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Theatrical Design Concepts
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***The Bacchae* Design Statement**

The Bacchae exists in a world split by two factions. Pentheus is the leader of the people, who stand for security, order, and civility. Dionysus serves as the leader of the counter culture movement to that. This counterculture is the most striking part of the play. It inspired us to place the world in the middle of the most evident counterculture in American history, and that being the late 1960's. The late 60's were a time characterized by free love, releasing your inhibitions, and celebrating life, all of which are evident throughout *The Bacchae*.

Within the late 60's we are in a world similar to a music festival, much like Woodstock of 1969. The world is feeling excited and wild, as people run all about in celebration. Dionysus has lit their souls on fire and allowed them the chance to run with reckless abandon. This reckless abandon and incredible use of free will is exactly what took place with the "hippie" movement in the late 60's. The "Bacchic women" are somewhat drug-induced free spirits. This creates a divided atmosphere between Pentheus and the house of order against the Bacchae and the chaos they've created. Through my design, I intend to evoke a divided mood between the two definitively separate cultures.

The late 60's counter culture was defined a great deal by their clothing. It is arguably what they are most remembered for. That being said there is a great deal of pressure when costuming that era. It is, in essence, a period piece now. All the costumes must fall in line with that era in order to support the concept. After extensive research, it felt appropriate to use bright colors and soft edged lines in the clothing to support the freedom the Bacchae feel. Most of the characters are in loose fitting bellbottom jeans and billowy flowing shirts. This allows them a full range of movement as well as reinforcing the freedom that is experienced by these people. Pentheus is the outlier. When he is tricked into dressing like a woman, he is dressed in a much warmer color palette than the actual Bacchic women, as well as wearing tighter fitting clothing that we don't see elsewhere in the world. This is to keep him separate, even when he is trying to blend in. It furthers the disconnect between the two showing that even when he is trying to be just like them, he still can't do it right.

The Bacchic women are wearing revealing clothing to support their freedom and show off the shape of the body. Much of the excitement of the late 60's circled around sensation of the body, so it was important to highlight that emphasis. These women are experiencing life, and are choosing to reject the confines of clothing. The repetition of colors such as greens and purples are to support the drug-induced feeling throughout the piece. They are colors often associated with acid trips and rebellion and so it was important to lace the colors throughout those that were being affected by Dionysus.

Through these strong color and line choices, I feel that I have reinforced not only the era in which the play takes place, but also the major themes and motifs of freedom and rebellion, and to highlight the strong divide between "the Man" and the people.