

# Excitement Over *Elektra*

Jessica Feltner, Assistant Editor

Between April 9 and 14, Meredith Ensemble Theatre will stage a fresh take on *Elektra*, directed by guest artist Chip Rodgers. *Elektra* is a story that centers on a girl and her brother's confrontation of childhood demons and their need for revenge for the murder of their father. Rodgers explains, "Nostalgic for the time when I was a kid, this production blends my own childhood memories with the ancient myth, seeking to find relevance to this timeless story. Inspired by cell phones and skin cells, campfire chats and kimonos, this B-rated horror movie romps through *Elektra's* psyche in unexpected and unsettling ways."

Rodgers, a Raleigh native, is well acquainted with Meredith College, as the son of Professor of Theatre Catherine Rodgers. "It feels a lot like coming home," Rodgers tells the Herald. Experienced in a "new and

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contemporary style of theater that fuses dance, music, video, and cinematic soundscape," Rodgers finds his complement in this production of *Elektra*, adding, "To me, this helps me find relevance to the work, and working on the production has been quite a lively experience for some students. "I am amazed at their creativity- and am so proud of the work they are doing to make this show come alive," expresses Rodgers. "It's a very interesting production involving singing, dancing, use of cell phones, innovative costumes – and there is a ceiling!" announces Katy Koop, assistant stage manager. "I built a hand and a foot out of duct tape," Koop adds. "I had a great time working on this show and I feel like I've been a part of something great. I can't wait to see how the audience responds to it," says cast member Kat Froelich.

The audience should experience *Elektra* in a personal way, Rodgers feels. "It should feel like the private thoughts you have to yourself. It

should feel like when you remember having sleepovers when you were a kid. It should feel like somewhere inside of you is an ancient myth, and here you are living it out," says Rodgers.

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Mahamantra Das, class of 2013, will be playing the role of *Elektra* and Julian Hester, Chicago actor, will be playing her brother. Other Meredith students in the cast include Rose Turchi, Meredith Davis, Elaina Mittleman, Stephanie Byrd and Kat Froelich. The innovative costumes are designed by Madira Hoffman, class of 2015. The set is designed by Meredith faculty Lex Van Blommestein and the lighting by Natasha Bress, Meredith alum.

*Elektra* will be presented in the Studio Theatre of Jones Hall from April 9-13 at 8 p.m. and April 14 at 3 p.m. Tickets are free for Meredith students, staff and faculty. General admission is \$10 and \$5 for seniors or students that do not attend Meredith. Tickets are available now and can be reserved by emailing [boxoffice@meredith.edu](mailto:boxoffice@meredith.edu) or calling 919-760-2840.



Mahamantra Das as Elektra via Nichole Meehl

