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Molora, @ Oxford Playhouse, until tomorrow



THE first thing you notice is that the Oxford Playhouse's interior has been completely redesigned for *Molora*.

The usual circle and stall seating is out of use. A new bank of steeply tiered seats looks down on the stage, which is significantly reduced in size because there are more members of the audience on either side of it.

The arrangement has the effect of concentrating attention on the action. And what action it is! Thrilling, gripping and sometimes so bloody that you feel you must look away.

Molora comes from the Farber Foundation, a South African-based company whose

earlier productions of *Amujuba* and *SeZaR* made a big impact on Playhouse audiences.

Essentially, it offers a reworking of the Greek tragedy *The Oresteia* with its central themes of revenge and forgiveness placed in the context of recent events in South Africa.

The power of the piece is hugely increased by a seven-strong chorus (all but one women). They sing, dance, chant and perform on a number of instruments.

At 95 minutes, without interval *Moloba* offers challenging and compelling drama. It should not be missed.

CHRIS GRAY