GREEK PLAY 2024: BACCHAE

Dramatis Personae:
Dionysus  Felix Townley Bakewell
Pentheus  Avery Fingleton
Cadmus  Morgan Nguyen
Tiresias  Hannah Cohen
Agave  Sonya Azencott
Messenger  Caelie McRobert
Fangirl  Jack Carlson
Haverbro/Jock  Maddie Ingoglia
Dad/Coach/Boomer  Freya Kantor-Gerber
Goosethena  Felix Bieneman
Valley Girl  Lucia Hamman
Meta  Anais Olivier
Wine Aunt  Simone Gorman

Scene 1 (Chorus enters from L and R)
DIONYSUS: (enter C) Io Bacchae!
CHORUS: Io Bacchus!
META: Don't you mean Dionysus?
VALLEY GIRL: Ugh, you're so pedantic.
DAD/BOOMER: Who's Dionysus?
WINE AUNT: Only the god of wine and revelry himself. As if. Who needs therapy when you have a krater of red and a girl group of wild Maenads to dance with?
FANGIRL: Hiieee, Bacchus. What brings you to Thebes?
DIONYSUS: Funny you should ask. A lack of proper worship and devotion from your fellow citizens. And to think I was born here. My mother burned to death at my birth, that's how spectacular I was.
HAVERBRO: That's sick as hell, dude. Respect.
DIONYSUS: I'm not the son of Zeus for nothing. Anyways, I came to show Thebes how proper worship is performed. Drunkenly. Fervidly. Maniacally. And well, if my cousin Pentheus doesn't listen, there might just be a little murder on the dancefloor.

GOOSETHENA: Murder?!
DAD/BOOMER: I know I'll be straight up killing it with my sprinkler. Or even better, my Harlem Shake!
META: You've got it wrong, this isn't the play where someone plucks their eyes out. We've already got enough tragedy foretold for one play.

You'll Always Find Your Way Back Home
(Hannah Montana)

DIONYSUS
You're just born, there's lightning and it's Monday
Looks like one of those rough days
Time's up, you're late again
So get out the door (out the door)
Sometimes you feel like running
Find a whole new city, and jump in
Let go, get down and hit the dance floor

ALL
But when the sun comes up
It's the starting of the show
And you're feeling like you got nowhere left to go
Don't you know?
You can grow your hair, and wear a new peplos
You can get reborn, that's just the way it goes
You can say "χαῖρε," and you can say "hello"
But you'll always find your way back home
You can conquer Asia, you can come to Greece
You can grow some vines, and you can chase your dreams
You can dance and weave, but everybody knows
You'll always find your way back home

DIONYSUS
Ha! Your Maenads, your little hometown
Are waiting up wherever you go now (mmm)
You know that you can always turn around (turn around)
'Cause, this world is big and it's crazy
And this god is thinking that, maybe
This life is what some people dream about
‘Cause, when I’m feeling down, and I am all alone, whoa, oh
I’ve always got a place where I can go
‘Cause, I know

ALL
You can grow your hair, and wear a new peplos,
You can get reborn, that’s just the way it goes
You can say “χαῖρε,” and you can say “hello”
But you’ll always find your way back home
You can conquer Asia, you can come to Greece
You can learn to sail, and you can chase your dreams
You can laugh and cry, but everybody knows
You’ll always find your way back home
Where they know exactly who you are
Where the real you is a superstar
You know it’s never too far away
You can change your hair, and wear a new peplos
You can get reborn, that’s just the way it goes
You can say “χαῖρε,” and you can say “hello”
But you’ll always find your way back home
(Dionysus exits L)

SCENE 2
TIRESIAS: (enters R) Hey, has anybody here seen Cadmus?
VALLEY GIRL: Seen him? Can’t you see he’s blind?
WINE AUNT: Who’s Cadmus?
FANGIRL: He’s only the coolest guy ever! He brought writing all the way from Phoenicia to right here in Thebes!
HAVERBRO: No way! You mean if I lived before this Cadmus guy I wouldn’t have to do any of my stupid English final?
DAD/BOOMER: In my day we didn’t have writing! We just shouted over the mountains if we wanted to say something!

CADMUS (from inside): I’D KNOW THAT NAGGING BUT KIND VOICE ANYWHERE, HONEY! (entering from C) WHERE DID YOU PUT THE IVY GARLANDS WE MADE YESTERDAY?
TIRESIAS: Oh thanks, everyone! Honey, I love you, but you know it takes ages for you to get ready. I could make it to Eleusis and back in the time it takes you to pick a perfect costume out.
(chorus exits L)

Sunday Afternoons All Right (For Dancing)
(Saturday Night’s Alright (for fighting) - Elton John)

TIRESIAS
It’s getting late have you seen my mate
Please tell me when the boys get here
We’re right in time and I want climb
Want to get to the rites my dear
My old man’s forgetful and his minds a sieve
But other Theban men don’t care
And we know we look cute in our fawnskin suits
Crowns of ivy in my hair
Oh, don’t give me none of your aggravation
We know you think you’re alpha males
Oh, Sunday afternoon’s alright for dancing
Get a little worship in
Get about as oiled as an olive grove
Gonna set this dance alight
‘Cause Sunday afternoon’s the time I like
Sunday afternoon’s alright alright alright, ooh

CADMUS
Well they’re packed pretty tight in here tonight
I’m looking for a blind man who’ll see me right
I may use a little chariot to get where I need
I may shake my grey hair and shout “ευαιαιαι”
A couple pastime that I’ll try to like
Are ridiculous dances and a afternoon hike
I’m a patriarch who’s just trying to show some class
Whose boyfriend sees the future, present, and the past, oh
Don’t give us none of your aggravation
We know you think you’re alpha males
Get about as oiled as an olive grove
Gonna set this dance alight
‘Cause Sunday afternoon’s the time I like
Sunday afternoon’s alright alright alright, ooh
Oh, don’t give us none of your aggravation
We had it with your discipline
Saturday night’s alright for dancing
Get a little worship in
Get about as lit as a olive grove
Gonna set this dance alight
‘Cause Sunday afternoon’s the time I like
Sunday afternoon’s alright alright alright, ooh

SCENE 3 (Messenter enters L) (Pentheus enters R)
MESSENGER: King Pentheus! We uh- well we found this guy wandering the countryside, and he just gave himself up to us? Do we need to charge a delivery fee? Also, the women you ordered to be imprisoned have seemingly escaped.
PENTHEUS: Clearly he’s too stupid to know better. Oh well, he is - he’s rather pretty, wouldn’t you say? To women, to be sure. Bro, you gotta share your hair care routine, you’ve got far too luscious locks to be a wrestler. And your skincare? Dude what’s your secret? (Shakes himself, then in a more serious tone). What are your intentions?
DIONYSUS: I was instructed by Dionysus son of Zeus to spread the good word of his divine worship.
PENTHEUS: Aren’t there enough cults? How can I be sure that you spoke to this man?
DIONYSUS: He came to me in a dream.
PENTHEUS: Oh so reliable indeed. And these worship rites you speak of?
DIONYSUS: Can’t tell you. That’s only for premium Bacchanal subscribers to know.
PENTHEUS: Oh so not just a cult but an MLM. Entrepreneurial endeavors, at least, I could respect. But the madness you’ve induced in our women - they should be in the kitchen, not raving on the mountains.
PENTHEUS: I’ll punish you for this, just you see!
DIONYSUS: Oh now that’s intriguing. Do tell.
PENTHEUS: (blustering) Well I’ll- I’ll cut off your hair, then you won’t be so pretty.
DIONYSUS: Shear these luscious locks, as you called them? That won’t get you far, they’re insured.
VALLEY GIRL: Oh that’s why it’s so luscious, it’s full of secrets.
PENTHEUS: I’ll- steal your thyrsus.
DIONYSUS: Is that all you can think of? I’m sure a man as angry and pathetic as you can come up with something more compelling. Show me that you’re more than just a pretty face.
PENTHEUS: How dare you call me pretty! I’ll lock you up! (Clearly at the end of his rope, trying to come up with threats)
DIONYSUS: Oh now you’re speaking my language. But even there you are mistaken. Dionysus will set me free whenever I wish.
PENTHEUS: Cap.
DIONYSUS: Oh indeed, my dear Pen, no cap. What a sad boy you are.
PENTHEUS: I’m a man and I’ll prove it to you. I’ll set this status quo, right, just you see.
DIONYSUS: Oh, you’re so cute when you’re angry. But no matter, my god will free me in due time. I have the power of god AND anime on my side.

I’m Just Pen (Barbie soundtrack)
PENTHEUS
Doesn’t seem to matter what I do
I’m always number two
No one knows what I’ve been through, oh-oh, I
I have seen things that I can’t explain
Drivin’ me insane
All my life, been filled with pride
My loneliness will not subside

‘Cause I’m just Pen, did I grow up hating women? (chorus shrugs)

Is it my destiny to bear witness to all of this guy’s absurdity?

I’m just Pen

Anywhere else I’d be a ten

What will it take for them to see the man who rocks this tan and bow to me?

I wanna know what’s like to rule, to be a real king

Is it a crime? Am I not hot when I’m in my feelings?

And is my moment finally here, or am I dreaming?

I’m no dreamer

ALL

Can you feel the Penergy?

Feels so real, my Penergy

Can you feel the Penergy?

Feels so real, my Penergy

PENTHEUS

I’m just Pen, anywhere else I’d be a ten

Is it my destiny to be an icon of Greek Masculinity?

I’m just Pen

Where I see a cult, he sees some trend

What will it take for him to see the man behind the tan and bow to me?

PENTHEUS

I’m just Pen

CHORUS

That’s not enough!

PENTHEUS

This is mockery! Witchcraft!

DIONYSUS: It’s almost like I warned you what would happen.

PENTHEUS: To me it seems your god’s only power is to cause upset.

DIONYSUS: How dare you, when he’s known as the bringer of joy. Not to mention wine, transformation, a good afterlife… All those kingly airs go to your head.

MESSENGER (enter L): I bring news!

PENTHEUS: Tell me!

MESSENGER: You won’t be mad? Promise you won’t be mad?

PENTHEUS: Tell me, your fate will be allotted later.

MESSENGER: You know Mount Cithaeron? You know the women of Thebes? Well they’re lost in the sauce. They’ve lost the plot. They’re ranting and raving up and down the slopes, your mother leading them. If wine were a sea, your mother would be a fish. Your mother’s so gone she doesn’t know the sun from the moon. Your mother’s so-
DAD/BOOMER: *Clears throat*
MESSENGER: *Anyways. We tried to follow them, chase them down, but*
they tore apart wild animals with their bare hands. Ate and left no crumbs
- metaphorically, that is.

**Best Believe We Can be Cruel** (Bejeweled – Taylor Swift)
Sheepish man, you think that we’re a little too blind
Didn’t notice you sneaking all around our holy rites
In the clothes we wove you as a present
Peeping on sleeping girls never works especially at noontime
And by the way, we’re still outside tonight

Best believe we can be cruel
When you walk up that hill
We can still chase you down you down with our bare hands
And when we meet your troops
They ask, “Hey what are you doing?”
We can still say, “C’mon let get them”
Don’t make us laugh with your lame attempts
To take us from this summit
We know you’re just impatient
Madness in our eyes
We don’t hate men but, we really hate all Spies!
Spies!

Snakes lick tears off faces
We wear crowns made of green briar
If some king says we’re dangerous
Then he may not be right
And you can try to change our minds
But you might have to wait a while
What are we supposed to do?
A maenad’s gotta shine

Best believe we can be cruel
When you walk up that hill
We can still cut you down you down with bare hands
And when we meet your troops
They ask, “Hey what are you doing?”
We can still say, “C’mon lets get them!”
Don’t make us laugh with your lame attempts
To take us from this summit
We know you’re just impatient
Madness in our eyes
We really hate (them!) we really hate all spies

CHORUS: Dionysus is the GOAT.
PENTHEUS: Clearly we have not been aggressive enough. To arms, men!
Surely the battlefield will be ripe for a level headed discussion.
GOOSETHENA: BLOODSHED!
DIONYSUS: So much hubris and so little emotional intelligence in one
small man. Why can men never communicate?
PENTHEUS: I know how to communicate! What do you think we’re doing right now?
DIONYSUS: That’s not what I meant. (shakes head, deep sigh) Zeus save me, I really do have such pathetic taste in men. At least Ampelos knew how to dance.
PENTHEUS: Who needs dancing when you have these? (Flexes)
DIONYSUS: You’re so much prettier when you keep your mouth shut.
PENTHEUS: Wait you think I’m pretty?
DIONYSUS: You have a thing - or three - to learn. What if I told you shaking ass could save your life?
PENTHEUS: What do you mean? (Hesitating)
DIONYSUS: I know this might be apocalyptic to your toxic masculinity, but what if I told you that you didn’t need to fight? Shocking, I know. What if I told you I could make your wildest dreams come true? I could let you join the women in the dance, no fighting.
PENTHEUS: Really? You could do that?
DIONYSUS: Oh my dear, it’s a trifle. But first, we must give you a makeover. First step: a chiton.
PENTHEUS: I thought my dance skills were hopeless. I have rhythm like Zeus has self control, my mother Agave always said.
DIONYSUS: … I have my work cut out for me, but no matter.
PENTHEUS: But…will they like me?
DIONYSUS: Something tells me they will. Plus, I’m known throughout Asia for my nonbinary rizz.

**POPULAR** (Wicked Soundtrack)

Don’t worry, I’m determined to succeed, follow my lead
And yes indeed, you will be
Popular!
You’re gonna be popular!
I’ll teach you the proper stance
To dance with Bacchants
Little ways to step and prance
Ahh!

I’ll show you what skirts to wear!
How to fix your hair!
Everything that really counts to be
Popular!
I’ll help you be popular!
You’ll fit in with your aunts
You’ll be good at chants
Know the steps you’ve got to know
So let’s start
‘Cause you’ve got an awfully long way to go!
Don’t think of this as anything calamitous
Just think of it as you becoming far more fabulous!
Now that I’ve chosen to become a
Pal, a brother and advisor
There’s nobody wiser!
Not when it comes to
Popular!
I know about popular
And with an assist from me
To be who you’ll be
Instead of boring who you were
*(exit C for quick change; Chorus vamps)*

**SCENE 5:**
DIONYSUS: Come on out and show them what you’ve got!
PENTHEUS: …do you have horns? You look like a bull.
DIONYSUS: I’m not horny, get your head out of the gutter.
PENTHEUS: …I wasn’t- but no matter. How do I look?
DIONYSUS: *(taking a step back)* Let me see now…you have a curl out of place here.
PENTHEUS: I’ve been practicing my maenad dances, I’m sure you’ll be proud!
DIONYSUS: Such a quick study. Here, let me fix it. *(Tucks curl away)*
PENTHEUS: And what a good teacher. I’m yours, fix me however you need.
DIONYSUS: Your belt needs tightening, your pleats are crooked, let me straighten them, down by your slender ankles.
PENTHEUS: They’re slender? Really? *(With a happy giggle).*
DIONYSUS: Like the dawn’s.
PENTHEUS: I do love the way it drapes, and twirls so well when I dance. I almost wonder.
DIONYSUS: *(Interrupting.)* Hold the thyrsus in your right hand, just like that. And stamp your right foot too. Why you look just like a Maenad.
PENTHEUS: Oh joy! I’ll fit right in. You’re sure I’ve got the pose right?
DIONYSUS: Exactly right, my dear.
PENTHEUS: Lead the way, then, to Mount Cithaeron! I can’t wait to show off my new garb, I feel myself for the first time in my life!
DIONYSUS: Your mother will lead you back in triumph with open arms. *(Pentheus exits L.)*

GET HIM BACK *(Olivia Rodrigo)*

DIONYSUS
I met a guy near Cithaeron when I was traveling
He argued with me about everything
He’s disrespectful and hubristic with a head full of lies
Said I’m not a real god, and I’m like, “Dude, nice try”
But we we’re so alike, he’s even my cousin
And I could lead him out to revel and the night would never end
Another song, another rite, another sacrifice and dance
And when he’d lock me up, “Will I stay there?” “No chance!”
So I miss him some nights when I’m feeling real stressed
‘Til I remember when he said that I would still be hunted
Do I love him? Do I hate him? I guess it’s up and down
If I had to choose, I would say right now

ALL
I wanna get him back
I wanna make him really angry, wanna make him feel bad
Oh, I wanna get him back
‘Cause he’s kinda funny and he makes me feel glad

Oh, I want sweet revenge
And I want him again
I want to get him back

DIONYSUS
So I write him all these speeches and then I throw them in the trash
‘Cause I miss the way he argues and the way he made me laugh
Yeah, I pour my little heart out, but as I write the end
I picture all the faces of my disappointed friends
Because everyone knew all of the things that he’d do
He said that he would hunt me down but that just wasn’t the truth
And when I told him I could hurt him, he’d tell me I was trippin’
But I am my father’s son, right, so maybe I could fix him

ALL
I wanna get him back
I wanna make him really angry, wanna make him feel bad
Oh, I wanna get him back
‘Cause he’s kinda funny and he makes me feel glad

I want sweet revenge
And I want him again
I want to get him back

Wanna bump his chest With a lightning bolt
I wanna meet his dad Just to tell him his son sucks
I wanna break his spear; I wanna dress him up
I wanna deal him wounds; heal them right back up
Wanna bump his chest With a lightning bolt
I wanna meet his dad Just to tell him his son sucks
I wanna get him back

Oh, I wanna get him back
‘Cause he’s kinda funny and he makes me feel glad
Oh, I want sweet revenge
And I want him again
I want to get him back
I want to get him back, back, back, back

SCENE 6:
MESSENGER (enters L): Alas, alas!
WINE AUNT: What new drama is this? I don’t even have my Chardonnay with me.
META: It’s Thebes, what do you expect? A new tragedy every generation.
MESSENGER: Pentheus is nowhere to be found! His room looks like a battlefield and no one’s seen him for hours. And there’s blood everywhere!
FANGIRL: Is Dionysus okay?? All the Bacchants need to know!
VALLEY GIRL: Our king might be dead and all you care about is your stupid stan twitter page.
HAVERBRO: I liked that dude. Rest in peace, brother.
MESSENGER: Did you hear the yelling?
GOOSETHEN: HUMAN FLESH
MESSENGER: No, not like that. It sounded like a fierce argument.
DAD: I always thought Pentheus had a bit too much of a temper for his own good. Takes after me, before I took up fishing.
MESSENGER: The citizens are thinking… Dionysus did it.
HAVERBRO: Oh but I liked that guy too!
FANGIRL: You can’t prove anything!
INDIE STAR: Always an angel, never a god, you know.
META: He is, in fact, a god. Isn’t that how this started?

SCENE 7:
AGAVE: Heyyy y’all!
CHORUS: Agave! What? Oh…
AGAVE: A catch! A hunting trophy slaughtered with my bare hands! A lion head to decorate our halls. I’ve been thinking we need a remodel, and safari is all the rage in Athens.
CHORUS: …a lion?
AGAVE: Yes! I slew him with my own hands on the mountain.
CHORUS: Mount Cithaeron?
AGAVE: What a slay, I know. Cadmus’ daughters helped too, it was a real girlpower moment.
VALLEY GIRL: I think you girlbossed a little too close to the sun,
Agave…
(Enter CADMUS from R)
CADMUS: What are you doing? Where’s the search party?
AGAVE: Oh dad look! I killed a lion myself with my bare hands.
CADMUS: Wait a lion you say?
AGAVE: Yes! Look how his mane is all tangled with gore. I’m such a boy mom.
CADMUS: That doesn’t look quite like a lion to me. But anyways, Pentheus-
(Enter DIONYSUS from C)
DIONYSUS: Sorry, the old Pentheus can’t come to the phone right now. Why, uh cause he’s dead?
GOOSETHEN: MURDER!
HAVERBRO: Fist pumping Sick, bro!
VALLEY GIRL: With your bare hands? Ugh, gross.
FAN GIRL: I wish Dionysus would kill me with his bare hands!
WINE AUNT: I need a glass of wine to deal with this.
META: But I thought that nobody dies in Greek Play? (TIRESIAS whispers in META’s ear.) Ohhh…
CADMUS: Agave, what ARE you holding?
AGAVE: But then… this isn’t a lion. But it’s soaked in someone’s blood…
(Enter PENTHEUS as PANDORA from C)
HAVERBRO: Dude! I thought you were dead!?
DIONYSUS: Oh you misunderstood me. Dear Pan and I had a chat and well let’s just say Pentheus isn’t dead, it’s just a deadname. From now on - would you like to introduce yourself, dear?
PANDORA: You may call me Pandora, or all gifts. Turns out dressing up as a Maenad unlocked something in me.
META: Wait isn’t Pandora-

DIONYSUS: Shhh let her finish.

DAD/BOOMER: Hi Pandora, I’m dad.

VALLEY GIRL: Did you have to get blood everywhere? Ugh!

DIONYSUS: There may or may not have been a tussle. SOMEONE wanted to use velvet, but it doesn’t drape well.

PANDORA: And what if I did? It’s regal.

FANGIRL: Omg I love what you did with your makeup, it’s so Bacchant 423 BCE!

PANDORA: I learned from the best.

GOOSETHENA: No murder? (Sadly)

VALLEY GIRL: Well, maybe a little tax fraud as a treat. Aww now there’s a good Goosethena. (Goosethena cackles maniacally).

WINE AUNT: Please explain the … (*gestures at object in Agave’s hand) whatever that is before I have to break out the Merlot!

PANDORA: My first attempts at cutting bangs…not worth dwelling on.

Dionysus at least made me practice on a mannequin first. Agave stumbled across it as she was coming back home, I think I threw it out the window?

AGAVE: Come to think of it, where were you? Weren’t you dancing with us?

DIONYSUS: Dear Pan wanted to christen her new look and snuck home early from the dance. Well, let’s just say, we didn’t want our family at home while we were-

PANDORA: ANYWAYS.

VALLEY GIRL: Ew, aren’t you cousins?

PANDORA: They’re not my son and that’s all that matters.

TITANIA: Don’t remind me.

WINE AUNT: A toast to our no-longer dead queen!

META: Well that’s a relief, Thebes has seen enough death.

DIONYSUS: But not enough dancing! Hit it, Maenads!

GIMME GIMME GIMME

(PENTHEUS)

Now you see

That I’m standing here proudly, this show can have a joyful end

Finally get to show my city who I am

Used to shun

The twice born Dionysus, What an embarrassing crush

I swear my cheeks aren’t red, it’s just my blush!

ALL

There's not a soul out there

Who’d come to stop our prayer

Gimme, gimme, gimme a maenad at midaft

Won’t you all please help us now to close out the show?

Gimme, gimme, gimme a maenad at midaft

Lead us through the madness to the end of the play

DIONYSUS

It was tough

We were both a little testy but I helped her realize

Gender roles were only damaging her life

Got her dressed

I just opened the floodgates, and I helped her see the light

Now there’s no reason to fear, nothing to hide

ALL

There's not a soul out there

Who’d come to stop our prayer

Gimme, gimme, gimme a maenad at midaft

Won’t you all please help us now to close out the show?

Gimme, gimme, gimme a maenad at midaft

Lead us through the madness to the end of the play

Gimme, gimme, gimme a maenad at midaft
Gimme, gimme, gimme a maenad at midday
There's not a soul out there
No one to hear our prayer

Gimme, gimme, gimme a maenad at midday
Won't you all please help us now to close out the show?
Gimme, gimme, gimme a maenad at midday
Lead us through the madness to the end of the play

There's not a soul out there
No one to hear our prayer

Gimme, gimme, gimme a maenad at midday
Won't you all please help us now to close out the show?
Gimme, gimme, gimme a maenad at midday
It's time now to be merry and go enjoy May Day