

Aquila Theatre

Presents

Homer's

Iliad: Book One

Translated by Stanley Lombardo



THE POWER OF THE ILIAD TODAY



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

Aquila Theatre's production of *The Iliad: Book One* is a part of *Page and Stage: Theater, Tradition, and Culture in America*, a program that has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: great ideas brought to life.
www.pageandstage.org

The Iliad: Book One has also received an *Access to Artistic Excellence* award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Aquila Theatre is the Professional Company-in-Residence at the Center for Ancient Studies, New York University, and a member of the Alliance of Resident Theatres / New York.

Aquila Theatre
4 Washington Square North, Rm. 452 New York NY 10003
aquila@aquilatheatre.com www.aquilatheatre.com

Cast in Order of Appearance

Chryses/Nestor/Zeus.....Jay Painter
Athena.....Vaishnavi Sharma
Agamemnon.....Brian Silliman
Calchas/Thetis.....Natasha Piletich
Achilles.....John Buxton
Ensemble.....Kaliswa Brewster, Jeffrey Golde
All other roles are played by the company.

Director.....Peter Meineck
Production Design.....Peter Meineck
Movement.....Desiree Sanchez
Company Stage Manager.....Stephenie Moser
Technical Director.....Kevin Shaw
Production Manager.....Nate Terracio

The taking of photographs or the use of any kind of recording device is strictly prohibited.

**PRODUCTION NOTES ON AQUILA THEATRE'S *THE ILIAD:*
*BOOK ONE***

Show Synopsis:

Nine years after the start of the Trojan War, the Greeks are still unable to defeat their enemy. Agamemnon, the commander clashes with the best warrior, Achilles over the division of war-prizes and is forced to give back the girl Chryseis to her father after Apollo sends a terrible plague. Agamemnon claims Achilles' war-prize Briseis to save face and the furious Achilles withdraws from the fighting and asks the Gods to turn the war against the Greeks.

Song:

The song lyrics that you hear in Aquila's production of *The Iliad*, are the first seven lines of the ancient Greek text. Below is Stanley Lombardo's translation of these lines:

Rage: Sing, Goddess, Achilles' rage,
Black and murderous, that cost the Greeks
Incalculable pain, pitched countless souls

Of heroes into Hades' dark,
And left their bodies to rot as feasts
For dogs and birds, as Zeus' will was done.
Begin with the clash between Agamemnon
The Greek warlord and godlike Achilles

Production History:

Aquila's production tells the main parts of the story in an action packed hour and fifteen minute evening using Stanley Lombardo's excellent translation. *The Iliad: Book One* was first performed by Aquila Theatre at Lincoln Center and the entire *Iliad* was performed as a fully staged reading at Classic Stage Company in New York. The production design is based on the cover photo of Stanley Lombardo's 1998 Hackett Publishing translation, "Into the Jaws of Death."

AQUILA THEATRE

Aquila Theatre's mission is to make classical works accessible to the greatest number. A play becomes 'classical' because we recognize that after a time it transcends the original culture it was created for. It retains the power to provoke the central question of what it means to be human. As a company dedicated to the classics, we feel a responsibility to acknowledge and explore newfound classical works. Founded in London in 1991 by Peter Meineck, Aquila is now based in New York City. Aquila's programs include:

PRODUCTIONS IN NEW YORK CITY:

Aquila is a major part of New York's theatrical landscape, producing a regular season of plays. This season Aquila is presenting Joseph Heller's *Catch-22* and Homer's *Iliad* in 3 epic parts.

A MAJOR ANNUAL NATIONAL TOUR: Aquila is the foremost producer of touring classical theatre in the United States, visiting 60-70 American cities per year. Aquila's 2008/2009 Tour consists of: Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* and Homer's *The Iliad: Book One*. Aquila presented internationally in the summer of 2008 with *Julius Caesar* at the Shakespeare Festival in Neuss, Germany, and *The Iliad* at the Festival of the Aegean in Syros, Greece. Our 2009/2010 season will be Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*.

AQUILA BIOS

EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

Aquila is dedicated to theatre arts education and produces four major initiatives: *Workshop America*, a nationwide program that provides an opportunity for people to share in the art of Aquila; *Theatre Breakthrough*, which brings America's schools to the stage; and *Shakespeare Leaders*, an after-school program that enables inner-city students to perform the classics. Last season, at Frederick Douglas Academy in Harlem, NY *Shakespeare Leaders* students performed *Romeo & Juliet* and in 2009 the program is expanding to Hunts Point, Bronx, NY. Also in the spring of 2009, the *Aquila for Young Audiences* company will be taking a special educational production of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* to New York City area schools in conjunction with the Lincoln Center Institute.

PAGE AND STAGE:

Aquila has begun a new initiative, *Page and Stage: Theater, Tradition, and Culture in America*. The program aims to create an in-depth partnership between the library and the theater. Made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, *Page and Stage* is linking public libraries to performing arts centers across America.

Aquila Staff

Founder & Artistic Director.....Peter Meineck
Production Manager.....Nate Terracio
Assistant Artistic Director.....Kimberly Pau Donato
Associate Director of Public Programs.....Andrea Skafish
Office Assistant..... Alice Hodge
Interns.....Randall Benichak, Eric Mercado, Jordan Turchin
Accountants.....Lutz & Carr, Martin Berkowitz
Lawyers.....Jacob Medinger & Finnegan, LLP, Don Farber
Allen B. Breslow, Esq.

Rehearsal Space generously provided by New York University's Tisch School for the Arts.

www.aquilatheatre.com aquila@aquilatheatre.com

Jay Painter (Chryses, Nestor, Zeus) For Aquila: *Hamlet*, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Othello*, *Agamemnon* (with Olympia Dukakis), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Aquila Young Audiences Company in conjunction with the Lincoln Center Institute). Favorite past credits include *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (abridged) tours, *The Mystery of Urma Vep*, Don John/Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and the role of Hamlet. Painter is co-founder of *Friday Night Face-Off*, Long Island, New York's longest running improv comedy show and has performed at such New York City venues as Caroline's on Broadway and Upright Citizen Brigade Theatre. He has also made numerous appearances in television, films, and commercials. Painter received his education and training from Davis and Elkins College and Shepherd University.

Vaishnavi Sharma (Athena) Aquila: Angelo/Amelia in *The Comedy of Errors* and Athena in the *Iliad: Book One*. Vaishnavi was born in New Delhi, India where she worked extensively with many acclaimed directors and actors. She moved to New York City in 2005 and graduated from the New School for Drama with an MFA in theatre. New Delhi credits: Titania in *Midsummer Nights Dream*, Carol in *Oleana*, Chorus in *Antigone*, Narissa in *Merchant of Venice*. New York credits: The Bride in *Blood Wedding*, Esmerelda in *Ten Blocks on the Camino Real*, Irina in *Three Sisters*, and numerous original works.

Brian Silliman (Agamemnon) Aquila: Egeon / Nell / Courtesan / Officer in *The Comedy of Errors* and Agamemnon in the *Iliad: Book One*. Past credits include: Saturninus in *Titus Andronicus* with Gotham Shakespeare, Malcolm in *Macbeth* at the Looking Glass, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Sir Toby/Priest in *Twelfth Night* with the Summer Theatre of New Canaan, as well as extensive work with Elsewhere, The Pumpkin Pie Show, The Rapid Response Team and Nosedive Productions. Recent film roles include: *The Albino Code*, *Let them Chirp Awhile*, and *A Briefcase Full of Knives*. As a playwright his work includes: *The Birth*, *Adoption*, and *Death of*

Dorothy Dutchess (NY Fringe 2003), *The Colonel's Holiday* (Poor Artists, 2005), *The Magic of Mrs. Crowling* (Kraime Theatre, 2007), *Feast*, and the books to *Jonestown the Musical* (NY Fringe 2004) and *16 Days*. Mr. Silliman graduated with departmental honors from Ithaca College.

Natasha Piletich (Calchas, Thetis) For Aquila: *Catch-22*, *Julius Caesar*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Invisible Man*. New York: *Dear Prudence* (Rattlestick Theatre), *The Experts* (Producers Club II), *The Gates of Hell* (Theatre for the New City), *Benten Kozo* (Bat Theatre Company @ The Flea), *Spring Awakening* (La Mama Etc.), *The Symposium* (Gene Frankel Theatre). Regional: *Antony & Cleopatra* and *Henry V* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare), *Homebody Kabul* (Milwaukee Chamber Theatre), *Cymbeline* and *Macbeth* (Theatre at Monmouth). Film & TV: *Guiding Light*, *The Message Universal*, *Hero*, *Heaven's Only Daughter*, *Please Stand By*. Piletich is a vocalist for the Balkan jazz orchestra PECTOPAH. Training: M.F.A. in Acting, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

John Buxton (Achilles) For Aquila: Solinus/Balthazar in *The Comedy of Errors*, Hephaestus in *The Iliad: Book One*, Nately/Korn in *Catch-22* and Lord Capulet in the Young Audience *Romeo & Juliet*. Off-Broadway: *Fools in Love* (Manhattan Ensemble Theater), *The Importance of Being Earnest – u/s* (The Pearl). Selected Others: *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Thoroughly Stupid Things* (Manhattan Theatre Source), *The House of Yes* (Neighborhood Playhouse), *Murder Uncensored* (Wings Theater). Buxton is also a musician who has composed and directed music for several projects. He is a graduate of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and holds a degree in acting from the University of Kansas.

Kaliswa Brewster (Ensemble) is from Seattle, Washington. Some of her stage credits include Wendy in *The Wendy Play* (ACT M.F.A. program), Charitable/Felicity in *A Christmas Carol* (ACT), Gwennie in *Under Milk Wood* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), and Henriette in

The Learned Ladies (Summer Repertory Theater). Brewster currently lives in New York. She holds a B.A. from Whitman College and an M.F.A. from American Conservatory Theater.

Jeffrey Golde (Ensemble) has appeared with the Aquila Young Audience Company's *Romeo & Juliet* (in conjunction with Lincoln Center Institute). He was recently in Boston Mid-Summer Opera's production of *The Tragedy of Carmen* and performed in *Julius Caesar* at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington D.C. Golde is also an accomplished musician, playing piano, cello, and guitar.

Peter Meineck (*Aquila Artistic Director*) is originally from London and now resides in New York. He studied in the departments of Greek and Latin at University College London and worked extensively in London Theatre originally. He founded Aquila in 1991 and has since produced and/or directed 40 shows, wrote, translated or adapted 12, and designed lighting for 26. Peter is also a clinical professor of Classics and Ancient Studies at New York University where he teaches Greek literature, ancient drama and classical mythology. He has also held appointments at Princeton University and the University of South Carolina. Books published by Hackett include: Aeschylus' *The Oresteia*, Aristophanes *Vol. 1*, Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannus*, *Theban Plays* (with Paul Woodruff), and *Four Plays*, and Aristophanes' *Clouds*. His *Oresteia* was awarded the 2000 Louis Galantieri Award by the American Translators Association. Peter has recorded several series of lectures for Recorded Books and the Barnes & Noble Portable Professor Series (*When Gods Walked The Earth*, *Classical Mythology: The Greeks*, *Classical Mythology: The Romans*, *Greek Drama*). He recently translated the opera libretto for Cherubini's *Medee* performed at Carnegie Hall. His new translations of Sophocles' *Ajax* and *Philoctetes* were published in September 2007. He also acts as a mythology consultant most recently to Will Smith on the film "I am Legend."

Stephanie Moser (*Company Stage Manager*) has stage managed for Grant Park Music Festival, Taste of Chicago, *Madame X*, *Late Nite Catechism*, *The Adventures of Kid Zero* with DBA Studios, Redmoon Theater, Apple Tree Theatre/TYA, City Lit Theatre Co., Reverie

Theater Co., cobalt ensemble theatre, Stage Left Theatre, and Emerald City Theatre Co.

Desiree Sanchez (*Movement*) recently performed in *The Iliad* for Aquila at the Festival of the Aegean in Syros, Greece. She is also the lead teaching artist for Aquila's *Shakespeare Leaders* programs in Harlem and Hunts Point, Bronx, and has created movement for Aquila's *A Very Naughty Greek Play* (Aristophane's *Wasps*), *Catch-22*, and *Julius Caesar*. Desiree was a member of the Metropolitan Opera Ballet for eight years where she performed as a principal dancer in numerous productions including Francesca Zambello's *Les Troyens*, choreographed by Doug Varone, John Dexter's *Parade*, choreographed by Grey Veredon, and Franco Zeffirelli's *La Traviata*, choreographed by Maria Benitez. She was also featured dancer in *The Mikado* at the New York City Opera. She has worked with several companies and choreographers including, Boston Ballet, Neo Labos Dancetheatre, Gelsey Kirkland, Donald Bryd/The Group, Sean Curran, Bill T. Jones, Heidi Latsky, Eun Me Ahn in Korea, and Robert La Fosse. She has also collaborated with the Winnipeg Contemporary Dance Company of Canada and Delfos Danza Compania of Mexico. She performed for the Papermill Playhouse as a featured dancer in the musicals *Carousel* and *The King and I*. She also taught dance at Long Island University in New York and was a teaching artist at Elliot Feld's *Ballet Tech*. She received her training from the Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts.

Kevin Shaw (*Technical Director*) served as lighting designer and technical director for Aquila's productions of *Birds* and *Julius Caesar*. Kevin has served as the resident lighting designer at the historic Barter Theatre (the State Theatre of Virginia), The Cherry County Playhouse, and The Tennessee Williams Fine Art Center. Regionally he has lit shows for, among others, The Florida Repertory Theatre, The Arkansas Repertory Theatre, and The Lincoln Amphitheatre. As a member of the Steep Theatre Company in Chicago he has lit many of their critically acclaimed productions including *Bang the Drum Slowly*, *Book of Days*, and *Breathing Corpses*. A few of his favorite designs include: *Madame X*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Blackbirds of Broadway*, *My Way*, *Dance and Reel*, and *Proof*. Kevin has earned an MA in theatre history and an MFA in lighting design.

Kimberly Pau Donato (*Assistant Artistic Director*) has worked on *Catch-22*, and *Julius Caesar* with Aquila as well as Aquila's *Theatre Breakthrough* program's *Romeo & Juliet*, and the *Shakespeare Leaders* program in Harlem which is she currently working on expanding into the South Bronx. Kimberly studied Playwriting and Experimental Theatre at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and has had work produced at Tisch, Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Blue Heron Arts Center and the Stella Adler Conservatory of Acting.

Nate Terracio (*Production Manager*) has worked with The Aquila Theatre Company since 1997 in a variety of positions including General Manager and Production Manager. His nearly 50 Aquila productions include: *King Lear*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (The White House), *Agamemnon* (with Olympia Dukakis) and *Catch-22*. Nate graduated from Univ. of South Carolina Honors College with a degree in Chemistry and is a member of the Theatre Alliance of Louisville. He has also worked with Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, The Necessary Theatre, Cuartetango, and teaches at Infinite Bliss Yoga Studio in Louisville, KY.



The Artists in these productions are represented by AGMA, The American Guild of Musical Artists, AFL-CIO, the union that represents Artists performing here and in the fields of opera, ballet, modern dance and movement and choral presentations, as well as choreographers, stage directors and stage managers.

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