



2018 Myth and Theatre Festival

Nekyia

Descent to the Underworld

Engraving from the *Capricci* series by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, the great Baroque Rococo painter-decorator of 18th c. Venice, a series he kept private till his death in 1774: the last execution of a witch in Europe, [Anna Göldi](#), was in 1782 in Switzerland!

These engravings are mostly necromantic consultations - grand oracular magic. And this engraving is perhaps the most explicit. The master (called *Oriental*) consults the very figure of death, while she consults a large book (wearing freemasonic chasuble and emblems?) He reclines on a tomb.

I choose this image rather than a [Gustave Doré](#) illustration of Dante's hell, whose vision is (still/already) caught in Christian punitive eschatology.

A *Nekyia* is a descent into the pagan hell, the UNDERWORLD, the kingdom of Hades, world of the dead, the ancestors, memory, culture, where, according to [James Hillman](#), death, memory, theater and dreams come together and merge.

I used this image in Chile for the creation in 2011 of [Tropiezos](#). Watch the fabulous [VIDEO](#) by [André Luiz Oliveira](#)

Nekyia : www.pantheatre.com/gb/2-MT18-gb.html