

Modern Myths Podcast

Spiralling by Judith Pratt



12 Peers Theater
presents
Spiralling
by Judith Pratt

Directed by
Ingrid Sonnichsen

Featuring

Erika Cuenca..... Jill
Virginia Gruenert..... Meredith
Cara Ronzetti..... Emma
James Fitzgerald..... Stage Directions

Recording location provided by Carnegie
Mellon University.

12 Peers Theater's Mission

Founded in 2011, and taking their name from the Twelve Peers of Charlemagne, 12 Peers Theater is a 501(c)(3) organization operating in the Greater Pittsburgh Area. 12 Peers Theater's mission is to provide challenging and engaging theater for Pittsburgh audiences. 12 Peers Theater highlights social, political, and ethical issues in classical and contemporary works, exploring myth and cultural identity.

Plot summary for Spiralling

A mysterious crate of tribal masks appears in the office of a disaffected academic and her struggling young grad student. Meredith hopes that the masks, and their stories, are a ticket out of her hated teaching job. Jill, struggling for meaning in her life, hopes the masks will supply her with a belief in—something.

The two women learn that the masks might be forgeries made by Emma, who traveled the Pacific in 1910. Or the masks may have been made by the indigenous tribe Emma visits and describes in her journal. As Meredith and Jill find and read the journal, Emma, in the past, writes and comments on it.

The three masks represent the traps women encounter at each stage of life—maiden, mother, and crone. The maiden gives up everything for love; the mother starves herself for her children; the crone nearly destroys the world in her fight against death. Jill loves the Maiden; Meredith fears the Crone; between them they are Mother and daughter.

Obsessed with the masks, Jill argues with Meredith, forgets to eat, burns her dissertation—and discovers something to believe in.

Playwright Biography

Judith Pratt is also a director, theatre professor, and actor. Her plays have been produced in New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Kansas City MO, Austin TX, and Cape Town South Africa. They have received readings at Edward Albee's Great Plains Theatre Conference and the Last Frontier Theatre Conference. Her full length-play *The Wright Place* has been published by JAC Publishing Co, and read at the Vokes Theatre in Wayland MA. Her full-length play *Spiralling* was workshopped by the

Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre in Kansas City.

Cora's Mountain, a one act, will be part of the Nor'Eastern Play Writing Showcase in May 2015.

She is an adjunct professor of theatre at Wells College, NY and a free-lance writer for business and higher education.