Irish.
8. Classical Reception Studies showcase that the past is as indeterminate and malleable as an Irish bog.
9. Classical Reception has saved and continues to save Classics from oblivion, since the times of Classical antiquity.
10. As Classical Reception Studies gain popularity, there is a risk of establishing a restrictive methodology for approaching postclassical cultural objects, potentially limiting their interdisciplinary reach and excluding alternative interpretations of classical texts and ideas.
11. If theatre still matters today in a way somewhat comparable to how it mattered politically and socially in ancient Greece, then Ireland offers the closest example of that experience.
12. Writing a PhD thesis is a mental preparation for the bureaucracy that lies ahead of defending it.