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opening night - part 1
april 13, 2000
opening night - part 2
april 14, 2000
part 1
april 15, 20 & 27
at 8pm
april 22, 23 & 29
at 3pm
part 2
april 21, 22, 23, 28 & 29
at 8pm
april 16 at 3pm

the iliad
translated by robert fagles
adapted and directed by nigel maister

photographs: postcard and frame: rochelle taylor
locations: 2:30pm
lighting: lee cobb
institut de voix express
adapter's note

adapting a work of the scale of the iliad to the stage is a daunting, thrilling and ultimately humbling experience. I have tried to remain faithful to the spirit of homer's work and to what I perceive of as its themes, and to be equally faithful to the elegant and beautiful language of the robert fagles translation. it was, after all, the latter that drew me to the work in the first place. that being said, significant liberties have been taken both in interpretation and execution: apart from severe and rigorous editing, I have given speeches (and actions) which in the original may have belonged to one character, to another; I have combined, elided, shuffled, mixed, transposed and juxtaposed speeches, characters, events and other elements in order to both clarify the narrative and heighten the dramatic journey. no doubt there is much in this to offend the purist. but I hope there might also be a modicum of succour in seeing this extraordinary 3000 year old text come to life in the theatre.

the university of rochester international theatre program

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associate director
managing director
technical director
wardrobe supervisor
accounts coordinators
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mervyn willis
nigel maister
sangita gopal
robert w. miller
evanna disalvo
laura scuderi
susan pulver
monica snitily

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part 1
behold my affliction
running time 2 hrs 30 min
with one 15 minute intermission

part 2
fire into my bones
running time 2 hrs 45 min
with one 15 minute intermission

please be aware that gun shots,
theatrical smoke, strobe effects, and loud sounds
are part of the performance
background notes to troy, the iliad and the trojan war

the judgement of paris

The background to the conflict which led to the Trojan War starts with the marriage of the sea-nymph Thetis, to the hero, Peleus, a mortal. (They later become the parents of Achilles.) At their wedding ceremony, to which many of the gods were invited, Eris, the goddess of Discord (an uninvited guest), introduced into the festivities a golden apple inscribed with the words: "For the Fairest". The goddesses Hera, Athena and Aphrodite all claimed the apple. Zeus, unwilling to choose between them, called on Paris (considered to be the handsomest mortal alive) to judge which goddess was " fairest". This is the famous "Judgement of Paris". In order to sway his choice, each of the goddesses offered Paris a prize. Hera offered him immortality, Athena offered wisdom and success in war. And Aphrodite offered him the most beautiful woman in the world. Helen, Paris chose the goddess Aphrodite, thereby incurring the implacable wrath of Hera and Athena.

Helen, the daughter of Zeus and a mortal woman, Leda, had, since birth, been much coveted by suitors anxious to wed her. To avoid rivalry between them, her father (with Odysseus) devised a plan whereby all suitors would pledge to defend whomever Helen chose as her husband. Helen chose Menelaus, an Argive warrior, king of Sparta and brother of Agamemnon. With Aphrodite's help, Paris paid a visit to Menelaus and was welcomed warmly. But when Menelaus was called away to attend to other matters, Paris abducted Helen and took her to Troy.

Menelaus invoked the suitors' pledge (in essence summoning the support of all the Greek warrior states) and set out to conquer Troy, to win back his wife. This task was to last over ten years.

The Iliad

The Iliad tells the story of a short period within the war's overall duration. The work begins in the tenth year of the Argive attempt to conquer the Trojan citadel. Up until that time, the Argives have been ransacking, pillaging and otherwise assaulting areas around Troy. On one of these forays, the captive Chryseis is taken.

Troy

The location of Troy (also known as Ilium) is currently accepted as being at Hisarkoy, in western Turkey. The city itself was situated on a raised hill and surrounded by fortified walls or ramparts, pierced by gates (the Dardan and Schaeen Gates among them). Before the city stretched the plain leading to the sea where the Argives are encamped. The plain is traversed by two rivers which lead down to the sea, the Xanthis (or Scamander) and the Simois.

Troy had, in fact, been vanquished once before. An earlier king, Laomedon, had refused to honor a promise of reward he had made to the Greek hero, Heracles (who had rid the city of a monster on Laomedon's request). Heracles, irate at this breach of promise, led a force against Troy, capturing the city and sacking it. This is referred to briefly in the text.

the trojans and the argives

The Trojan armies were constituted out of a myriad of allies from neighbouring territories. Although the Trojans have the same gods and speak the same language as the Argives, in fact, their force is more disparate and eclectic. Mention is made of the numerous languages and ethnicities constituting the Trojan forces.

The Argives were the "Greek" force, drawn (largely, though not exclusively) from the warrior states of the Peloponnesian peninsula on the Hellene (Greek) mainland. The Greek forces are referred to variously as Argives, Achaeans, Danacids, and include the group under Achilles' command, the Myrmidons.

aulis

Before setting out for Troy, the Argive forces were welcomed at the port of Aulis. The Argive seer, Calchas, prophesied that in order for them to have wind, Agamemnon, their Commander in Chief, needed to sacrifice his daughter, Iphigenia, to the gods. This was done, and the Argives sailed for Troy. Other oracles seen at Aulis are mentioned in the text.

Olympus and the gods

The home of the gods is the summit of Mount Olympus, a mountain located in contemporary Greece near the northern city of Thessalonika.

Zeus watches much of the action of the Trojan War from the summit of Mount Ida, a mountain closer (and, indeed, visible on a clear day) to the city of Troy and the Trojan plain.

Many of the gods have mortal children which gives them a particular stake in the outcome of events. Many also have favourites. Similarly, goddesses like Hera and Athena hold particular grudges against certain mortals (see The Judgement of Paris) which makes them exceedingly hostile to those who are not in their favour.

Homer and the Iliad

While little is known about Homer, it is commonly accepted that the text of The Iliad was composed for oral performance. It is debatable whether the work is the product of a single author (Homer) or multiple authors. Most assume that, while the composition of the work is extraordinarily cohesive (though contradictions within the text do exist), the work was added to and amended by later poets.

The date of the Trojan War is presumed to be close to 1250 BC. It is thought that The Iliad was composed circa 730 BC and first written down some time between 650 and 550 BC. The first authoritative text of which we have knowledge is dated at 860 AD and the oldest extant manuscript dates from 1000 AD.

after the war

The text of The Iliad ends before the fall of Troy. In the tenth year of the war (after the events of The Iliad) both Ajax and Achilles die (Paris shoots Achilles, guided by Apollo). Achilles' son, Neoptolemus, comes to Troy and helps the Argive cause. Odysseus devises the strategy of the Trojan Horse, which eventually leads to the fall of the city, the sacking of the citadel and the wholesale slaughter of its inhabitants. Greek vase painting shows Priam being clubbed to death by an Argive who wields Aspasiax, Hector's son (and thus Priam's grandson), as a club. The literary tradition has Hector's child hurled from the ramparts to his death as prophesied in The Iliad. Cassandra is raped at the Trojan shrine of Athena and brought back to Greece by Agamemnon, where both she and he are murdered by his wife, Clytemnestra (co-incidentally, a sister of Helen). Helen and the Trojan, Aeneas, both survive the war. Helen is re-united with her husband, Menelaus. (On the point of killing her, he bears her breasts and, overcome by her beauty, drops his sword!) Aeneas' adventures (he ultimately is credited with the founding of the Romans) are related in Virgil's Aeneid. Andromache is taken captive by Neoptolemus. Achilles' son, but her story eventually ends somewhat happily (she marries a fellow captive who happens to be another of Priam's sons). Hector, too, is taken captive. Paris is killed by a poison arrow during the course of the war.

The Argives have troubled futures after The Iliad too. Odysseus takes ten years to reach home (as related in The Odyssey). Agamemnon, as mentioned, is murdered. Ajax commits suicide. Nestor dies old and happy at home, in "sandy Pylot".

...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trojan one</td>
<td>Aeneas, a Trojan lord, son of the goddess Aphrodite, and Polydorus, a warrior.</td>
<td>AENEAS, Polydorus, or other Troy-related characters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trojan two</td>
<td>Ares, god of war, Antenor, and Euphorbus, warriors.</td>
<td>GLAUCUS (part 2), a New York-born warrior and countryman of Sarpedon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trojan three</td>
<td>Sarpedon, a Trojan and mortal son of Zeus; Helen, a seer, brother of Hector; Coon and Agenor, warriors; Lycaon, a young son of Priam and half-brother of Hector.</td>
<td>GLAUCUS (part 1), a Trojan warrior and countryman of Sarpedon, and others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trojan four</td>
<td>Apollo, the archer god; Pandarus, a renowned archer; Glaukous (part 1), a Trojan warrior and countryman of Sarpedon; Orthrynus, a warrior; Dolon, a spy.</td>
<td>MONICA SNITLY, a New York-born archer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trojan five</td>
<td>Iadus, a herald sent by Zeus; Socus and Psander, warriors; Artemis, Goddess of the Hunt.</td>
<td>TIDY A. WRIGHT, a New York-born archer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeus</td>
<td>King of the gods, god of thunder and lightning. Also referred to as &quot;Son of Cronus&quot; (his father) and brother of Hera, brother of Poseidon and Hades.</td>
<td>JAMIE DELMAN, a New York-born god.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hera</td>
<td>Wife (and sister) of Zeus, Goddess of Women. Has an implacable hatred for the Trojans.</td>
<td>TESSY A. WRIGHT, a New York-born goddess.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thetis</td>
<td>A sea-nymph, mother of Achilles, wife of the mortal hero, Peleus.</td>
<td>LEOLA BOETICHER, a New York-born sea-nymph.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hephaestus</td>
<td>The crippled, master craftsman god and god of fire, son of Hera and Prometheus, god of fire and war.</td>
<td>LAURA BELL, a New York-born god.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aphrodite</td>
<td>Goddess of love and beauty.</td>
<td>AMANDA GOFF, a New York-born goddess.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris</td>
<td>A messenger goddess.</td>
<td>ANDREA SHAVER, a New York-born messenger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priam</td>
<td>King of Troy, father of Hector, Paris, Cassandra and others. Husband to Hecuba.</td>
<td>ALLISON DORSEY, a New York-born king.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hector</td>
<td>The greatest Trojan warrior, son of Priam and Hecuba, husband to Andromache, brother of Paris.</td>
<td>DAVID HOWLAND, a New York-born warrior.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>Son of Priam, brother of Hector, consort to Helen. The most handsome mortal on earth.</td>
<td>RALPH GERMAIN, a New York-born mortal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andromache</td>
<td>Wife of Hector.</td>
<td>TESSA FARMER, a New York-born wife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trojan Nurse</td>
<td>Also: Machaon, an Argive healer; Thoas (part 2), an Argive warrior.</td>
<td>ELIZABETH LOOMIS, a New York-born healer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Sweeney</td>
<td>Aeneas, a Trojan lord, son of the goddess Aphrodite, and Polydorus, a warrior.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Glauber</td>
<td>Ares, god of war, Antenor, and Euphorbus, warriors.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Hykel</td>
<td>Sarpedon, a Trojan and mortal son of Zeus; Helen, a seer, brother of Hector; Coon and Agenor, warriors; Lycaon, a young son of Priam and half-brother of Hector.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Cassara</td>
<td>Apollo, the archer god; Pandarus, a renowned archer; Glaukous (part 1), a Trojan warrior and countryman of Sarpedon; Orthrynus, a warrior; Dolon, a spy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monica Snitly</td>
<td>Iadus, a herald sent by Zeus; Socus and Psander, warriors; Artemis, Goddess of the Hunt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Delman</td>
<td>King of the gods, god of thunder and lightning. Also referred to as &quot;Son of Cronus&quot; (his father) and brother of Hera, brother of Poseidon and Hades.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiffany A. Wright</td>
<td>Wife (and sister) of Zeus, Goddess of Women. Has an implacable hatred for the Trojans.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesa Boetcher</td>
<td>A sea-nymph, mother of Achilles, wife of the mortal hero, Peleus.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorna Bell</td>
<td>The crippled, master craftsman god and god of fire, son of Hera and Prometheus, god of fire and war.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Goff</td>
<td>Goddess of love and beauty.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrae Shaw</td>
<td>Messenger goddess.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allison Dorsey</td>
<td>The most beautiful woman in the world. A mortal daughter of Zeus. Was married to Menelaus, now consort to Paris.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kali Quinn</td>
<td>An Argive captive, given as a prize to Achilles.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percussionists</td>
<td>Mica Goldwater and Brad Hartman.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
artist biographies

Robert Fagles [translator] is Arthur W. Marks '19 Professor of Comparative Literature at Princeton University. He is the recipient of the 1997 PEN/Ralph Manheim Medal for Translation and a 1996 Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Mr. Fagles has been elected to the Academy, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. His translations of Sophocles' Three Theban Plays, Aeschylus' Oresteia (nominated for a National Book Award), and Homer's Iliad (winner of the 1991 Harold Morton Landon Translation Award by The Academy of American Poets, an award from the Translation Center of Columbia University, and the New Jersey Humanities Book Award) are published by Penguin. His original poetry as well as his translations have appeared in many journals and reviews. A book of his poems, I, Vincent: Poems from the Pictures of Van Gogh, was published in 1978. Mr. Fagles was an associate editor of Maynard Mack's Twickenham Edition of Alexander Pope's Iliad and Odyssey, and, with George Steiner, edited Homer: A Collection of Critical Essays. His new translation of Homer's Odyssey, was published in 1996.

Holly Laws (costume and puppet design) is a sculptor who has been creating unique objects for theatre and film for the last dozen years. Previous stage productions include The Enchanted Pig (Sundance Institute) and The Harlot's Progress (Henson International Puppet Festival/NYC). Her film credits include Last of the Mohicans, the Crucible, and The Ciderhouse Rules. She has worked extensively with artist, Theodora Skipitares, at the American Place Theater, La Mama, the Performing Garage, and the Kitchen. She designed costumes for Erik Ehn's adaptation of Faulkner's The Sound and the Fury at the Perishable Theatre in Rhode Island and co-designed the set and designed costumes for last season's UR production of Howard Marc Solomon's The Wild Man. She has degrees in sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University and the Tyler School of Art, Temple University. She was recently awarded the Rhode Island State Council of the Arts Fellowship in Three-Dimensional Art.

Allen D. Hahn (lighting design) has designed lights for opera, theatre and dance. Recent opera: Midsummer Night's Dream and Impressions de Pelleas at the Curtis Institute (Philadelphia), La Voix Humaine, Le Pauvre Matelot and La Grande Duchesse du Gérolstein for Opera Français (NYC) and Il Trittico (Spoleto Festival, USA). Recent dance: Jazz Train and Duke Ellington: In a Different Light with Donald Byrd/The Group; David Neumann and John Giorno (Central Park Summerstage) and Exit with Tw english Dance (Cunningham Studio, NYC). Recent theatre credits include: A Tale of Two Cities, Secret Machine, and Once Upon a Time in Chinese America with Fred Ho (NYC). The Iliad marks Allen's UR debut.

Obadiah Eaves (sound design and original score) has created sound design and composed music for over 10 productions at the University of Rochester, including Nigel Maister's Six Degrees of Separation, Baal, Spring Awakening, Death of a Salesman, The House of Bernarda Alba, The Wild Man, and Ghosts. Off-Broadway sound design and/or score credits include Punch! (HERE), Oedipus (Blue Light), Suzan Lori Parks' In the Blood and Liviu Ciulei's Hamlet at the NYSF/Public Theatre. His music for television can be heard on Nickelodeon's Noggin and on HBO. He lives in New York City.

Kay Hines (videography) is a multi-media artist living and working in NYC, specializing in art-related projects. Her work has included Tour Film for R.E.M., Spectruhelm (with Doug and Mike Starns) and Radiant City (with Theodora Skipitares). She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including an N.E.A. fellowship and two New York Foundation for the Arts grants. She collaborated with Nigel Maister on Ibsen's Ghosts at the UR in 1999.

Sally Goers Fox (movement and voice coach) earned her BA (Hons) in Drama in her native Australia, before moving to Europe where she trained with Jerzy Grofowski, Etienne Decroux, and George Tabori, amongst others. She performed with several companies throughout Europe, performing experimental theatre and large, outdoor pieces. She moved to Rochester, NY, as artistic director of MIMEworkshop, and completed her MFA in Theatre and Dance at SUNY Buffalo. She teaches, choreographs and coaches movement at the University of Rochester and at the University of Buffalo.

Steve Vaughan (fight direction) has been a professional fight director for 20 years. His work has been seen in UR productions of Henry IV, Happy End, and several operas at the Eastman School of Music. Locally he has directed fights at Shipping Dock, Blackfriars, SUNY Brockport and GeVa theatres. Steve has over 50 NYC soap opera credits, including One Life to Live, All My Children, Another World, The Guiding Light, Search for Tomorrow, and The Edge of Night. He is currently directing for Buffalo Shakespeare in the Park, and teaching and directing at Niagara University.

production staff

Production Stage Managers

Shannon Baker
Priya Deshpande
Jennifer Musumeci
Anietie Ukpe
Joe Martello
Sara Courtney
Kristine Kennedy
Anietie Ukpe
Priya Deshpande
Michelle Long
Ilya Buldyrev
Jeremy Barowsky
Valerie Fischer
Anthony Inweh
Thadeus Price

Master Electrician

Ilya Buldyrev
Michelle Long
Moriko Tamate

Assistant Directors

John Gilfus
Charmier Corey
Brian Harding
Courtney Preston

Assistant to the Set Designer

Shannon Baker
John Gilfus
Charmier Corey
Brian Harding
Courtney Preston

Light Board Operator

John Gilfus
Charmier Corey
Brian Harding
Courtney Preston

Sound Board Operator

Shannon Baker
John Gilfus
Charmier Corey
Brian Harding
Courtney Preston

Run Crew

John Gilfus
Charmier Corey
Brian Harding
Courtney Preston

Video Run Crew

John Gilfus
Charmier Corey
Brian Harding
Courtney Preston
special thanks
this production would not have been possible without the generosity of a great number of individuals, companies and institutions. grateful acknowledgement is made of the following (for contact information about any vendors or manufacturers listed below, please contact the theatre program offices):

prof. robert tagels • ms. louder lópez & georges borchart, inc. • profs. rebecca resinski & al gerber • the ur classics dept. (prof. emil holderin, chair) • prof. tom hahn • the ur english dept. colloquium committee (prof. beth london, chair) • dean william scott green • jim @ the presentation source • captain thomas feeks @ the ur naval science dept. • big apple lights • don newcomb @ general blacksmithing • ian belton • royal reality • dieter froese and deke video • john mcclellan • the chess club of rochester • paul b. latshaw @ oak hill country club • randy harl @ global events • larry @ riefier concrete • the rochester police dept. • the municipality of greece, ny • ian quinn • tim @ iron mike's • michelle stone @ club med • michael corsi @ michael corsi posters • martin anderson @ boston brace international, inc. • jim oumillo @ the lighting store • gail ohmann @ promotion by design • sally hadley @ d.c. may ma crepe corporation • fred and susan @ stricklands window coverings • frederick d. elliot @ vietnam veterans of america • hecate's pupil • steve crowley • peter dusall • the guys @ 119 e. henrietta • peg webber @ rochester community players • fr. brian cool • pamela wilkins white @ ur ballet performance group • mark lu @ rochester d & c • isabel neuberger & wxxi

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scenery
qiana alexander • chuck audet • shannon baker • shani carter • ji-hung choi • shane cooke • patrick caullfield • rashida davis • john gidado • will haag • alan hunter • song won kang • hyoung mi kim • thomas kise • ken ma • tamika manns • edwine michel cline • miller • trent nelson • jeremy oliver • cynthia ortega • luiz paz • manuel ramirez • leopolda santana • essie sierra • georgia formolou • nicholas waldron • jeanne weir • danny yang • jongho you

props
jessica adler • shean barrett • shawn cleko • samantha colon • susan karcz • rafael de la cruz • adam garnett • jesse greaves • jonathan klein • nihar mehta • nithin mettu • dev patwa • madhavi pola • manuel ramirez • rachel rineberg • ebony robinson • leopolda santana • jason starace • denzil thomas

costume
hiwad ayub • miguel davilla • alison kaprove • bryan kelly • gyasi mann • ana milian • bhavani murugesan • seung oh • ned okarlor • joseph terry • veneet sawhney • monique terry • sharon vengadesan • courtney williams

lighting
rakib azad • michael benain • kwang jin jang • woojin jang • beom jin kim • jun kim kim • kevin kyung joo lee • samuel lopez • mukul sath • keron twum

publicity
qiana alexander • kofi asante • janica barnett • hyung-soo cho • rashida davis • steven harrison • seung hwan kim • lavneeta kothari • monique saran • georgia formolou

the ur international theatre program says goodbye to, and wishes well, the following graduating seniors and departing students:

monica smith • lesa boettcher
lucy stevens

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