

Botanic Chorus

A supplication for ecological fertility

Journey-Performance in the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens

24/5 25/5 27/5 30/5 2/6

at 18:30

Texts from plays by
Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes
Translated by Aharon Shabtai

A Theater in the Rough Production,
in cooperation with the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens.

theaterintherough.co.il | botanic.co.il

Welcome – the journey begins here,

Your guides on the trail are a gang of actor-priests, the **Botanic Chorus**. You are invited to witness and take part in the chorus' pseudo-ritualistic search for eco-equilibrium, while accompanying them on a non-chronological path between four sites.

At each site, the chorus will strive to invoke the ancient deities: fertility, lust, healing, death, life, and theater. This supplication is manifested through texts taken from the songs of Greek choruses which constitute the origins of theater.



First site – The Kloof

Inviting, seeding, sprouting, pollinating, infecting

Yearning to merge with the environment, the choir will invoke the spirits of **Iacchus**, the one and only **Dionysus**, the youthful god of fertility, wine, and theater, **Demeter**, mistress of the holy rites, goddess of the earth, and the blessed **Moirae**, the goddesses of fate.

Text from: Aristophanes, The Frogs.



Second site – The Burial Caves

Fading, rotting, wilting, sacrifice, withdrawing, golem, rebirth

Aspiring to shed their humanity, to cure the wounds of hubris, and to don the mask of death, the choir will invoke the spirit of **Apollo**, the god from Delos, the healer-prophet.

Text from: Sophocles, Oedipus The King.



Third site – Roots/Treetops

Eros, climax, yielding, submission, conception

With a plea for balance while submitting to the overwhelming force of lust, on the boundary between fulfillment and sobriety, the choir will invoke the spirits of the gods of desire: **Aphrodite**, also known as **Cypris**, and her son **Eros**.

Text from: Euripides, Medea, Iphigenia in Aulis, and Hippolytus; Sophocles, Antigone.



Fourth site – The Fertile Crescent

Cyclicity, acceptance, eternity, hope, offering, festivity, parting

Forging a pause for celebration, tension, obfuscation, between the wild and the cultured, the choir will once again call on the spirit of **Dionysus-Bromius**, the Bacchic god, accompanied by his priestesses, the **Bacchae**, and the great wild mother-goddess **Cybele**, for a farewell celebration.

Text from: Euripides, The Bacchae; Aeschylus, The Eumenides.

[For full texts in English, scan the code](#)



CAST AND CREW

Performers: **Aya Luft, Itai Leigh, Miriam Metzinger, Omer Meiri, Sivan Billy Raz, Stav Tsubery, Yaar Drori**

Direction: **Yam Drori** | Producer & Original Music: **Natan Skop**

Artistic Guidance: **Maya Buenos** | Costumes: **Bayla Lewis** | Masks: **Rachel Jacobson**

Makeup: **Stav Tsubery** | Ushers: **Alexa Meyers, Yael Berg**

Artistic Director of Theater in the Rough: **Beth Steinberg** | Business Manager: **Ira Skop**

Botanical Gardens Head of Art Department: **Merav Schnap** | Events Manager: **Idit Zemach** | CEO: **Tom Amit** | Executive Director: **Hannah Rendell** | **Maintenance Supervisor:** Shabane' Sh'hade

Special thanks: Haim Abud & Ella Gofer, Anat Radnay, Noam Kuzar & Lydia Maletin, Will, Merav Blum, and the entire JBG Staff.

Theater in the Rough is a dedicated group of community-minded actors and theater-makers, amateurs and professionals, looking to create quality and affordable theatrical experiences for the Jerusalem audience. The group was founded in 2010 with the aim of making classical works accessible to a wide audience while staging them in the unique public sphere of Jerusalem.

The Arts Department at the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens is dedicated to empowering initiatives and corporations that strengthen the unmediated connection between visitors to the nature in the Botanical Gardens and to the botanical and ecological themes that are crucial to our everyday life. In this way, site-specific creativity that grows with and out of the gardens is a means to deepen the experience of the gardens and allow the audience to peek through a window into the unseen.

This performance is made possible by people like you.

Support TiTR/JBG to create more activities like these. For details:

theaterintherough.co.il/donate | botanic.co.il/en/get-involved/donate

The production "Botanic Chorus" was produced with the support of the **Israel Lottery Council For Culture & Arts**.

Theater in the Rough is supported by the **Nathan Cummings Foundation**, with the encouraging support of **Ruth Cummings**.

Theater in the Rough is an independent project operating as part of **Bar-Kayma** for Culture, Art, Music and Peace.

