HIPPOLYTUS: MARK II

By Elizabeth Shaw '07

Dramatis Personae

Hippolytus - a chaste young prince (Lauren Zimmerman '07)
Phaedra - his lust-stricken stepmother (Katie Baratz HC '07)
Theseus - his aging father (Elizabeth Shaw '07)
Artemis - his favorite goddess (Elizabeth Deacon '07)
Cypris - his least favorite goddess & mortal enemy (Emily Lewis '07)
Nurse - Phaedra's devoted servant (Jill Barndt '10)
Messenger Bearer of devices (heraldic & plot) (Prof. Edmonds)
Ariadne - Phaedra's sister and Theseus' ex (Betsy Spear)
The Chorus - exiled cosmopolitans of Athens
  Philodemus (Sarah Stefanski '09)  Philocrates (Catherine Graham '10)
  Nikias (Erika Carlson '08)  Nikophon (Alexandra Dowrey '09)
  Stephanos (Emily Olsen '09)  Stephanides (Sarah Pfanz '10)
  Timocrates (Denise Camporeale)  Timoclides (Becky Brendel '10)
  Theocrines (Catharine Judson '10)  Theophilos (Elizabeth Deacon '07)
Erotes (Betsy Spear & Diane Amoroso-O'Connor)

Musical Numbers
1. Cypris: Whatever Lola Wants (Damn Yankees)
2. Chorus: Belle (Beauty and the Beast)
3. Hippolytus: Belle (Reprise) (Beauty and the Beast)
4. Hippolytus: I Cain't Say No (Oklahoma)
5. Chorus: Oh What a Beautiful Morning (Oklahoma)
6. Chorus: Oh, Dear, What Can the Matter Be (Trad.)
7. Phaedra: Heat Wave (Martha and the Vandellas)
8. Hippolytus: Shadow Waltz (42nd Street)
9. Artemis: With Me It's All Or Nothing (Oklahoma)
10. Cypris, Phaedra, Hippolytus: 'Something There' (Beauty and the Beast)
11. Phaedra: Embraceable You (Crazy for You)
12. All: There's No Business Like Show Business (any version)

Set notes: those two pillars right and left of the stairs should have placards reading, respectively, 'Cypris' and 'Artemis'.

PROLOGUE:
O noble crowd, mesdames and sirs, friends of the Muse, ye connoisseurs!
It brings us joy to see you here on this, the best day of the year!
We hope that joy we may repay and entertain you with our play.
About which there's a mystery, to wit, the script's odd history.
For early one September morning without omen, sign, or warning a package came into our hands clothed in stamps from distant lands Within, a crumbling manuscript antique, gnawed-upon and ripped. By working hard to great effect we Mawrters have restored the text. Hippolytus it is by name but not the one of general fame; Euripides, prolific boy, wrote two distinct Hippolytoi: The one of which you've heard is sad: Hippolytus, a frigid lad, by wounding Aphrodite's pride brings on his stepmom's suicide; This play- that one's fraternal twin- has something of a different spin: though it be pun-filled, glib, and dumber, it is, at least, less of a bummer; Less likely to induce depression than crack jokes about repression. So, fairly warned, we hope that you enjoy Hippolytus: Mark Two.

(exit)
ACT ONE  SCENE I

CYPRIS enters and vamps her way to her pedestal, although she does not have to be on it.

CYPRIS: Well, hello everybody! I'm Cypris, the goddess of Love and Beauty. I like doves, dolphins, pomegranates, and sex. But as a goddess, what I like most of all is respect- and Hippolytus, the son of Theseus, really isn’t giving it to me. He doesn’t bring me flowers, he calls me nasty names- he’s asking for trouble, and he’s going to get it. Although he claims to hate women, I’ve made his father’s wife Phaedra fall madly in love with him. He won’t be able to resist her! And if Theseus catches them- which he will- Hippolytus will be toast. Now, he does have the favor of that goody-goody Artemis, the Virgin Huntress, so I’m not allowed to go after him openly. However, for his insults to me, I want to see him suffer. In fact, I want to see him die.

And around Mount Olympus, we have a little saying:

Whatever Cypris wants…Cypris gets.

(sings)
(TUNE: WHATEVER LOLA WANTS (DAMN YANKEES))
Whatever Cypris wants
Cypris gets
And little prince, little Cypris wants you
I don’t much care for your disrespect
And so I’ve made your stepmom crush on you
This lust should make The-
Seus see red
And when he finds out you’re gonna be dead

Whatever Cypris wants
Cypris gets,
And even you’ll
Admit my plan is good-
it’s just a twist on an old plot
I gave his stepmother the hots
For him….for him…

(exit, evilly laughing if possible)

ACT ONE, SCENE II

The CHORUS enter and sit on and around the steps, lounging. They begin their lines as they come onstage.

C1: Wow, would you look at that sunset! I tell you what, guys, this Troezen isn’t half-bad- I mean, for a place that’s not Athens.

(The CHORUS share a hearty laugh)

C2: Too true, Phil. It’s a lovely little city-

C3: And we’re very grateful to King Pittheus for hosting us during Theseus’ exile-

C2: But since Theseus left to consult the oracle at Delphi, it’s started to seem a little- oh, I hate to say it.

C4: No, I know what you mean.

C5: Me, too.

C2: Really?

C1,3,4,5: Really.

SONG: BELLE (BEAUTY AND THE BEAST)

Little town
It’s a quiet village
Ev’ry day
Like the one before
It’s a town
By the name of Troezen
We’re stuck here and now

C1: We’re bored!

C2: We’re bored!

C3: We’re bored!

C4: We’re bored!

C5: We’re bored!

C1: Where is the prince?

C2: He’s gone to hunt like always-
The same old deer and boars to kill.
C3: Ev’ry day it’s just the same
Since the day that we all came
From Athenian lands exiled-
C4: (spoken) We like to hunt-
C5: But not that much.
CHORUS: (sing)
We really think that boy is strange, no question
All that he does is hunt and ride
He acts like he wants to hurl
Every time he sees a girl
But claims Artemis is always at his side.
C1: I’ve got to say
The kid is crazy
HIPPOLYTUS enters STAGE RIGHT, approaching the Chorus slowly
C2: Shut up! You fool! He’ll overhear!
C1: What do you mean?
C2: He’s right behind you!
CHORUS: Oops, we didn’t see you standing there!
END SONG
HIPPOLYTUS: speaking Hey, fellas.
CHORUS: Hi, Hippolytus.
C1: How was your pre-dinner hunt?
HIPPOLYTUS: Better than mid-morning, but worse than post-lunch. But I did get to visit the inviolate meadows of the Huntress, where only the chaste may tread!
C2: How lovely.
HIPPOLYTUS: Oh, it sure was. In fact, I’ve got some garlands from there right here, so if you’ll excuse me-

(he kneels at the pedestal of Artemis and places the garlands on it.)
SONG: BELLE (REPRISE)
Oh Artemis I think you’re really awesome
My favorite of the gods, it’s true
So I hope that it’s okay
That I brought you this bouquet
To express my burning but pure love

CHORUS: Yes, his stomach-turningly pure love
HIPPOLYTUS: Yes my all consuming-ly pure love for you!
END SONG

C5: That was lovely, Hippolytus, but why don’t you give some of those flowers to Cypris?
C4: It’s just good manners.
HIPPOLYTUS: (awkwardly) Oh, I don’t know- she’s not really my type - of goddess, of course.
C4: Not your type? Buddy, Cypris is everybody’s type.
( masculine laughter from CHORUS)
HIPPOLYTUS: (shrugs uncomfortably) I guess…if you like that kind of thing.
The CHORUS stare at him blankly.
HIPPOLYTUS: What? What’d I say?
C2: Hippolytus, we’ve been meaning to ask you something… what is your problem?
C3: We’ve noticed that you don’t really like to talk with us about…the things we Athenian men like to talk about.
C4: He means sex.
C3: Yes. And whenever we mention Cypris, who is the goddess of said subject, you get all twitchy.
HIPPOLYTUS: Do not!
C2: Cypris!
(HIPPOLYTUS twitches violently)
HIPPOLYTUS: That proves nothing. I don’t know what you’re talking about.
C3: My prince, it’s all right to be uncomfortable about it! Sex, and love, can be very frightening. Just think of all the things that can go wrong.
C4: Like rejection!
C3: And even if you do succeed in gaining your beloved’s affections, there’re still lots of things to be afraid of.
C2: Angry fathers!
C1: Diseases!
C4: Angry fathers with swords!
C5: Emotional intimacy!
(The rest of the CHORUS look at C5)

C5: I mean, inexperience! The prince is young, and his experience of the world is slight— it’s no wonder he’s hesitant!
(They look at him for a moment more, and then turn back to Hippolytus)

C2: Well, sire? Is that the problem?
HIPPOLYTUS: No, no- you guys are all wrong, that’s not it at all. You see,

SONG : I CAIN’T SAY NO (OKLAHOMA)
It ain’t so much a question of not knowing what to do.
(The pictures on the vases are quite clear.)
I’m sure you’ve heard the stories, I’ll admit that they are true:
The very thought of women brings me fear
For marriage or a casual affair My interest in women just ain’t there.
I’m just a boy who won’t say yes- I’m really terribly pure
I always say, ‘No thanks, I guess’ Just when I ought to say ‘sure’.
While I know this makes me rather rare
I tend to think it makes me rather good
And I’ll have you know that Artemis
Does more for me than Cypris ever could!
I’m just a boy who can’t stand girls
What downside to that could there be?
Who could be purer than me? I won’t say yes.
END SONG

HIPPOLYTUS: I’m just more interested in chastity, respect,
and doing the right thing, than in having some totally icky relationship with a girl. And that’s all there is to it. Now, if you’ll excuse me, I’m going to go eat dinner.

(be walks off in a huff.)

ACT ONE, SCENE III

C1: Touchy, touchy.
C3: Looks like somebody got up on the wrong side of the lektron this morning.
C4: Maybe we were being a little intrusive.
(They pause contemplatively)
ALL: Nah.
C4: So- anybody got any good gossip?
C2: I do! I do!
ALL: Ooooh.
C3: Is it about Queen Phaedra’s mysterious illness?
C4: I heard she was starving herself!
C5: I heard she was possessed!
C3: I heard she was stricken by a demon’s curse and that she raves for meadows, horses, and the Thessalian spear!
C1: Gentlemen, please! Let us have nothing to do with the dangerous yet seductive evil of gossip!
C2: Phil, I absolutely agree with you. You know…

SONG: OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING (OKLAHOMA)
That there’s nothing I hate more than gossip
no, there’s nothing I hate more than gossip
So imagine how much it must pain me to say-
That they say that poor Phaedra is wasting away!
ALL: Oh what a terrible rumor,
Oh what a dreadful report
it makes us feel sick just to hear it—
won’t you please tell us some more?
C3: Well, I read it last night in Anthropoi
Yes, I read it last night in Anthropoi
she tosses and turns and she cries in her dreams—
could it be that her husband has found a new queen?
ALL: Oh what a terrible rumor, oh what a dreadful report it makes us feel sick just to hear it— won’t you please tell us some more?
C4: Her distress isn’t caused by betrayal—no, the cause of her pain’s not betrayal—she won’t eat or drink—no, she won’t touch a crust—’cause she heard that her husband has bitten the dust!
ALL: Oh what a terrible rumor, oh what a dreadful report—it makes us feel sick just to hear it—won’t you please tell us some more?

END SONG

C3: Shh, shh! Do you hear that?

ACT ONE, SCENE IV
(They listen intently. PHAEDRA’s moaning and groaning becomes progressively louder as she is hauled onstage by the NURSE, who eventually drops her/ lays her down on the ground, not seeing the CHORUS)

NURSE: A little fresh air for the patient!
PHAEDRA: Take me back inside.
NURSE: Sweetheart, we just got out here.
PHAEDRA: Take me back! No! Take me to the mountains, to the horses, to the springs! Let me run among the horses! Oh, the fever, the fever, it burns me soooooo! (trails off into a moan of exaggerated pain)
NURSE: Phaedra, what on earth is the matter with you?
CHORUS: sidling over, very interested Yes, what’s the matter?
PHAEDRA: Who’s there?
CHORUS: It is we, my lady, your loyal and concerned subjects.
PHAEDRA: Send them away, send them away! Let no one see me on my bed of shame! (thrashes)

NURSE: You see how she is, gentleman—sick as a dog and crazy as a loon—she’s been like this for days.
C1: Have you asked her what’s wrong?
NURSE: Of course I have, genius! And asked her, and asked her— but she won’t say a word.
C2: Let us try!
The NURSE looks DOUBTFUL.

C3: Come on— we’re Athenians! If there’s one thing we know how to do, it’s talk to people.
ALL: Yeah, c’mon, we can talk people to death, etc.
NURSE: Do you promise by the immortal gods to keep your big mouths shut about whatever she might say?
ALL: Absolutely.
NURSE: Knock yourselves out.

SONG: OH DEAR WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE (TRAD.)
C1: Phaedra, what can the matter be
Phaedra, what can the matter be,
Phaedra, what can the matter be, You’re giving us quite a scare.

C2: If you’ve got a sickness a doctor can cure then
Please tell me and we’ll get three just to be sure
C3: or if it’s some embarrassing women’s complaint then
Don’t be shy but speak up right now.
PHAEDRA: Go away!

C4: You’re acting as if you’re completely unsound and you’re scaring your children who need you around and if you’re cursed by some spell an enemy found then don’t be shy but speak up right now
PHAEDRA: Leave me alone!

C5: Phaedra, I’m asking you to think of others, remember your kids who need you as their mother— if you die they’ll be swept aside by their brother Hippolytus-

PHAEDRA: (Screams) Augh!
Hippolytus! Oh, the very name pierces me to the heart!
C2: What’s Hippolytus got to do with your heart?
PHAEDRA: Stop saying that name!
C3: (craftily) We’ll stop saying his name…if you tell us what the matter is.
C4: Nice one, Nick!
PHAEDRA: Do you really want to know?
CHORUS & NURSE: YES!
PHAEDRA: Fine!
SONG:  HEAT WAVE by MARTHA AND THE VANDELLAS
The first time I saw him
something inside
started burning
and my heart filled with fire

Could it be a daimon in me
Or is this a midlife catastrophe

It's like a heatwave burning in my heart
I can't keep from crying
Tearing me apart

Whenever I hear his name
(I) get this sharp, stabbing pain
And now I feel
I've gone totally insane
Has some love potion got the drop on me
Or just an Athenian tragedy-
It's like a heatwave burning in my heart
I can't keep from crying
Tearing me apart

Sometimes I stare in space, tears all over my face
I can't explain it,don't understand it
I ain't never felt like this before

This awful feeling’s got me all crazed
I ought to be locked in a minotaur’s maze
It's like a heatwave burning in my heart
I can't keep from crying
Tearing me apart

END SONG

She collapses. The NURSE attends her.

C3:  Good gods! The Queen is in Love!

C1:  But with whom?
C2:  It must be someone forbidden-
C4:  Someone shameful-
NURSE:  Someone whose name she can't stand to hear-
Beat.

CHORUS:  (at one) Oh, ew!
NURSE:  (to Phaedra) Well, I’m not going to lie. That’s pretty bad.
PHAE德拉:  Bad? I can’t sleep, I can’t think, I tried to control it but I can’t!
The only thing left for me to do is starve myself to death and hope that my good name escapes total destruction!
C1:  How noble!
C4:  How brave!
C5:  I’m still kind of grossed out.
NURSE:  That seems a little extreme, don’t you think, dear?
PHAE德拉:  What else is there to do?
NURSE:  Well, you could sleep with Hippolytus.
PHAE德拉:  I can’t do that! I love my husband and he loves me!
NURSE:  Exactly! Do you really think Theseus would begrudge you the only thing that might cure this dreadful fever and save your life?

Pause  Besides, it’s not like he has to find out.

PHAE德拉:  Nurse, that is ethically and morally appalling…
do you think I could get away with it?
NURSE:  Of course you can. These gentlemen here are sworn to secrecy.
CHORUS:  That’s true, we are, good point, etc.
PHAE德拉:  Oh… I don’t know…
NURSE:  Do you really want to die and leave your children motherless in a cold, harsh world?
PHAE德拉:  No. You’re right. I have to do it. For the children.
NURSE:  Exactly. So, I’ll just go and get Hippolytus then?

She makes to leave.
C2: Hold on- not that we approve of this-
C3: Deliciously scandalous though it may be-
C2: But you’re just going to go tell him?
C4: Go right up to him and tell him that the queen needs to see
him in her bedchamber for some sexual healing?
NURSE: That was the plan, yes.
C5: Lady, you obviously don’t know Hippolytus like we know
Hippolytus.
C1: That plan is never going to work.
NURSE: Why?
C2: He’s too pure, too chaste- you’ll never get him to come up
here that way.
C3: Also, he’d totally blow a gasket.
C4: We’re talking hissy fit of Olympian proportions.
C5: And then he’d probably tell Theseus, and it would just end
in tears.
C1: And death.
C5: Tears and death and blood.
PHAEDRA: But if we can’t get him up here, this isn’t going to
work! fretfully Oh, this was a bad idea… did anybody see
where I put my rope?
C5: Phaedra, Phaedra, calm down- it’s going to be okay.
C1: If we get Hippolytus up here, do you think you can do the
rest?
PHAEDRA: Well, yeah. I mean, I’m pretty hot.
C2: Then go into your bedchamber, put on something nice, and
leave the rest to us.
PHAEDRA: Really?
C3: Really.
PHAEDRA: Oh, you guys are the best. Thank you!

She and the Nurse exit.

C4: It’s a toughie.
C5: Wait! What if we…
   They whisper.
C1: And then we…
   They whisper.
C2: But let’s also…
   They whisper.
ALL: Brilliant!
C3: All right! Operation Horsebreaker is a GO! Huddle up,
boys.
ALL: Alpha, beta, gamma BREAK!
Exeunt omnes undique.
ACT II  SCENE 1

HIPPOLYTUS enters SR, mit hunting gear

HIPPOLYTUS: I can’t believe nobody could come hunting this morning! Nick and Steve said they ate bad boar last night-Phil and Tim were more hung over than usual...but I’m almost sure Theo doesn’t actually have Stymphalian bird flu. I just don’t think they understand what it means to me.

sings SONG: SHADOW WALTZ from 42nd STREET

Here I find my peace,
My sore heart’s surcease
My Tao te Ching’s
Killing things-
Better yet I find
The joy for which I pine-
Artemis’ voice divine-

In the mountains let her come and run with me-
Shoot lots of deer and have fun in the sun with me-
Bring down doves and rabbits by the ton with me-

(Enter ARTEMIS behind him)

ARTEMIS: That’s enough, Hippolytus, I’m here.

HIPPOLYTUS: (begins to turn) Artemis!

ARTEMIS: Ah ah ah, no looking!

HIPPOLYTUS: Right, sorry! It’s just so good to see you, I mean hear you. Hopefully Did you get my flowers?

ARTEMIS: Yes, they were lovely. I can’t stay for long, Hippolytus, I just wanted to drop by to tell you something.

HIPPOLYTUS: I’m all ears!

ARTEMIS: I know that your friends and family don’t approve of your decision to remain ever virgin.

HIPPOLYTUS: They sure don’t. They bother me about it all the time. Yesterday they even started saying that I was angering the goddess Cypris- as if I care about that old hag! After all, I have you on my side.

ARTEMIS: Right. Well, I just wanted to say that if, in the face of societal pressure or even divine interference, you had a momentary lapse of judgment and do something I wouldn’t approve of

Pause

I would never forgive you.

HIPPOLYTUS: Do you really mean that?

ARTEMIS: Oh yes.

Sings SONG: ALL OR NOTHIN’ from OKLAHOMA

A girl I knew, Callisto, for example-
She got seduced unwillingly by Zeus-
I found out her virginity was trampled-
Now she’s a bearskin rug for private use.

HIPPOLYTUS: But what about a less severe transgression-
This thing you have about not being seen-

ARTEMIS: My friend Actaeon looked for just a second-
And met his end as canine haute cuisine.

HIPPOLYTUS: You wouldn’t do that to me!

ARTEMIS: Hippolytus- I’m fond of you

As far as mortals go-
You’re royal, cute, devoted, chaste,
and know how to handle a bow-
I appreciate the flowers and I’ve even told you so,
But if you screw up even once, you’re gonna have to go.

sings

With me, it’s all or nothing-
It had better be all with you.
It can’t be in between-
It can’t be now and then-
No half-chaste acolyte will do.
These are my fav’rites in all respects:
Animals, children, and those who shun sex-
If you’re not one or two you’d best be three-

HIPPOLYTUS: Supposing one day I’m not the third one?
ARTEMIS: That day you’d hear the last of me-
HIPPOLYTUS: Don’t even say that-
ARTEMIS: That’d be the last you’d hear from me!

End Song Exit SR

HIPPOLYTUS: But Artemis, I thought we had something special! Artemis?

MESSENGER runs on stage.
MESSENGER: Prince Hippolytus! I know we’re not supposed to interrupt you when you’re talking to yourself, but you are not going to believe this!

[Messenger narrates the rise of an enormous bull from the sea, galloping in a mad frenzy, kicking over some kid’s chariot, resisting all attempts to capture or kill it, and wreaking general havoc until finally haring off for the palace. See actual Hippolytus]

HIPPOLYTUS: And where is it now?
MESSENGER: Um-

LOUD WHISPER from the CHORUS, which has assembled in the ‘wings’ of SL:

CHORUS: The Queen’s Chambers!
MESSENGER: The Queen’s chambers.
HIPPOLYTUS: Oh goodness, this is so exciting. Okay, Hippolytus: focus. Spears! I’d better go get my spears! He begins to jog off SL, then halts.

HIPPOLYTUS: And, uh, tell the others that hunting is off for the rest of the day. Exit SL

The CHORUS discreetly cheer, high-five, pay off the MESSENGER. Exeunt omnes SL.

SCENE II

Enter CYPRIS from the center aisle.

SONG: SOMETHING THERE from BEAUTY AND THE BEAST)

CYPRIS: It’s almost time-
I can’t believe
My plan is going into action as we speak!
Yes my revenge
Is quite ensured
For Theseus has just returned from his grand tour.

PHAEDRA enters SR, brushing her hair. She obviously does not see Cypris.

PHAEDRA: It’s almost time-
I’m having doubts-
My husband won’t be very pleased if he finds out.
For though he’s smart
I’m not quite sure
He’ll comprehend the logic of the cheating cure.

BOTH: Still- it’ll be amazing-
And I know my fav’rite part will be-

PHAEDRA: When we’re at last embracing!

CYPRIS: When his outraged father executes him bloodily!

PHAEDRA: I think I hear him at the door-
One final check- my hair, perfume, my haute couture-

CYPRIS: Revenge is near
For I’m quite sure-
All hell will break loose when the king comes through that door.

PHAEDRA: Oh god I hear somebody knocking at the door!

HIPPOLYTUS bounds on stage.
HIPPOLYTUS: Has anybody seen a bull come through this door?
CYPRIS chuckles evilly and goes to sit somewhere inconspicuous, perhaps the stairs. She continues to watch the show. She should have popcorn.

PHAEDRA: Hippolytus!
HIPPOLYTUS: Stepmother!
PHAEDRA: Call me Phaedra.
HIPPOLYTUS: Oh, okay, Phaedra. Um, I'm looking for a wild animal, I don't suppose you-

[SCENE]
She advances on HIPPOLYTUS.
SONG: EMBRACEABLE YOU from CRAZY FOR YOU)

Come kiss me, my irresistible you-
Come kiss me, nonconsanguineous you-
My love for you will ravage me eternally, dear-
Rest assured I don't mean step-maternally, dear

That Cypris has cast her charms about you-
Dear, I'll die, without my arms about you!

Don't be a naughty baby- come to Phaedra, come to Phaedra, do-
My irresistible you.
END SONG They EMBRACE.

HIPPOLYTUS: (a la Bobby in CFY) WOW!

At that moment they hear from offstage-
THESEUS: Honey, I'm home!
(entering SR with CHORUS)

What in the Hades is going on here?
PHAEDRA and HIPPOLYTUS spring apart.
THESEUS: Phaedra, you've taken a lover?
Hippolytus, you like women?!
HIPPOLYTUS: I, I think I might!
PHAEDRA: (running over to Theseus and throwing her arms about him crying) I can explain everything! Please don't be angry! I had to! I didn't mean to! I'm so sorry I'll never do it again! etc.

THESEUS: There, there- it's all right.
PHAEDRA: (lifting her head) It's all right?
beat
How is it all right?
CYPRIS: Yeah, how is it all right?
THESEUS: Phaedra, the truth is that you're a young woman and I'm an old man. If you need to turn to partners of your own age to fulfil your needs- then as mature, responsible adults in this modern age, I feel sure we can-

He is interrupted by ARIADNE with luggage entering SL.

ARIADNE: Theseus, sweetie, where should I put my- oh. Phaedra.
PHAEDRA: Ariadne. I see Dionysus' wine-goggles finally wore off.
ARIADNE: At least I don't have to take my sister's sloppy seconds.
PHAEDRA: Then get away from my husband, harlot! Theseus, what is she doing here?
THESEUS: Well, you see, we just happened to be passing by Naxos-
PHAEDRA: Naxos isn't on the way to Delphi.
THESEUS: We got lost. Anyway, there she was on the beach, so I offered to give her a lift back to the mainland, and on the ship we got to talking about old times-

ARIADNE: Those Cretan nights-
THESEUS: And the upshot is-
ARIADNE & THESEUS: We're in love!
PHAEDRA: Well, that's great...cause I'm in love with Hippolytus!
HIPPOLYTUS: And I'm no longer entirely repulsed by the very idea of love!
THESEUS: Great!
HIPPOLYTUS: Fine!
ARIADNE: Good!
PHAEDRA: Fine!

CYPRIS steps forward.
CYPRIS: Oh for god’s sake, people!
ALL: Cypris!
CYPRIS: Theseus, your son was making out with your wife. Aren’t you feeling a little homicidally angry?
THESEUS: Not particularly, no.
CYPRIS: Phaedra- your husband is pawning you off on his son so he can make it with your sister, you can’t tell me that’s not good for a murder or three.
PHAEDRA: Nope- Hippolytus is pretty cute.
CYPRIS: Ariadne? Brought face to face with your ex-lover’s new wife and son by yet another woman? Sure you don’t want to go Medea on their-
ARIADNE: Please! I don’t know how they do things out in the boondocks, but in Crete we have a little more class.
CYPRIS: Oh, tell it to someone who doesn’t know your mother drives a Taurus. Where are the Athenian citizens?
C1: Right here, ma’am.
CYPRIS: I just know you proto-democrats are dying to rise up and smash the effete tyranny of the kingship, and kill Hippolytus while you’re at it.
C2: Us? No!
CYPRIS: But these deviants are making a spectacle of Greece in front of the entire world! Adultery, quasi-incest, bigamy, not one decent suicide- and they’re not even gods! Aren’t you embarrassed?
C2: Are you kidding? We love it!
C3: And so does everybody else!

SONG: THERE’S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS)

C2: The Hyperboreans, Egyptians, and Medes Are secretly quite jealous of us ‘cause The Hyperboreans, Egyptians, and Medes Are lacking all our most intriguing flaws!
C4: They’d gladly boot their law-abiding kings For royalty who do eccentric things!

ALL: There’s no families like Greek families, like no families we know- Everything about them is enthralling! Everything the will of Zeus allows! Intercine war and flat-out brawling- Lots of name-calling and sometimes cows!

There’s no people like Greek people, bizarre’s our status quo- Weirdness is our Panhellenic stock-in-trade, Just ask Leda how eggs are laid- Or ask Pelops how he got his shoulder blade- We’re just one big freak show.

There’s no play like the Greek Play- at least as far as we know- Amateurs in bedsheets singing showtunes! Song lyrics with questionable rhymes! And though we all will have to let you go soon We hope you had a pretty good time.

There’s no play like the Greek Play, though you look high and low We’d like to thank all of our friends who bravely came. And if you want to know who to blame- Elizabeth’s the one you should feel free to flame- And that’s all for our show!

THE END