

PENFOLD THEATRE COMPANY & AUSTIN SCOTTISH RITE THEATER PRESENT

AN ILIAD

BY LISA PETERSON

AND DENIS O'HARE

BASED ON HOMER'S 'THE ILIAD'
STARRING CAMI ALYS

TRANSLATED BY ROBERT FAGLES
DIRECTED BY NATHAN JERKINS



From our Director

The Iliad's story of the Trojan War doesn't change, but we do. Culturally and individually, we are not the same people the story was written for, but Homer's epic seems to remain compelling generation after generation in civilization after civilization. Why?

Because war stories are always relevant.

Yes, at this particular moment we are still in the longest declared war of America's history, but when we include our unofficial conflicts, we could argue that America has always been at war. We're not unique in that, though. The story of our collective human history can cohesively be read as the story of continual war, only changing names and locations and participants.

In Homer's Iliad we watch the Greeks and Trojans ask why they fight, and reflect, nine years into their war, how their answers to that question have changed. Before the continual backdrop of seemingly-endless conflict, the focus moves from the grand public victories to the small personal ones. We start to see the trees in the forest, so to speak, and take notice of the individual triumphs and tragedies that occur to the people caught in this tiny moment and corner of (fictionalized) history.

And as time passes, perhaps they find it harder to sing the praises of war or to cheer as loudly as they once did. Or if they don't, I hope someday we will. As our Poet observes, "Every time I sing this song, I hope it's the last time".

-Nathan Jerkins, Director

AN ILIAD was originally developed as part of the New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspects Program, Off-Broadway premiere produced by New York Theatre Workshop (Jim Nicola, Artistic Director; William Russo, Managing Director) in 2012.

AN ILIAD was originally produced by Seattle Repertory Theatre (Jerry Manning Producing Artistic Director; Benjamin Moore, Managing Director).

It was subsequently produced by McCarter Theatre Center, Princeton, NJ (Emily Mann, Artistic Director; Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director, Mara Isaacs, Producing Director).

AN ILIAD was developed in part with the assistance of the Sundance Institute Theatre Program.

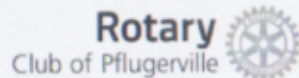
AN ILIAD is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., NY.

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CAST & BAND

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Poet | Cami Alys |
| Piano, banjo | Seth Osborn |
| Cello | Henna Chou |
| Drums | Steve Cruz |
| Guitar | Ky Hote |
| French horn | Brittany Carson Koepp |

PRODUCTION TEAM

| | |
|---|---|
| Director | Nathan Jerkins |
| Composer | Seth Osborn |
| Stage Manager | Amanda Gass |
| Assistant Director | Ryan Crowder |
| Assistant Composer | Hanno Donnelly |
| Scenic Designer | Brianna Smith |
| Lighting Designer | Rachel Atkinson |
| Costume Designer | Jenny Hanna Chambers |
| Sound Designer | Nicolae Wallace |
| Graphic Designer | Jennifer Davis |
| Penfold Producing Artistic Director | Ryan Crowder |
| Penfold Associate Artistic Director | Nathan Jerkins |
| Penfold House Manager | Gabie Fultz |
| ASRT Producing Artistic Director | Susan Gayle Todd, Ph.D. |
| ASRT Operations Manager | Deanna Belardinelli |
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Cast & Band



Cami Alys (Poet) This is Cami's first performance with Penfold Theatre. She is Host and Co-Producer of *Industry Night*, an old-school variety show. Other Austin credits include productions at Salvage Vanguard Theatre, Hidden Room, Rude Mechs, Glass Half Full Theatre, Paper Chairs, Trouble Puppet Theatre, Breaking String and Whirligig. International touring credits include *I've Never Been*

So Happy (Rude Mechs); *The Intergalactic Nemesis*; *La Putain Avec Les Fleurs* (Rocky Hopson); and *Der Bestrafte Brudermord* (Hidden Room). On occasion, Cami will don a white curly wig and front the Funk Rock band, Baby Got Bacteria. Also, keep your eyes open for Isabella and Her Dinosaur, a comedic song and dance duo who talk about the world through children's tunes and crystal glasses of cheap whiskey. Thank you, Zachary Muhn, for being my one guy on the mountain, with your very strong light, keeping me safe, way out here in the ocean. Thanks for listening. Go tell someone your story.

Henna Shih-Han Chou (Cello) has traveled the world over the past decade as a Geographic Information Systems Analyst and musician. She is currently the managing director of COTFG, a community organization dedicated to the proliferation of creative music and future-minded expressions. Chou has participated in ensembles such as New Music Co-op, Linen Closet, Aux Aux, Moist Flesh and a handful of theater productions as a keyboardist, cellist, guitarist, or other sound creator.

Steve Cruz (Drums) is a stage actor and musician. Steve was the percussionist for Seth Osborn's 2012 Desert Album, *Huya Ania*. His recent regional stage roles include *Present Laughter* and *Pride and Prejudice* (Austin Shakespeare). Steve holds a B.F.A. Acting from Northern Arizona University and is a Culinary Partner with Counter Cafe Inc.

Ky Hote (Guitar) is leader of the bands Gypsy Rox and the Ky Hote Experience; a renaissance festival performer since 1998; Host/Producer of George Harrison Tributes since 2005; and a singer/songwriter since 1976. Ky's prior theater experience includes pit band for *Little Shop of Horrors*, assistant music director for *Hair* and being directed by his mother Anne Putnam in many productions.

Brittany Carson Koepp (French horn) is excited to be performing with Penfold for the first time. She has previously played French horn in *The Wizard of Oz* at the Georgetown Palace, where she was also in the ensemble for *Cabaret* and *The Wedding Singer*. Too, she performed in the ensemble for Zilker Theater Production's *Oklahoma!* You can catch her playing keyboard and singing with the original glam/prog rock group, Chasca. Brittany holds a B.A. in Music Theory from UT Arlington.

Seth Osborn (Composer, Piano, Banjo) started classical piano lessons when he was six after telling his parents he wanted to be a composer. He also taught himself guitar and bluegrass banjo, and has led several bands as songwriter, most recently The Tiny Tin Hearts in Austin. He is also releasing his first solo album this month, a musical tribute to the American desert. His compositions have often brought together disparate influences, genres, and instruments. He is also a visual artist, and history enthusiast. He graduated from University of the Arts in Philadelphia in 2002 with a B.F.A. in painting.

Production Team

Rachel Atkinson (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to return to Penfold, where she has previously designed *Clybourne Park* and *Now, Then, Again*. Recent productions include *Hot Belly for Paper Chairs*, *Don Quixote de la Redo*, *Petra and the Wolf* (Glass Half Full Theatre); *The Totalitarians* (Theatre En Bloc); *The Price* (Jarrott Productions); *Moby Dick* (Trouble Puppet); *Salome* (Gale Theatre Company); *Buyer and Cellar*, *Charlotte's Web* (ZACH); *Snapshots for A'lante Flamenco* and *Tribes* (The Playhouse San Antonio). She has her M.F.A. in Lighting Design from The University of Texas at Austin.

Jenny Hanna-Chambers (Costume Designer) has designed Austin productions such as *Anything Goes*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Funny House of a Negro*, *Hair*, *Footloose*, *Just Outside Redemption*, *Fat Pig*, *Jacob's Ladder*, *The Totalitarians*, and *Drowning Girls*. Jenny holds a B.F.A. in Costume Design from Texas State University. She has worked with different groups designing and constructing including ACC, Imagine That Productions, Zilker Productions, and Theatre en Bloc.

Amanda Gass (Stage Manager) is delighted to join Penfold again after stage managing *It's A Wonderful Life Classic Radiocast*. She recently directed *Closer* for 7 Towers Theatre where she serves as Co-Artistic Director. Some of her favorite stage management credits include *All's Well That Ends Well*, *The Pillowman* (7 Towers); *Messenger No. 4*, *The Nina Variations* (Cambiare Productions); *Hairspray*, *Becky's New Car*, *Fiction*, and *Grapes of Wrath* (ZACH). Amanda holds an M.A. in Directing from Texas State University.

Nathan Jerkins (Director) is a co-founder and Associate Artistic Director for the Penfold Theatre Company. He's been nominated for Best Director for Penfold's past productions of *Clybourne Park* and *RED* and has directed his original adaptation of *It's a Wonderful Life Classic Radiocast*. He has also created two other original adaptations: *A Christmas Carol Classic Radiocast* and *A Miracle on 34th Street Classic Radiocast* and has assistant directed Penfold's *Ghosts*, *John & Jen*, and *Moonlight and Magnolias*.

Denis O'Hare (Author) is an actor and writer who lives in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. Mr. O'Hare attended Northwestern University where he studied poetry and theatre. He pursued an acting career in Chicago while maintaining a literary salon called the "Ansuz." In 1992, Mr. O'Hare moved to New York to continue his acting career where he appeared in numerous productions on Broadway and Off-Broadway all the while exploring creative writing in the form of plays and screenplays. He has written three screenplays, numerous poems, and one other play.

Lisa Peterson (Author) was Resident Director at the Mark Taper Forum for ten years, and Associate Director at La Jolla Playhouse for three years before that. Her other adaptations include *The Waves*, *The Good Book*, and *Insurance Men*. Her directing credits include world premieres of Tony Kushner's *Slavs!*, Donald Margulies' *Collected Stories* and *The Model Apartment*, Naomi Wallace' *Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*, and many others. She has worked at theaters around the country including New York Theater Workshop, The Public, Playwrights Horizons, The Vineyard, Primary Stages, Manhattan Theater Club, Guthrie Theater, Seattle Rep, Berkeley Rep, Actors Theater of Louisville, Arena Stage, Yale Rep, and the McCarter Theater.

Brianna Susan Smith (Scenic Designer) is a multi-disciplinary artist with a focus on social justice and community engagement. As a director, choreographer, designer, educator, collaborator and performer, Smith has worked on new scripts and established works. She is the Founder of TAPROOT, a devised performance ensemble creating experiential and interactive work in non-traditional spaces. Her work has been featured in festivals, conferences and events throughout the U.S. Smith is an alumna of Director's Lab West in L.A., a member of the Network of Ensemble Theatres and Theatre Without Borders.

Nicolae Wallace (Sound Designer) graduated with an associate's degree in music from Miracosta College in Oceanside, CA. He has worked professionally as a sound tech all over the US from theatre to music working with everything from extreme metal to conference speakers, ranging from local bands to international professionals. He currently resides in Austin where he owns and operates his own recording studio, Aeternity Studios.

Special Thanks

Special thanks go out to the Daughtery Art Center, Servant Church and Westover Church.

Additionally, thanks go to **Penfold's Producers' Circle**, a group of generous monthly donors including: The Art of Finance LLC, Bowties 2 Blue Jeans Catering Company, Gwyn Baird, Terra Brimberry, Molly Bucy, Olivia Buffaloe, Joan Carr, Wendy Cole, Larry Crowder, Ryan Crowder, Stephanie Delk, Debbie Dean, Sue Duncan, Debbie Follien, Rufus Honeycutt, Cathy Kincaid, Gina Palluck, Erin Peña, Wade & Michael Phipps, Steven Pounders, Andrea Smith, Ben Smith, Anna Strickland, Laura Walberg, Donna Withrow and Kathy Wright.

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AN IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

CLASSIC RADIOCAST

BY NATHAN JERKINS

DECEMBER 1-23, 2016

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ADAPTED FROM HOMER

BY LISA PETERSON AND DENNIS O'HARE,

TRANSLATION BY ROBERT FAGLES

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YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

WITH TERRY GALLOWAY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

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