



—Photo by Virgil Johnson

Frenzied 'Bacchae'

... Nancy Whaley, Edward Cannan, and Len Wong (left to right) in "The Bacchae."

Greek Tragedy to Begin Four-Day Run Wednesday

The curtain will go up on one of the "most electrifying" of Greek tragedies at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Hogg Auditorium when the University Department of Drama presents its second play of the season.

Euripides' "The Bacchae," a play of passion and the ecstasy

inspired by wine and revelry, is scheduled for a four-day run ending Saturday.

CAST AND CREW are made up of 120 students, who have been rehearsing for weeks and preparing the stage for the performance. Seven faculty members lent their talents in directing, com-

posing, choreographing, costuming, lighting, and designing scenery.

Dr. William Arrowsmith, chairman of the Classics Department and University professor in arts and letters, translated the Greek classic. This marks the third time that the drama department has used his translation of Euripides. His previous works were "Hecuba" in 1959 and "Orestes" in 1961.

The director is Professor James Moll, who calls the play "one of the most exciting problems in interpretation" he has encountered. Written more than 2,000 years ago, the play was advanced drama—even in our time, he says.

DR. LOTHAR KLEIN, assistant professor of music, composed an original score for the play.

"The Bacchae" is based on the ancient legend of Bacchus, the son of a mortal princess and the chief Olympian god. While still a youth, Bacchus was appointed god of wine and revelry and roamed the world in a chariot drawn by wild beasts.

As the play unfolds, it emphasizes, perhaps more than any other ancient tragedy, the Greek contrast between mortal and divine.