



October 14, 2011 (2:30 – 3:15 pm)
Hodges Library, Lindsey Young Auditorium

Penthesilea

by Heinrich von Kleist (1777 -1811)

A staged reading of the final scenes

Director

John Sipes, Associate Professor UT Department of Theatre

Translator

Douglas Langworthy, Literary Manager, Denver Center Theatre Company

Actors (in alphabetical order)

Penthesilea.....	Johanna Dunphy*
Meroe.....	Angela Graham*
Diomedes.....	Stephen Jones ⁺
Narrator.....	Stuart Matthews*
Prothoe.....	Jess Milewicz*
Achilles.....	Cory O’Brien-Pniewski*
High Priestess.....	Laura Sebastian*
Amazon.....	Anja Seiler ⁺

*First Year MFA Actors, Department of Theatre, University of Tennessee

⁺Students in Dr. Stefanie Ohnesorg’s German Class: “Extraordinary Wo(Men)—Outcasts, Rebels, Martyrs and Saints

The year 2011 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of German writer and publicist Heinrich von Kleist. Although he came from an aristocratic family in Brandenburg, he endured unstable living conditions throughout his life. He joined the Prussian Army at the early age of fifteen and was discharged seven years later as a lieutenant; he studied philosophy, physics, mathematics and political science in his city of birth Frankfurt (Oder) and showed an interest in technology, education and administration throughout his life.

Today, Kleist appears as a modern man who became involved in the radical political and social changes in Germany at the turn of the 19th. For Kleist, social reform theories and literary experiment went hand in hand. He was a restless spirit, and most of his literary works aim at presenting the extremes of human relationships.

Heinrich von Kleist’s emotional investment in his tragedy *Penthesilea* (1808) was considerable. In 1807 he told Marie von Kleist: “my innermost being is in it [...] all the filth and radiance of my soul”.