

ORESTES, A TRAGIC ROMP

Closes Mar. 7

Call for schedule.

Folger Shakespeare Theatre,

201 East Capitol St., SE. (202) 544 7077

Tickets: \$30–\$60

Anne Washburn's "transadaptation" of an already genre-bending play by Euripides proves to be an electrifying mix of modern dress and ancient narrative, sardonic wit and anguished rhetoric, matricide, patricide, aunticide, cross-dressing, and just for good measure, a Redgrave-ex-machina. Also a Chorus that's equal parts Greek and Glee. Pretty much from the moment Electra (Holly Twyford) is revealed, finding unlikely laughs in House of Atreus horror stories while fondling a rock that may soon be used to stone her and her brother Orestes (Jay Sullivan) to death, this spellbinding "romp" qualifies as the weirdest, most aggressively funny Greek tragedy since Oliver Stone's Alexander (with the bonus that this time, the humor's not inadvertent). (BM)