THE CHARACTERS in City of Wine

N.B.
1- Our city begins as Cadmea, but its name is changed to Thebes half way through the cycle.
2- People are sometimes unsure or wrong about who their parents or children are.
3- I have indicated which plays each character appears in, "H" for Harmonia, etc.

The UnNamed
City of Wine features great names from mythology: Zeus, Athena, Harmonia, Laius, Jocasta, Oedipus, Dionysus, and Tiresias, to mention only a few. Such names are so powerful that I felt I could not introduce fictional names into the mix. At the same time, I very much wanted to find a new approach to the idea of the Chorus. I wanted to show a diversity of interacting personalities which, taken together, would represent the ordinary people – the citizens – of the City of Wine.

The result is a group of seven personalities (often related from play to play but not always the same individuals) who, although distinct and real, are never named. Throughout City of Wine they are always present, reacting to and affecting the actions of the Named.

The UnNamed are "The aching, dancing body of my town." In order to keep them straight in the text I gave them "tags".The truth of my premise that names are powerful things is borne out by the fact that many people persist in thinking of these tags as names. You, of course, will not make that mistake.

UnNamed who are in all nine plays
BLOOD
BOWL
BREAD
CLOTH
FIREWOOD
GLASS
WATER

Special occasion UnNamed
BLADE (O)
OLD MAN (O)
SHEPHERD (O)
STRANGER (C)

Named Mortals
AGAVE (P)
Daughter of Harmonia and Cadmus, mother of Pentheus with Echion
ACTAEON (P)
Son of Autonoe
AMPHION (Ca)
Son of Antiope and Lycus, twin brother to Zethus, king of Cadmea/Thebes, spouse to Niobe
ANTIOPE (Ca)
Saved from sacrifice and then enslaved by Lycus, mother of Amphion and Zethus.
AUTONOE (P)
Daughter of Cadmus and Harmonia, mother of Actaeon
CADMUS (H, P)
Prince of Tyre, enslaved by Ares, expelled from Olympus with Harmonia, Thebe, and the UnNamed, father of of Agave, Polydorus, Io, Autonoe, and Semele
CHRYSIPPUS (E)
Son of Pelops, stepson of Hippodamia, heir to the crown of Elis
CREON (J, O)

Son of Menaeceus, brother of Jocasta
DIRCE (T, Ca)
Partner in life and crime to Lycus
EKION (E, J, O)
Young man of Elis, grandson to Echion, becomes Captain of the Guard
HIPPODAMIA (E)
Queen of Elis, spouse to Pelops, step-mother to Chryssipus
JOCASTA (J, O)
Daughter of Menaeceus, spouse to Laius, mother and then spouse to Oedipus, mother to Antigone, Ismene, Polynices, and Eteocles
LABDACUS (P, T)
Grandson to Harmonia and Cadmus, heir to the crown, father of Laius, appears as a smsll child in Pentheus and as a young man in Thebe
LAIUS (Ca, E, J)
Prince, exile, and then king of Thebes, father of Oedipus
LOCRUS (T, Ca)
Half brother to Thebe, a master builder
LYCUS (T, Ca)
Uncle to Labdacus, partner in life and crime to Dirce, regent to Labdacus and Laius
MANTO (O)
Daughter to Tiresias
MENAECEUS (T, Ca, E, J)
Son of Tiresias and Pentheus, father of Jocasta and Creon, administrator of the city, appears as a child in Thebe and an adult thereafter
OEDIPUS (J, O)
Son of Laius and Jocasta, later spouse to Jocasta and king of Thebes, father to Antigone, Ismene, Polynices, and Eteocles
NIOBE (T)
Daughter of Tantalus, spouse to Amphion, queen of Thebes
PELOPS (E)
King of Elis, spouse to Hippodamia, father to Chryssipus
PENTHEUS (P)
Son to and Aecheon, father to Menaeceus, king of Cadmea
SEMELE (P)
Daughter to Cadmus and Harmonia, mother to Dionysus with Zeus
TIRESIAS (P, T, Ca, E, J, O) {n.b. variously young and old, female and male}
Born son of Bowl and Thebe, struck blind by Athena, given gift/curse of prophesy by Zeus, transformed into a woman, mother of Menaeceus with Pentheus, transformed back into a man, father to Manto, lives much longer than other mortals.
ZETHUS (Ca)
Son of Antiope and Lycus, twin brother to Amphion, king of Cadmea/Thebes, spouse to Thebe

Gods
AMPHITRITE (H,P)
Goddess of the sea and spouse to Poseidon
APHRODITE (H,P)
Goddess of sexual love and mother of Harmonia with Ares, spouse to Hephaestus
ARES (H)
God of war and father of Harmonia with Aphrodite
ATHENA (H,P)
Goddess of wisdom
DIONYSUS (P)
God of wine and theatre, son of Zeus and Semele, appears as both a child and a young man

ERIS (H,P)
Goddess of discord
HARMONIA (H,P)
Daughter of Ares and Aphrodite, chooses to become mortal, spouse to Cadmus, mother of Agave, Polydorus, Io, Autonoe, and Semele, queen of Cadmea
HEPHAESTUS (H)
God of fire, blacksmiths, invention, and metalworking, spouse to Aphrodite
HERA (H,P)
Queen of the gods
POSEIDON (H)
God of the sea and spouse to Amphitrite
ZEUS (H,P)
King of the gods

THEBE (H, P, T, Ca)
A Naiad, semi-divine spirit of the spring and stream at the heart of the city and story, cursed by Poseidon that her kisses cause forgetfulness, mother to Tiresias and Laius, choose to become mortal, queen of Thebes which is named for her

ECHION (P)
One of the "Sown Men", heavily armed warriors who sprang from the ground where Cadmus had scattered the teeth of a serpent, sacred to Ares, spouse to Agave