

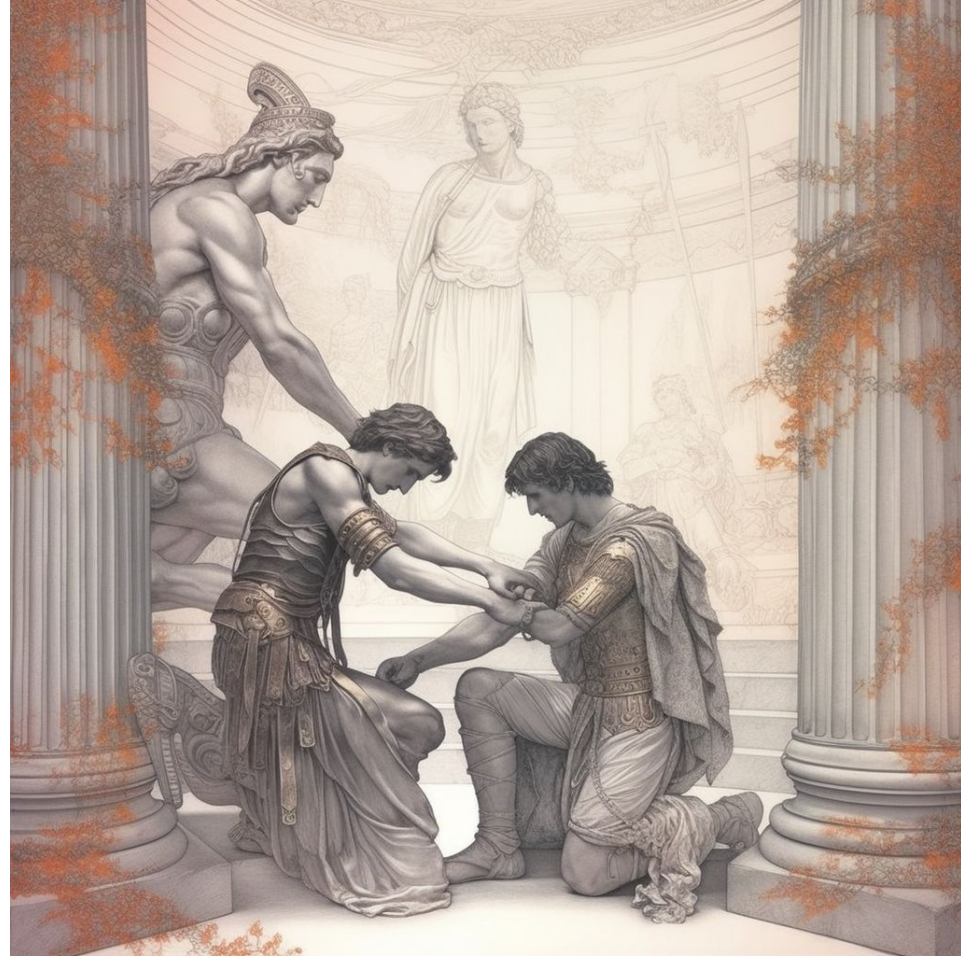
Orestes' Choice

Preparation slides for
<https://tinyurl.com/oresteschoice>

Orestes' Choice

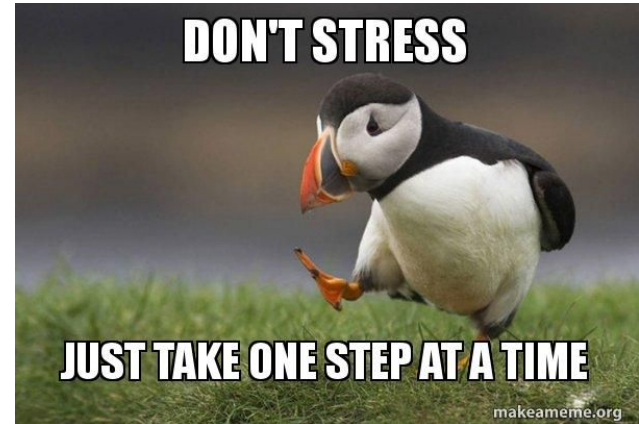
Time: 1h workshop, 2h larp

Trigger warnings: Greek tragedy-typical: violence, sexism, murders, human sacrifice, deaths of children.



Content

- Setting notes
- Family tree
- Timeline
- Characters
- How to play the larp



Setting: Mythic Greece (1/2)

House of Atreus - Orestes' house. The House is cursed by the gods to experience and perpetuate tragedy, murder, and vendettas in each generation.

Patricide - One of the gravest sins. Leads to the ancient beings, the Furies, pursuing and driving one mad.

Vengeance - Men are obligated to seek revenge if their parents or other relatives are unjustly killed.

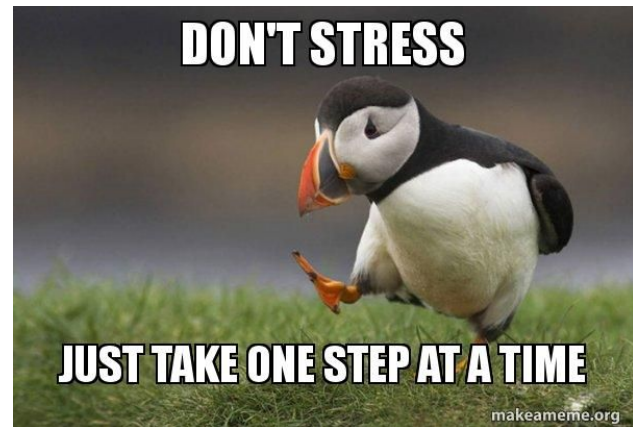
Gender and Sexuality - The patriarchy is strong. Men who have male lovers are acceptable, as long as they also marry a woman and have children. Men who behave like women are considered weak.

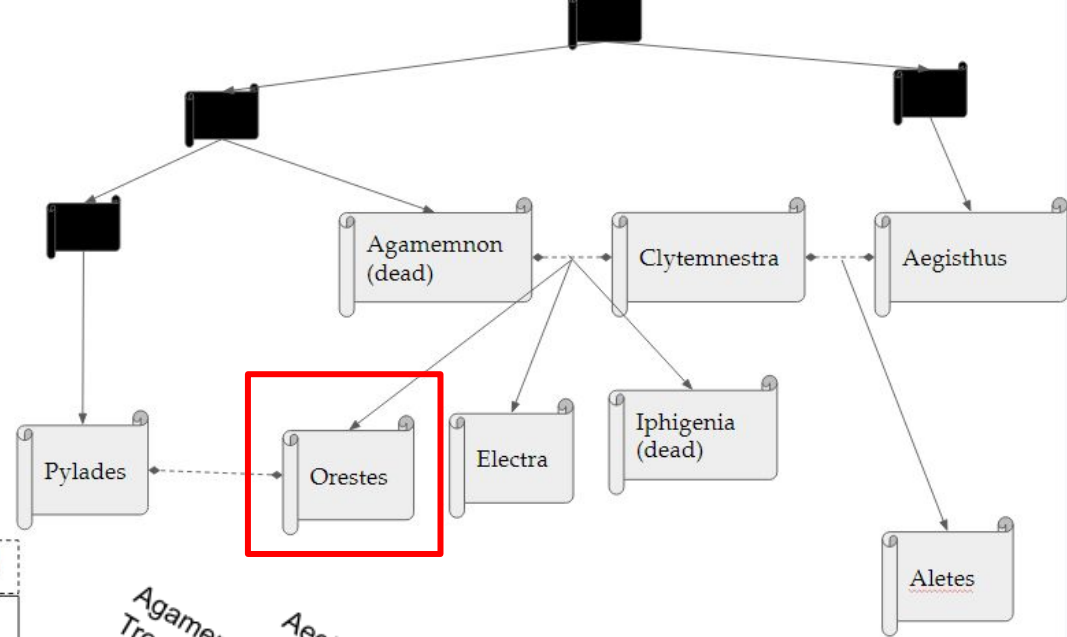
Setting: Mythic Greece (2/2)

Places:

- **Mycenae** - Home to most of the characters.
- **Oracle of Delphi** - Apollo's oracle resides here, and Apollo can also appear.
- **Phocis** - Prince Pylades' hometown, where Orestes grew up.
- **Troy** - The city besieged by Agamemnon's Greek forces and the reason for Iphigenia's sacrifice.

Present day		
-30	-20	-10
Electra and Iphigenia are born	Orestes is born. Agamemnon sacrifices Iphigenia and leaves for Troy.	Aeghistos and Clytemnestra marry Agamemnon comes back from Troy and Aeghistos kills him. Orestes is taken to Phocis.
Agamemnon rules Mycenae	Clytemnestra rules Mycenae	Aegisthus (&Cly.) rule Mycenae
Before the war	During the war	After the war





Romantic
Family

Electra and Iphigenia are born
Orestes is born.
Agamemnon sacrifices Iphigenia and leaves for Troy.

Agamemnon comes back from Troy and Aegisthus kills him.
Orestes is taken to Phocis.
Aeghistos and Clytemnestra marry

Present day

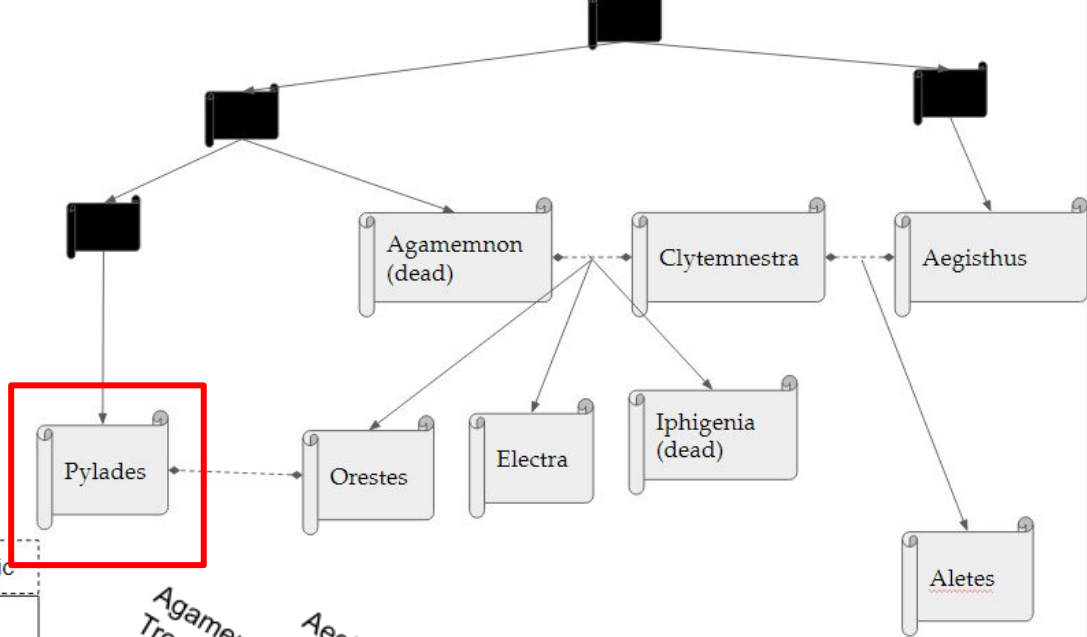
-30	-20	-10
Agamemnon rules Mycenae	Clytemnestra rules Mycenae	Aegisthus (&Cly.) rule Mycenae
Before the war	During the war	After the war

Orestes (~20), prince of Mycenae, in exile in Phocis

- Son of Agamemnon (dead) and Clytemnestra (queen of Mycenae)
- Brother of Iphigenia (d) and Elektra (princess of Mycenae)
- Cousin and lover to Pylades (prince of Phocis)

- Apollo, society and his honor demands that he avenge his father Agamemnon's death by killing his murderers: i.e. his own mother Queen Clytemnestra and her present husband King Aeghistus (he held the knife).
- But! Society abjures and exiles parent killers, it's the worst crime.
- And! The ancient monsters "The Furies" haunt them forever and make them mad.

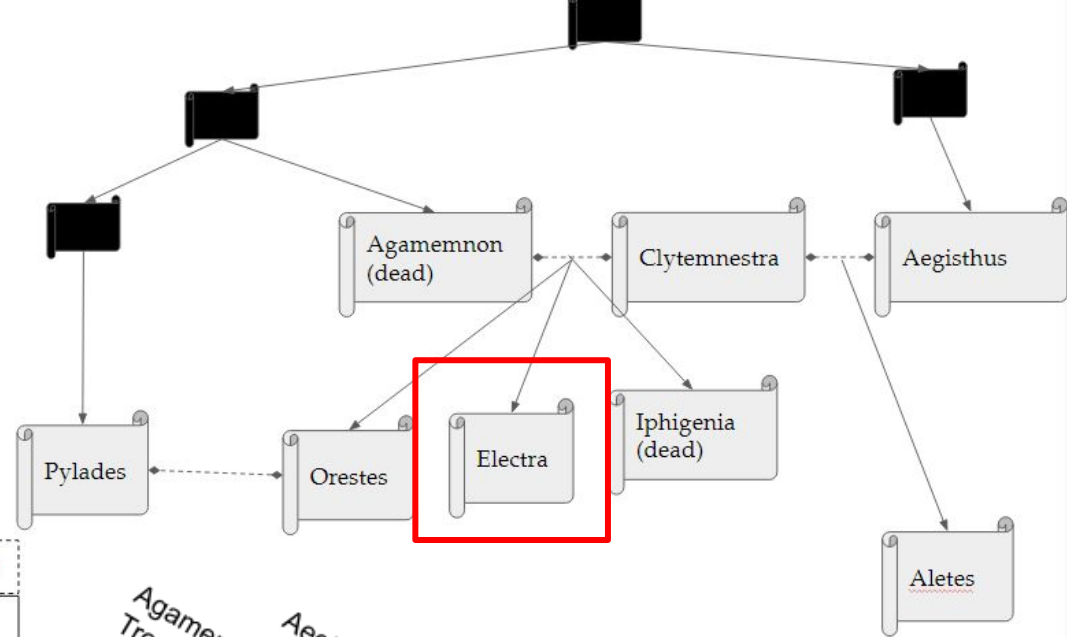
- Orestes has to decide if he will kill: His mother, His stepfather, maybe even 5 year old stepbrother Aletes. OR flee, OR commit suicide.
- This is a tragedy. There is a reason why we play tragedies. Orestes' choice is about which tragic ending he wants.



<i>Electra and Iphigenia are born</i>	<i>Orestes is born. Agamemnon sacrifices Iphigenia and leaves for Troy.</i>	<i>Agamemnon comes back from Troy and Aeghistus kills him. Orestes is taken to Phocis.</i>	<i>Aeghistos and Clytemnestra marry</i>	<i>Present day</i>
-30	-20	-10		
Agamemnon rules Mycenae	Clytemnestra rules Mycenae	Aegisthus (&Cly.) rule Mycenae		
Before the war	During the war	After the war		

Pylades (~20), prince of Phocis

- Cousin to Orestes, Electra and Iphigenia (dead)
- Orestes' lover and best friend
- Wants to support Orestes to Do the Right Thing!
- Is absolutely ok with some murders to help Orestes.



Romantic
Family

-30	-20	-10
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Before the war	During the war	After the war

Orestes is born.
Agamemnon sacrifices Iphigenia
and leaves for Troy.

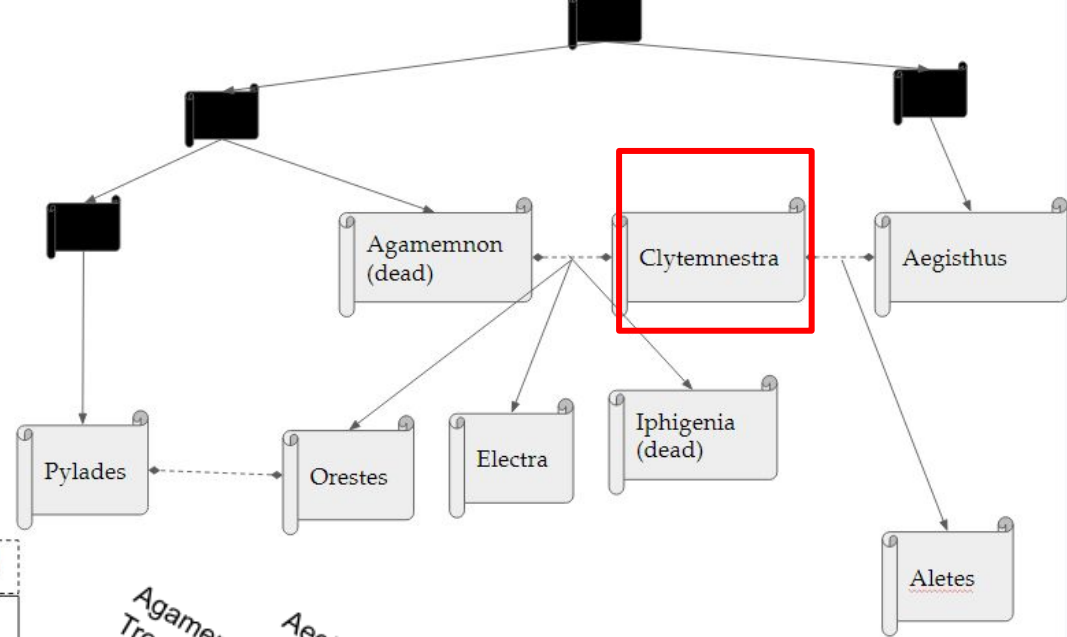
Aeghistos and Clytemnestra marry
Agamemnon comes back from
Troy and Aeghistos kills him.
Orestes is taken to Phocis.

Electra and
Iphigenia are born

Present day

Electra (~30), princess of Mycenae. Unwed

- Daughter of Clytemnestra and Agamemnon (deceased)
- Idolized and loved Agamemnon ("Electra complex")
- Ages 0-10: lived with mother, father, sister Iphigenia
 - Then Orestes is born, and shortly thereafter, the Trojan War begins, and Agamemnon sacrifices Iphigenia to the gods and departs.
- Ages 11-20: lived with mother Queen Clytemnestra, brother Orestes in Mycenae. Mother's friend and father's cousin, Aegisthus, moved in.
 - Then Agamemnon wins the war, returns home, is killed by Aegisthus on Clytemnestra's orders, and Orestes is taken to Phocis.
- Ages 21-30: lived with mother the queen, stepfather King Aegisthus, half-brother Aletes.
 - Has very little agency at court.



Romantic
Family

Electra and Iphigenia are born
Orestes is born. Agamemnon sacrifices Iphigenia and leaves for Troy.

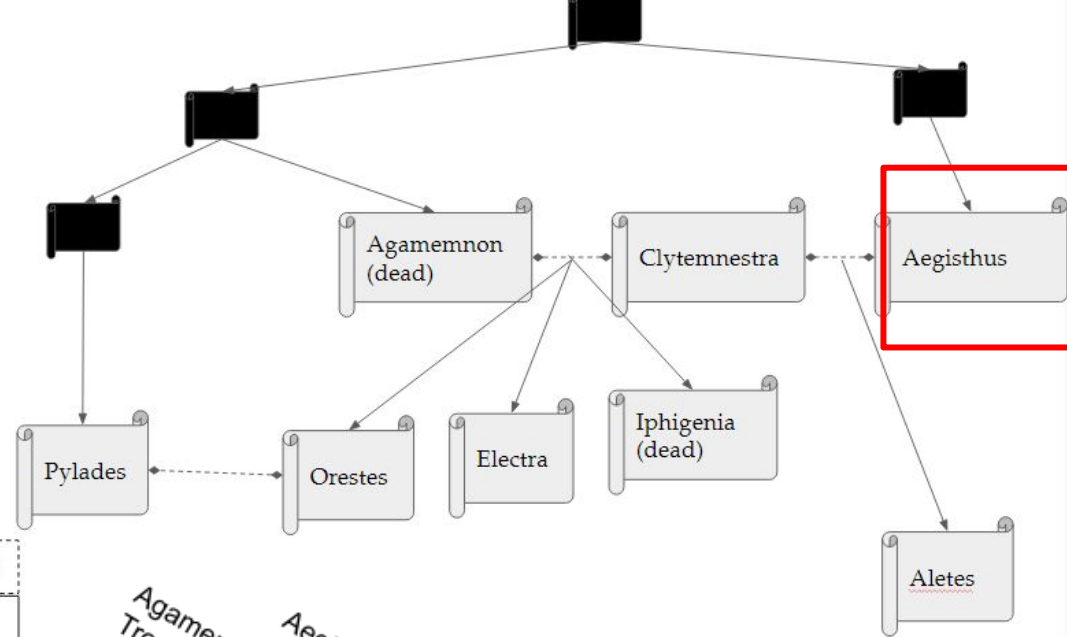
Agamemnon comes back from Troy and Aeghistus kills him. Orestes is taken to Phocis.
Aeghistos and Clytemnestra marry

Present day

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Before the war	During the war	After the war

Clytemnestra (~50), Queen of Mycenae, Orestes' mother

- First married to Agamemnon, then to his murderer, Aegisthus.
- Mother of Iphigenia (whom Agamemnon sacrificed), Electra, and Orestes (who was kidnapped to Phocis after Agamemnon's execution).
- Ages 20-30: lives with her husband and two daughters in Mycenae.
 - Then Orestes is born, and shortly thereafter, the Trojan War begins, and Agamemnon sacrifices his eldest daughter, Iphigenia, to the gods and departs.
- Ages 31-40: rules Mycenae, raises Electra and Orestes. Takes Agamemnon's cousin, Aegisthus, as a lover.
 - Then Agamemnon wins the war, returns home, is killed by Aegisthus on Clytemnestra's orders, and Orestes is taken to Phocis.
- Ages 41-50: is the spouse of King Aegisthus in Mycenae. Gives birth to her son Aletes (now around 5 years old).



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Orestes is born.
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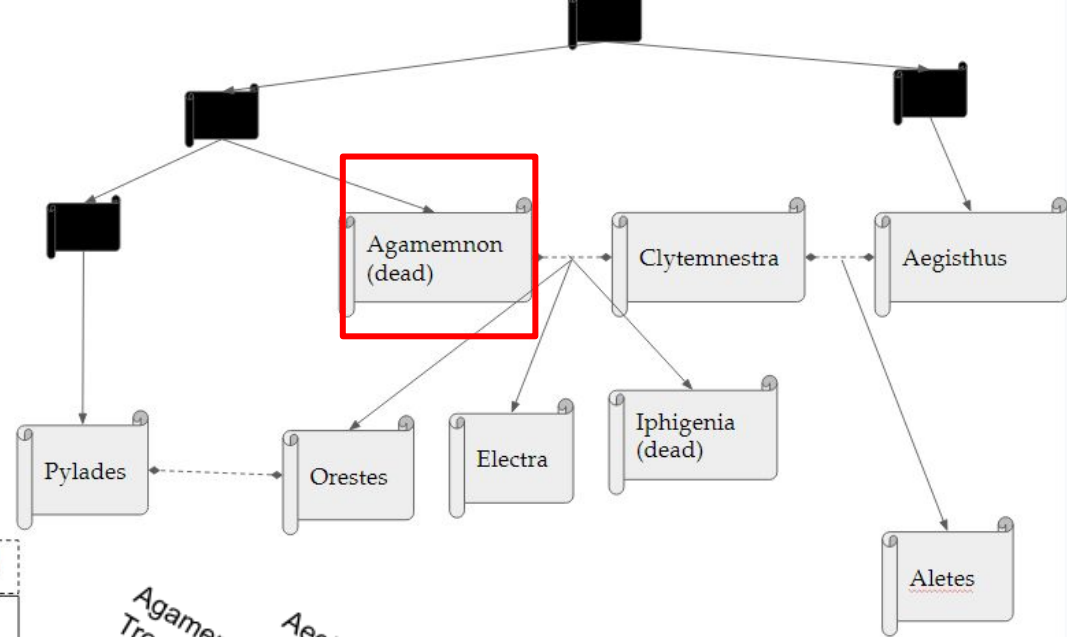
Agamemnon comes back from Troy and Aeghistus kills him.
Orestes is taken to Phocis.
Aeghistos and Clytemnestra marry

Present day

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Aegisthus (~40), King of Mycenae

- Agamemnon's cousin (extremely bad blood between their fathers)
- Clytemnestra's lover, later husband therefore King of Mycenae
- He and Clytemnestra have a son named Aletes (~5)
- Harbors a rightful hatred for his uncle, Agamemnon's father, and also dislikes Agamemnon.
- Lived in Mycenae as a guest and had close relations with young Orestes and Electra during the Trojan War. Was secretly Clytemnestra's lover.
- Killed Agamemnon at Clytemnestra's request.



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Agamemnon (dead), King of Mycenae, General of the united Greek army at Troy, Orestes' father

- Husband to Clytemnestra
- Father to Iphigenia (whom he sacrificed), Electra, and Orestes (born shortly before Agamemnon left for Troy)
- Led the Greek armies that besieged Troy for 10 years.
- Upon his return home, his cousin Aegisthus killed him at his wife's request.

What veils will you add? (Topics that are only touched on lightly)

What vetos will you add? (Topics that will not appear in play)

If these vetos come up, the larp cannot be played: violence, sexism, murders, human sacrifice, deaths of children.

Playing the larp

First! A drama exercise!

Characters

- **Characters are represented by props and are not player-specific**

Playing a Scene

- The facilitator player will present the scenes, the start and end lines, the characters.
- The facilitator player will remind everyone where we are in the timeline and the relationships.
- Players volunteer for, or offer, characters to one another between scenes.
- The non-active players will play The Chorus.
- The scene starts when everyone is ready, and the player with the first line starts.

The Chorus - all non-active players

- Any chorus member may say: “Remember <xyz>”
 - Remember your mother’s love!
 - Remember your father’s murder
 - Remember your honor!
 - Remember the furies!
- **KEEP IT VERY SHORT!**
- Everyone else in the chorus repeats.
- Wear scarves over their heads, like hoods.
- Active players may ignore the chorus, or use it as inspiration.
- Alternatively you can use a bell to remind characters of their inescapable fate.

Choosing scenes

Scenes should be played in this order:

- The 3 mandatory **prologue** scenes A,B,C
- **2 Flashback** scenes
- **1 Present** day scene, Scene P - Orestes and Pylades discuss how to do the murders
- **2 Flashback** scenes
- *(If there is time, iterate)*
- **1 Present** day scene, scene S - Orestes wakes from a nightmare, dawn is near.
- **2 Flashback** scenes
- 1 mandatory **end** scene T - Daybreak. Orestes has to decide what to do.
- Read one of the Epilogues