Late Sophocles

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I began thinking about some of the ideas in this book twenty years ago, when I was asked by the Great Lakes Theater Festival in Cleveland to participate in an educational outreach program for their 1995 production of Euripides’s *Bacchae*. That project put me in touch with Bill Rudman, then the educational coordinator for GLTF, and Gerald Freedman, the director of the production. I owe them both a great debt of gratitude, for allowing me to see how a professional theater company approaches the task of bringing a work of Classical drama to the stage. The time I spent talking to each man about this process sparked an interest in issues of performance that has informed my teaching and writing about Greek drama ever since.

Virtually all of my published work on Classical literature has had its origins in the classes I have taught at Oberlin College over the past forty years. I wish I could list all of the names of the wonderful students who have shared this journey with me. If you happen to read these words, you know who you are and how much I owe you. Working at Oberlin has brought me into the company of great teachers and scholars, on whose time and wisdom I have presumed in many hours of conversation. I owe special thanks to my colleagues in Classics, Nathan Greenberg, James Helm, Kirk Ormand, Benjamin Lee, Andrew Wilburn, and Christopher Trinacty. Everyone should be so lucky to work with people like these. Lewis Nielson and David Young, colleagues and treasured friends, have read and discussed drafts of this book and given me valuable feedback.

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mous referees for the Press made helpful suggestions that have improved the book in many ways. I thank them for their careful attention.

Finally, I want to thank two people whose wisdom and generosity have influenced me enormously, as a teacher and as a human being. My wife, Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, has been an inspiration to me in countless ways. Her intelligence and loving companionship over the past thirty years have been a gift beyond measure. Nathan Greenberg has been my colleague, mentor, and friend for forty years. Most of what I know about teaching and much of what I know about being a man have come from watching and listening to him. This book is dedicated to him with my profound gratitude and affection.