'Medea' Greek Theater

■ Continued

chorus: Karen McPherson as the Nurse, PJ McKey as the Tutor, Jeanny Wishingstone as the Widow, and young Rose Webster as the Orphan. Individually, and collectively, as the chorus, they offer a sounding board for Medea, aiding and abetting, not realizing until it is too late how far Medea will go to make Jason suffer. All are fine actresses and were particularly effective as the rowdy chorus, expressing their contempt for Jason.

The language of the play is poetic, straddling the ancient past and the present. Ms. McPherson's Nurse describes Medea: "proud-hearted and unchecked in her course, her soul soaked through with wrong."

Ms. McKey shines as the Tutor, especially in her zealous telling of the gruesome story of Medea's gift to Jason's new wife, the others going pale in horror as the gory details are disclosed.

Anthony J. Teixeira plays Jason with noble restraint, claiming his actions are in the best interests of his and Medea's long-term future together.

Dan Groves plays Creon in an appropriately regal manner, banishing Medea from his kingdom, knowing the harm she is capable of, brandishing his power against hers. He reluctantly gives in to Medea's request for one more day in Corinth: "Many times I have seen the mercy that I have made come back to bite me."

Mr. Compton takes the role of Aegeus in his play, providing a bit of comic relief as Medea's down-to-earth friend and protector.

As director, Mr. Compton provides diversion and a back-story through the use of film—projected onto the wall above the fireplace—of Medea and Jason in happier times, with gentle music in the background, their two sons shown as detailed silhouette puppets.

Less successful was the use of simpler paper puppets projecting shadows against the wall to show the two boys in the present. A creative idea, the puppets might have benefited from a little more refinement. This, however, is a minor point in an excellent production that will introduce new audiences to Greek theater.

"Medea" is presented without intermission at the Botello Box at the Cotuit Center for the Arts, 4404 Route 28 in Cotuit. All tickets are $10. Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 PM and Sunday at 2 PM through April 23. For more information, call 508-428-0669 or visit www.artsonthecape.org.