

Girl on an Altar—Kiln Theatre

This term the Year 12 Classics class went to see Marina Carr's **Girl on an Altar** at the Kiln Theatre. The play provides a dramatised portrayal of the story of Clytemnestra and her warlord husband Agamemnon, who has returned victorious from the Trojan war, having sacrificed their daughter Iphigeneia as a prerequisite to set sail a decade earlier. Through a modern but faithful lens, the production explored the tense dynamics of a fractured marriage. We watch a woman whose resentment has been hardened into spite by maternal obligation and guilt, and a man anguished by his pride, duty, self-reproach and exhaustion, all whilst an undeniable yearning and desire simmers beneath. Carr's exploration of human complexities climaxes in an impassioned, violent ending both unsettling, yet seemingly just. Not only was the play thoroughly enjoyable, it prompted reflective discussion on culpability, grief, toxic masculinity and responsibility.

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