



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## San Diego Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY TO HOST *ANCIENT GREEKS/MODERN LIVES: POETRY-DRAMA-DIALOGUE PROGRAMS*** *Programs Explore how Classical Literature Continues to Influence American Cultural Life*

**San Diego** – San Diego Public Library will host a brand new free program series, *Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Poetry-Drama-Dialogue*. It is a ground breaking in-depth partnership sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and involves New York’s acclaimed Aquila Theatre, the American Philological Association, the Urban Libraries Council, New York University’s Center for Ancient Studies, and the Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies. The events are designed to inspire people to come together to read, see, and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life. San Diego Public Library is one of sixteen libraries in seven states nationwide receiving grants to host this series and it will explore Greek drama through the theme of *Rites of Passage* and the perspective of the power of the Greek drama today.

Aquila Theatre’s mission is to bring the greatest theatrical works to the greatest number. By presenting a regular season of plays in New York, at international festivals, and touring to approximately seventy American towns and cities a year, Aquila provides access to excellent theatre for people in under-served rural and inner city communities.

Peter Meineck, Artistic Director of Aquila Theatre and Professor of Classics at New York University, is directing the program. “The themes that articulated the human condition in ancient drama were transmitted and interpreted by later poetry and literature,” said Mr. Meineck. “A play becomes ‘classical’ because we recognize after a time that it transcends the culture it was created for. It has the power still to provoke that central question of what it means to be human.”

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***Ancient Greeks / Modern Lives* programs at San Diego Public Library include:**

- **Sunday, April 1, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., City Heights Library Performance Annex, 3795 Fairmount Ave, San Diego, CA 92105**

**Greek Drama: STAGED READING EVENT**

Join us for a staged reading featuring scenes from Greek drama by Aquila Theatre performers. The performance will be followed by a post show a town-hall discussion with noted local scholar, Katerina Zacharia, Professor of Classics at Loyola Marymount University, on how poetry and drama allow people to make sense of the ever-changing realities of human existence.

- **Sunday, April 22, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Auditorium, Central Library, 820 E Street, San Diego, CA 92101**

**Film Screening: IPHIGENIA**

Oscar nominated Greek films directed by Michael Cacoyannis that touch on the Trojan War. The Greek army is about to set sail to a great battle, but the winds refuse to blow. Their leader, King Agamemnon, seeks to provide better food, but accidentally slays a sacred deer. His punishment from the gods, the sacrifice of his daughter Iphigenia.

- **Sunday, May 20, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Wangenheim Room, Central Library, 820 E Street, San Diego, CA 92101**

**Philosophy Talk: PLATO AND THE NATURE OF LOVE**

Philosophy talk is part of San Diego Public Library's Library Talk Series focused on ideas of philosophy, science, mythology and literature and their relevance to life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This program is designed as a fun opportunity to connect the richness of philosophical thought to everyday life.

*Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Poetry-Drama-Dialogue* is a program that has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: great ideas brought to life. [www.ancientgreekmodernlives.org](http://www.ancientgreekmodernlives.org). Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org). All library events are free and open to the public.

*The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future*

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