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What we can achieve

of Medea, a performance history for the APGRD (The Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama)

Objects can be made to animate onto the page

## Legouvé, Médée (1856)

However, the New Woman, who emerged at the end of the nineteenth century, did have forebears on the stage, especially in mid-nineteenth-century burlesques. Here the figure of Medea, as the abandoned wife and mother, was adapted to address the debate about divorce legislation (mid-1840s onwards) and to provide a sharp critique of the patriarchal Read nineteenth century system.

Mark Lemon's Medea: or, a Libel on the Lady of Colchis and Robert Brough's Medea: or, The Best of Mothers, with a Brute of a Husband premiered in 1856, at London's Adelphi and Olympic Theatres respectively.

Both burlesques were in response to a radical feminist French Médée by Ernest Legouvé, which was concurrently appearing on the London stage with the Italian actor Adelaide Ristori in the title role.

In the last part of Legouvé's play, there is never any doubt that Medea's love for her children exceeds her hatred for Jason; she is driven to infanticide only when surrounded by a mob of Corinthians determined to kill the children.



Above: Postcard, by Franco-Hispano-Americano company, showing Adelaide Ristori as Medea, embracing her two children. @MNAC The Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya CC BY-NC-SA

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One of my MA students created this enhanced eBook of Mozart's *Magic Flute*.

The eBook by MA student Maria Hock included music and narrated popup notes.



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