

MOXIE Season 13 2017/2018: why we persist

We're defined by what we choose to struggle for; what we persist in the name of. It's an understatement to say it feels like there is too much to care about, and not enough time in the day for what matters most. Suddenly two hours of theatre feels like a luxury; and it is. This is where humanity comes together, where phones go silent, where lights get low, and when we all quiet down for storytime. At MOXIE, theatre is what we choose to struggle for and female artists are who we choose to persist in the name of. Season 13 is about people who won't quit dreaming, hoping, laughing, and speaking out. Join us to escape, to awake and to persist.

meet the associate producers

Theatre lovers are a special breed. We believe in art. We believe in storytelling. We believe in community. MOXIE is grateful to a special community of theatre lovers who experience the art as Associate Producers. These donors give monthly to help sustain the art MOXIE produces, and the artists who make it.

RECURRING CHARACTERS

Amy Besnoy & Michelle Fischthal | Debbie Bodinger & Deborah Pettry
John Brooks | Gingy & Bud Ferguson | Beth A. Goodman

CAMEO ROLES

Anonymous | Trudi & Paul Beebe | Alice Greene
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Special Thanks to Our Business and Foundation Sponsors:



BLISS *(or* EMILY POST *is Dead!)*

by *Jami Brandli*



Re-imagined as pill-popping
housewives, the tragic heroines
of Greek Mythology are back.

Playing Jan 28 - Feb 25, 2018
Opening Night Feb 3

Directed by Delicia Turner-Sonnenberg

For ticket information: www.moxietheatre.com, 858-598-7620

special thanks & acknowledgements

Many thanks to the following community members, businesses and organizations who supported this production of *BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!)*:

SD REP, SDSU School of Television,
Theatre and Film, USD, Matt Whitney,
Tyron Meservy, Cat Frazier(Stitcher)



San Diego Performing Arts League
28 Horton Plaza
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We can't do it without volunteers like Mike Carroll, Enid Farrell, Jessamyn Foster, Debb Mattas, Li-Anne Mufson, Sheila Robinson, and Denise Wyborski.

Interested in joining the board, volunteering, or interning?
Contact us at christine@moxietheatre.com to learn more.

a note from the board president



Welcome to our 13th season! This is a season in which all the shows embody persistence, determination, and grit -- in a word, MOXIE. I believe you are going to be engaged with the depth of these stories by amazing women playwrights, entertained by our wonderful casts, and moved by the power and heart of the women portrayed. I trust that you will find something in each play will resonate with you.

Theatre is nothing without our subscribers and donors and we thank you everyday that we continue to grow and thrive. We

have some exciting new donor incentives and giving programs for you to consider so that we may continue to bring remarkable shows to our stage.

I am absolutely thrilled to serve as chair of MOXIE's board. MOXIE Theatre feeds my feminist soul and intellectual desires. I love the work we do and hope you feel the same. Thanks for joining us and being part of the family!

Amy Besnoy

Board President, MOXIE Theatre

become an associate producer

MOXIE invites theatre lovers from our community to join us in an exciting way to experience the art, as Associate Producers. When you support MOXIE with an ongoing monthly contribution, you make it possible for us to support women's voices while enjoying exclusive access to behind the scenes events like our *First Look Rehearsal* with the cast, director and designers. Each level comes with unique benefits and our eternal gratitude.

STARRING ROLE - Pledge \$500 per month

RECURRING CHARACTER - Pledge \$100 per month

CAMEO ROLE - Pledge \$50 per month

RUN CREW - Pledge \$25 per month

become a show sponsor

MOXIE invites theatre lovers from our community to support MOXIE as Production Sponsors. When you do, you'll be supporting local artists who work incredibly hard to bring a production to life. You'll also enjoy sponsor perks unique to your giving level, like Opening Night tickets, signed memorabilia, and an invites to special events like the Red Carpet Donor Reception.

DESIGNER- Pledge \$500 to sponsor a Designer

ACTOR - Pledge \$500-\$1000 to sponsor an Actor

DIRECTOR- Pledge \$2000 to sponsor the Director

CAST- Pledge \$2,500 - \$5,000 to sponsor the whole Cast

Discover more at moxietheatre.com/get-involved

Contact us at elizabeth@moxietheatre.com

Call at (858) 598 - 7620 to join the MOXIE movement today.

More ways to give.

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DONOR RECOGNITION

We are truly grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support to MOXIE.

Donations Received 1/03/17 - 1/03/18

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Jessica Switzer Green

A Joint World Premiere BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!)

By Jami Brandli

Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg

Cast (in order of appearance)

Clementine	Morgan Carberry
Maddy	Lydia Lea Real
Antonia	Taylor Linekin
Cassandra	Alexandra Slade
Apollo/Doctor Smith	Steve Froehlich

Creative and Technical Team

Director	Delicia Turner Sonnenberg
Scenic Designer	Victoria Petrovich
Costume Designer	Shelly Williams
Lighting Designer	Christina J. Martin
Sound Designer	Matt Lescault-Wood
Prop Designer	Angelica Ynfante
Wig Design	Missy Bradstreet
Stage Manager	Nora Kessler
Assistant Stage Manger	Kira Vine
Technical Director	Scott Amiotte
Scenic Charge Artist	Alondra Velez
Assistant Director	Hannah Logan

Setting - North Orange, NJ. September, 1960.

BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!) is produced in a Joint World Premiere by Moving Arts at Atwater Village Theatre, Los Angeles, CA, Director: Darin Anthony in Association with MOXIE Theatre, San Diego, CA, Director: Delicia Turner Sonnenberg and Promethean Theatre Chicago, IL, Director: Erica Vannon.

It is named on The Kilroys' THE LIST, 2014

BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!) was developed at Moving Arts in Los Angeles, directed by Darin Anthony in May 2016.

BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!) is presented by special arrangement with the Robert A. Freedman Dramatic Agency, Inc.

about **MOXIE**

MOXIE Theatre's mission is to create more diverse and honest images of women for our culture. Every production that premieres on our stage embodies moxie and defies stereotypes associated with "women's work." By expanding what we consider feminine, MOXIE celebrates our shared humanity.

MOXIE is a professional nonprofit theatre, founded in 2004. MOXIE has garnered ten Patte Awards for Theatre Excellence, San Diego Critics Circle Awards including the "Director of the Year," "Des McAnuff New Visions Award" and the "Don Braunagel Award for Outstanding Work at a Small Theater." In San Diego's 2013 & 2016 A-Lists, MOXIE ranked in the top three for "Best Theater" in San Diego. In 2017 MOXIE was voted "Best Small Theatre in San Diego" by San Diego Magazine.

Learn more about **MOXIE** at www.moxietheatre.com or call 858-598-7620.

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MOXIE Team

Elizabeth Corrow	Front of House
Jennifer Berry	Casting Associate
Missy Bradstreet	Production Associate
Jennifer Brawn Gittings	Design Ambassador
Nicole Cantalupo	Education Programs Coordinator

grow with **MOXIE**

MOXIE is proud of these exciting developments in our fundraising and programming. We would love for you to be a part of our growth.

The Dea and Osborn Hurston Audience Engagement Program

This program, currently in the second year of a three season pledge funded by the Hurston Family, enables MOXIE to devote time and energy to strengthening our relationships with targeted demographics currently underrepresented in our audience. Our current season is focused on cultivating MOXIE's connection to San Diego's Lesbian Community. Do you know someone or are you part of an organization that should get to know MOXIE? Please help us connect by contacting MOXIE's Business Manager at christine@moxietheatre.com.

SDSU / MOXIE Fellowship

This paid fellowship, also funded by Dea and Osborn Hurston, allows SDSU theatre design students, like Hurston Fellow Christina Martin (Lighting Design), an opportunity to gain professional experience by working at MOXIE. Won't you consider joining them by sponsoring additional fellowships? To learn more about this program, please contact Christine Nathanson; christine@moxietheatre.com.

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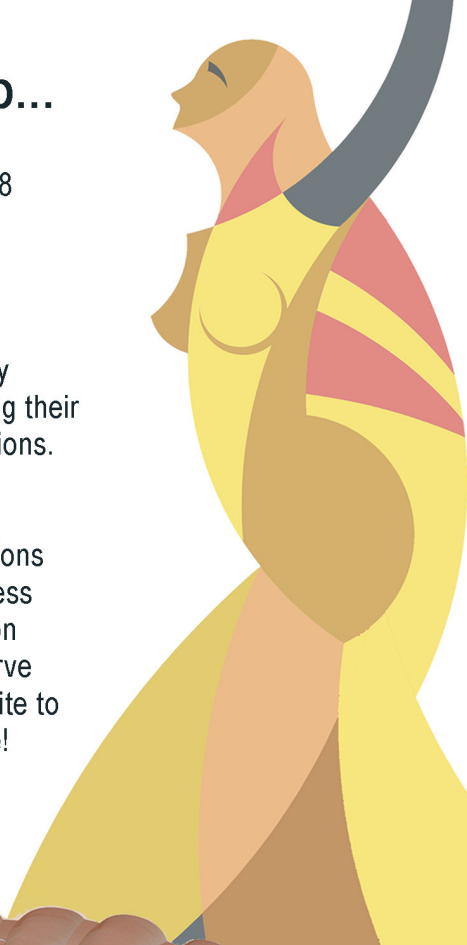
And The MOXIE Goes To...

MOXIE Theatre is proud to announce the return of **The MOXIES** May, 20, 2018 6pm at the Lafayette Hotel. This unique event brings together philanthropists, community advocates, elected officials, business professionals and the press.

The MOXIES celebrates 10 extraordinary women in San Diego who are transforming their communities and inspiring future generations.

This was a sell out event last year and MOXIE is seeking sponsors and nominations for this year's event. If you or your business would like to be recognized as a champion for women in San Diego, act now to reserve your place as a sponsor or visit our website to nominate an important woman in your life!

Tickets and information available at www.moxietheatre.com/themoxies



2017 Honorees Pictured: Elizabeth Lou, Sabrina Martucci Johnson, State Sen Toni Atkins, Evelyn Diaz Cruz, Laura Fink, Sarah Dolgen Shafteel, Leah Goodwin, Kristin Gist, Dr. Rev. Beth Johnson and Merryll Goldberg,

about the playwright

Jami Brandli



Plays include *Technicolor Life*, *S.O.E.*, *M-Theory*, *¡SOLDADERA!*, *Sisters Three*, *Through the Eye of a Needle*, *Medusa's Song*, and *BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!)* named in The Kilroys Top 46 List in 2014. Her work has been produced/developed at New Dramatists, WordBRIDGE, The Lark, New York Theatre Workshop, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Launch Pad, The Antaeus Company, Chalk REP, The Road, among other venues. Winner of John Gassner Memorial Playwriting Award, Holland New Voices Award, and Aurora Theatre Company's GAP Prize. *Technicolor Life* premiered at REP Stage as part of the 2015 Women's Voices Theater Festival, and recently received its Australian premiere

at The Depot Theatre. *BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!)* is currently being produced in a joint world premiere with Moving Arts, MOXIE Theatre, and Promethean Theatre. *Through the Eye of a Needle* will receive its world premiere at The Road Theatre Company, March 2018. She was a finalist for the 2016 PEN Literary Award for Drama, Playwrights' Center Core Writer Fellowship, Princess Grace Award, O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, the Disney ABC TV Fellowship, and was nominated for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award. Her short works are published with TCG and Smith & Kraus. A proud member of the Playwrights Union, the Antaeus Playwrights Lab, and The Dramatist Guild, Jami teaches dramatic writing at Lesley University's low-residency MFA program and is represented by the Robert A Freedman Agency and Fourth Wall Management. www.jamibrandli.com



about the cast

Morgan Carberry (Clementine) is thrilled to be making her MOXIE debut with these fierce ladies in this world premiere! Regional credits include: *Cabaret*, *Sunday in the Park with George* (ion); *Billy Elliot* (San Diego Musical Theatre); *Hand to God*, *Everybody's Talkin'* (San Diego Rep); *James and the Giant Peach* (Barn Stage Company); *On the Twentieth Century* (Cygnet); *Oklahoma!*, *Big River*, *Return to the Forbidden Planet* (New Village Arts); *Tribute* (Scripps Ranch Theatre); *Festival of Christmas: Northern Lights* (Lamb's Players); *The Musical of Musicals* (Oceanside Theatre Company). Morgan trained and lived in the U.K. for 10 years, and also works as a professional voice coach and music director. Having attended an all women's college at Wellesley, she is especially grateful to Delicia and Jami for this opportunity to give women's stories a new voice on stage.

Lydia Lea Real (Maddy) is excited to be making her MOXIE debut and honored to be sharing the stage with this amazing cast. Lydia has been teaching theater, creative writing and creativity workshops for the past 15 years and is currently a teaching artist with La Jolla Playhouse, Arts For Learning and San Diego Writer's Ink. Recent local credits include *A Piece Of My Heart* (American History Theater; Martha), *American Hero* (OB Playhouse; Jamie), *Laundry & Bourbon* (Horton Grand Theater; Hattie), *No Exit* (CAT; Inez), *Godspell* (OB Playhouse; Sonia) and *Big Kitchen- A Counter Culture Musical* (San Diego Fringe Festival 2015 & 2017; Rusty). She would like to thank her family and Shawn for their unconditional love and support.

Taylor Linekin (Antonia) is a senior acting major at the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts and is proud to be making her MOXIE debut. She recently portrayed Judas in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* as well as Jennie Mae in *The Diviners*. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her artistic endeavors.

Alexandra Slade (Cassandra) is so thrilled and grateful to be making her MOXIE debut. Recent credits include *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Cygnet Theatre); *Good People* (Scripps Ranch Theatre); *Ragtime* (SDMT); *Oklahoma* (New Village Arts); *Spring Awakening* (The Barnstage Company); and *Bare: A Pop Opera* (Diversionsary Theatre). Alexandra would like to thank her friends and family for their never ending support, and all of the extraordinary women at MOXIE for allowing her to be a part of telling this story. For Her.

Steve Froehlich (Apollo/Doctor Smith) Local Theatre: *Big Night of Little Plays*, *Our Lady of Kibeho* and *Orange Julius* (MOXIE Theatre, world premiere); *Marjorie Prime* (North Coast Repertory Theatre); *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Disappearing Act* (InnerMission Productions, world premiere) at Diversionsary Theatre; *Disappearing Act* at SD International Fringe Festival; *The Nutcracker* (New Village Arts Theatre, adaptation); *Reasons to Be Pretty* and *Bug* (ion Theatre). Trains with Larry Moss in LA and is in "Voices of Midway" at USS Midway Museum. Thanks to Jennifer Berry and Delicia Turner Sonnenberg for this opportunity!

announcing the



What is the Bechdel Brigade? A dynamic group of community leaders and lesbians joined together to support MOXIE, San Diego's only theatre dedicated to women. Brigadiers gather for unique theatre experiences, including catered receptions sponsored by The Wild Thyme Company and private discussions with the artists.

Why Bechdel? Alison Bechdel, an author and cartoonist famous for *Dykes to Look Out For*, coined the Bechdel Test which gauges whether women receive fair representation in film and other media. Her life story is also the subject of the Broadway Musical *Fun Home*.

Can I join the Brigade? Yes. Do you have to be a lesbian? No (but you may have more fun that way.) Email brigade@moxietheatre.com to learn about upcoming events.



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At close of escrow, you can benefit MOXIE. Mention you're a MOXIE Lover and Navigation Realty will donate \$1000 in your name.

bring a group to **MOXIE**

MOXIE invites theatre lovers to join us en masse to enjoy more honest and diverse images of women in community. Buy your tickets in bulk, save money, and avoid handling fees.

Groups of 10+ | \$20 per ticket

Groups of 15+ | \$15 per ticket

More Ways to Bring a Group

Fundraise. Enjoy powerful art, raise hundreds of dollars, and make an impact. Partner with MOXIE to organize a theatre event for your members and get back 15% of the proceeds for the benefit your organization.

Drink Wine. MOXIE makes a night out at the theatre a real event with wine tastings featuring varietals from ONEHOPE. Host a gathering and enjoy 6 different wines before a performance of your choice.

Bring a Class. Theatre teaches us about the human condition. It gives insight, evokes empathy, and instills hope. Bring a class to MOXIE, request a talkback with the creative team, and let theatre teach your students about the wide world they live in.

Interested in a group event at MOXIE?

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about the creative team

Delicia Turner Sonnenberg (Director) is a founder and former Artistic Director of MOXIE Theatre, where she directed many acclaimed productions. Recently for the Old Globe she directed Dominique Morisseau's *Skeleton Crew*, followed by *Romeo and Juliet* with The Old Globe and University of San Diego Shiley Graduate Theatre Program. She has also directed plays for San Diego Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego State University, Cygnet Theatre Company, Mo`olelo Performing Arts Company, New Village Arts, Diversionary Theatre, ion theatre company, and Playwrights Project. Her honors include Theatre Communications Group's New Generations Program Grant, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Awards, Women's International Center Living Legacy Award, Van Lier Fund Fellowship (Second Stage Theatre), and the New York Drama League's Directors Project. She is married to designer Jerry Sonnenberg and is the proud mama to August and Zoë.

Victoria Petrovich (Scenic Designer) Previous MOXIE collaborations include scenic designs for *A Man, His Wife, & His Hat*, *Orange Julius*, and *Blue Door*. Most recent production designs include *Black Pearl Sings!* (San Diego REP; projections) and *The Witches* (Mainstreet Theater; scenic/projections). Upcoming collaborations include *Frederick* (Mainstreet Theater) and a new opera based on the case of *Sacco & Vanzetti* (International Opera Theater, Italy and S. Korea). Recent awards include San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Projection Design on *A Weekend with Pablo Picasso* (San Diego REP), LA Stage Times OVATION Award Recommendation for *A Wrinkle in Time* (Mainstreet Theater), and the LA Theatre Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Achievement in Set Design for *Passion* (East West Players). Victoria teaches Design in the Theatre & Dance Dept. at UC San Diego.

Shelly Williams (Costumes Designer) Previous credits include *Blue Door*, *Peerless* (MOXIE); *Roz and Ray* (San Diego Rep); *Measure For Measure* (Globe For All Touring Production); *Twelfth Night* (Old Globe TFYA Touring Production); *Alive and Well*, *Striking 12* (The Old Globe); *The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds*, *Mother F*cker with the Hat*, *Gem of the Ocean* (Cygnet); *The Fantasticks*, *Cabaret* (North Coast Repertory Theatre); *The Good Doctor* (Moonlight at The Avo); *Opal*, *The Kentucky Cycle Parts 1&2*, *Triumph of Love* (KPBS Patte Award) (SDSU); *Easter*, *The Killing of Sister George* (CSU Fullerton). Ms. Williams works at The Old Globe as an Assistant Costume Designer and is the Associate Costume Designer for *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Education: BA in Costume and Make-up Design, CSUF; MFA in Costume Design, SDSU.

Christina J. Martin (Lighting Designer) is delighted to be joining MOXIE Theatre with this wonderful cast and creative team. Christina's work has been recently seen at San Diego Musical Theatre's shows including *Billy Elliot* and *Miracle on 34th Street*. Some of her favorite lighting designs include: *The Full Monty* (SDSU); *Dogfight* (Rockford, IL); *Absurd Person Singular* (Rockford, IL); and *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Evansville Civic Theatre). She would like to thank her wonderful husband, Jacob, for all of his love, support, and help while she pursues her dreams. cjmartinlighting.com

Matt Lescault-Wood (Sound Designer) is excited to be back at MOXIE. Previous credits include; *Eurydice* [2010 San Diego Critics Circle Nominee], *Dead Man's Cell*

Hickorydickory, ENRON, Eternally Bad, The Kid Thing (MOXIE); Sweeney Todd, Cabaret, Little Shop of Horrors, A Behanding In Spokane, Man of La Mancha, Assassins, Company, Spring Awakening, Pageant, True West, Fool For Love, Sons of the Prophet, My Fair Lady, Shockheaded Peter (Cygnet); Evita, Roz and Ray, Hand To God; Black Pearl Sings (San Diego REP); Lizard Boy; The Moors (Diversionary); Seascope, Stage Kiss, Lord of The Flies, Big River (New Village Arts); Henry V [2014 San Diego Critics Circle Nominee] (New Fortune); MixTape [2015] (Lambs). Matt has a Degree in Theatrical Design and Technology from SDSU.

Angelica Ynfante (Props Designer) is a Texas State University graduate with a BFA in Theatre. She made her way around the US and Mexico for five years working in Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Vermont, New York, Tennessee, Kentucky and Cancun until she made it to sunny California. She is currently the Assistant Technical Director/Prop Master at San Diego Repertory Theatre. Angelica has had the joy of working with MOXIE for 7 seasons as Props designer, TD, or scenic designer.

Missy Bradstreet (Wig Designer) has been designing wigs and makeup in San Diego since 2002. She has designed for MOXIE, Diversionary, The San Diego REP, and most recently *The Secret Garden* at New Village Arts.

Nora Kessler (Stage Manager) has worked as a stage manager at The Illinois Shakespeare Festival, San Diego Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse and MOXIE Theatre.

Kira Vine (Assistant Stage Manager) is grateful to be part of this production, her first with MOXIE. She is an actress, singer, director, and stage manager. Favorite credits include: stage management of *Homos, or Everyone in America* (Diversionary), *Seven Spots on the Sun* (InnerMission), and *Heathers: the Musical* (OnStage Playhouse); performances in *Next Fall* (OnStage), *The Wizard of Oz* (CTG), *James and the Giant Peach* (Coronado Playhouse), and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (La Jolla Playhouse).

Hannah Logan (Assistant Director) is thrilled to be assistant director on this BLISSful production. Directing credits: SDSU #tenminuteplays (2016/2017), *Birth Right* (OOAL/ Scripps Ranch Theatre), *Taming of the Crew* (Hollywood Fringe 24-Hour Fest), *Ten Tits and Five Tiaras*, (Tamarind Theatre, also co-writer), *Call Me Ishmael*, *Graceland* (Seattle Fringe Fest), *Crimes of the Heart* (The Boston Conservatory); Assistant directing credits: *Reasons to be Pretty*, *This Wide Night* (ion theatre), *Bad Jews* (Cygnet Theatre). Thanks to Delicia and the team, and to Ron, the only emerald angel she needs.

up next at MOXIE



The Madres

by Stephanie Alison Walker

Directors: Patrice Amon and Jennifer Eve Thorn

May 13 – Jun 10 / Opening Night: May 19

An award-winning and empowering new play about three generations of women. *The Madres* is based on the true story of the “Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo,” who searched for their missing loved ones during 1979’s “Dirty War” in Argentina.

about the history

ABOUT THE GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Clytemenstra (Clementine) is married to Agamemnon, ruler of the kingdom of Mycenae or Argos. Agamemnon sacrifices their daughter, Iphigenia, to the gods and Clytemnestra is furious. In revenge, she kills both him and his chosen spoils of war, the Trojan princess and Oracle, Cassandra.

Medea (Maddy) is a sorceress who marries the hero Jason. Jason leaves her for a strategic marriage with a younger Princess, and in revenge Medea kills their children.

Antigone (Antonia) is the daughter and sister to Oedipus by his mother, Jocasta. She nobly seeks a sacred burial for her slain brother, despite the demands of her uncle, King Creon. In response, Creon orders Antigone to be buried alive in a tomb.

Cassandra refuses the sexual advances of Apollo, and in return receives the gift of prophecy and the curse to never be believed. She meets her demise after the Trojan War when she is taken as a concubine by King Agamemnon. On his return home, both he and Cassandra are murdered by his wife, Clytemnestra.

Apollo is one of the most central and complicated Greek gods; he is the patron of Delphi, the god of prophecy, and the leader of the Muses, among other things.

ABOUT EMILY POST

Etiquette: The Blue Book of Social Usage

Published by Emily Post in May 1945, the dust jacket reads:

"A complete guide to good manners and good taste for the entire family. Emily Post, the supreme authority, answers all your questions about the socially acceptable thing to do and how to do it - in any situation and on any occasion."

PILL-POPPING HOUSEWIVES

So which pills exactly were being popped? In the context of *BLISS*, our girls were likely taking Valium or some other similar tranquilizer. Following the drug Miltown's release and rise in popularity, drug companies began mass-distributing and marketing other anti-anxiety medications. This era is when the “happy pill” crisis reached its highest prominence and when most of the ads we're familiar with were popular. Some of these drugs include Butisol, Serax, Thorazine, Mellaril, Ritain, Triavil, Miltown, Mornindine, Valium, and Haldal. Most of these are benzodiazepines (colloquially, “benzos”) designed to treat feelings of anxiety, depression, fatigue, obsession, and panic. They are primarily sedatives and would help users “take the edge off.”