

But whether or not one fully appreciates SITI's performance style (in which Stephen Dun Webber's ghost of King Darius packs all the spookiness of a parish priest), Bogart delivers more than her accustomed quotient of inventive stage coups. The processional entrance of Queen Atossa (Ellen Lauren) is an emblematically thrilling mix of directorial sleight-of-hand and clever costuming (by Nephelie Andonyadis), and the battle aria delivered by Will Bond (as the Messenger) is an affectively compelling lament on the horrors of battle.

It's a message that gets wryly accented by Andonyadis' Hugo Boss–like business suits for the male ensemble, suggesting that war — regardless of official pretext — is always a continuation of commerce by other means.

SITI Company at Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades; through Sept. 27. (310) 440-7300, getty.edu/visit/villa.

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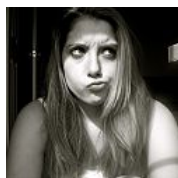
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