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ur  
international  
theatre  
program  
presents

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, poster and program design by  
lmaister@claren  
lmaister@claren.com

## 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 percieve 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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# the iliad

by homer

translated by robert fagles

conceived, adapted and directed by nigel maister

set design by nigel maister

costume and puppet design by holly laws

lighting design by allen d. hahn

sound and original score by obadiah eaves

videography by kay hines

movement and voice coaching by sally goers fox

additional choreography by onaje bell

fight direction by steve vaughan

assistant fight direction by lawrence woodhouse

production stage management by

alison eastwood and kristine kennedy

### part 1

#### behold my affliction

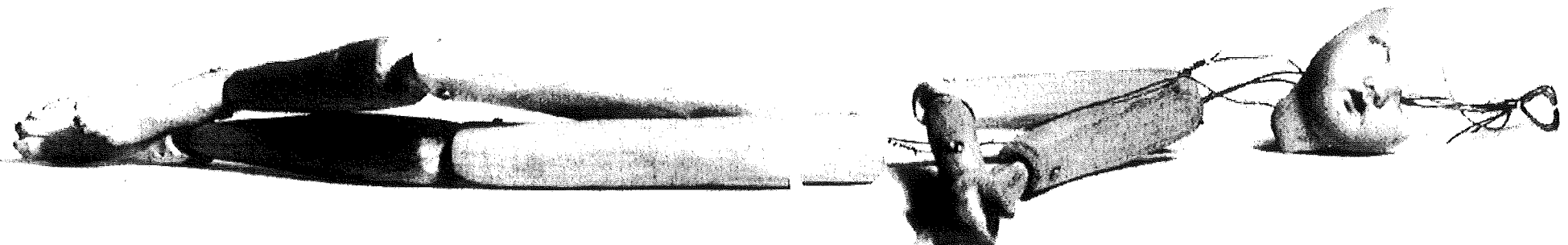
running time 2 hrs 30 min  
with one 15 minute intermission

### 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 bribe. Hera offered him power and greatness. 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

Helen, the daughter of Zeus and a mortal woman, Leta, had, since birth, been much courted 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 warlord, 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 take 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 capture 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 Hisarlik, 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 Scaean 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 Xanthus (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 Peloponnese peninsula on the Hellene (Greek) mainland. The Greek forces are referred to variously as Argives, Achaeans, Danaans, and include the group under Achilles' command, the Myrmidons.

### aulis

Before setting out for Troy, the Argive forces were becalmed 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 Aslanax, 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, she bares her breasts and, overcome by her beauty, he drops his sword!) Aeneas's 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). Hecuba, 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 Pylos".

## cast list

**agamemnon**  
captain in chief of the argives, a king. brother of menelaus. also known as "atrides" or "son of atreus". [asst. fight captain]

**menelaus**  
brother of agamemnon. husband of helen. a king. at times, also called "atrides".

**odysseus**  
known as "the great tactician". ruler of the island kingdom of Ithaca.

**achilles**  
the greatest of the argive warriors. captain of the myrmidons, an argive ally. son of the sea nymph, thetis, and a mortal, peleus.

**nestor**  
an old horseman and great warrior. father of antilochus.

**patroclus**  
a prince. close friend of achilles; his aide and confidant.

**argive one**  
also: **poseidon**, god of the sea and earthquake. brother of zeus and hades; **plisander**, a myrmidon captain; **thoas** (part 1) and **eurypalus**, soldiers.

**argive two**  
also: **idomeneus**, a warlord; **telamonian ajax**, a great warrior, a giant; **hepolemus**, a young warrior. son of the famous hero, heracles; **menesthius**, a myrmidon captain.

**argive three**  
also: **diomedes**, a great warrior, son of tydeus; **automedon**, a myrmidon captain and horseman. [fight captain]

**argive four**  
also: **calchas**, a seer; **meges**, a soldier; **sleep**, the god; **alcimedon**, a myrmidon captain.

**argive five**  
also: **themis**, goddess of law and custom; **merlones**, a soldier; **antilochus**, son of nestor; **eudorus**, a myrmidon captain.

**priam**  
king of troy. father of hector, paris, cassandra and others. husband to hecuba.  
also: **chryses**, a priest of apollo, father of chryseis.

**hector**  
the greatest trojan warrior. son of priam and hecuba. husband to andromache. brother of paris.

**paris**  
son of priam. brother of hector. consort to helen. the most handsome mortal on earth.  
also: **hermes**, a god, a guide and "giant killer". son of zeus.

**andromache**  
wife of hector.

**hecuba**  
wife of priam. mother of hector and paris.

**a trojan nurse**  
also: **machaon**, an argive healer; **thoas** (part 2), an argive warrior.

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RALPH GERMAIN

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MARIKO TAMATE

ELIZABETH LOOMIS

trojan one

also: **aeneas**, a trojan lord, son of the goddess, aphrodite; **adrestus** and **polydamus**, warriors;

trojan two

also: **ares**, god of war; **antenor** and **euphorbus**, warriors; **glaucus** (part 2), a warlord and countryman of sarpedon

trojan three

also: **sarpedon**, a warlord and mortal son of zeus; **helenus**, a seer, brother of hector; **coon** and **agenor**, warriors; **lycaon**, a young son of priam and half-brother of hector.

trojan four

also: **apollo**, the archer god; **pandarus**, a renowned archer; **glaucus** (part 1) a warlord and countryman of sarpedon; **orthryoneus**, a warrior; **dolon**, a spy.

trojan five

also: **idaeus**, a herald sent by zeus; **socus** and **plisander**, warriors; **artemis**, goddess of the hunt.

zeus

king of the gods. god of thunder and lightning. also referred to as "son of cronus". husband (and brother) of hera. brother of poseidon and hades. father of athena, aphrodite, ares and other gods, as well as many mortals, including helen and sarpedon.

hera

wife (and sister) of zeus. goddess of women. has an implacable hatred for the trojans.

thetis

a sea-nymph. mother of achilles. wife of the mortal hero, peleus.

hephaestus

the crippled, master craftsman god and god of fire. son of hera.

athena

goddess of wisdom and war. daughter of zeus. a defender of the argives.

aphrodite

goddess of love.

iris

a messenger goddess.

also: **scamander**, god of the river scamander (the xanthus), a river on the trojan plain.

helen

the most beautiful woman in the world. a mortal daughter of zeus. was married to menelaus. now consort to paris.

also: **chryseis**, daughter of chryses (a priest of apollo) and argive captive.

cassandra

a daughter of priam. a prophetess, cursed by apollo that her prophesies would never be believed.

also: **thersites** and **peneleos**, argive soldiers; **phoenix**, an old myrmidon captain and horseman.

briseis

an argive captive. given as a prize to achilles.

also: **sthenelus**, a young argive warrior and aide to diomedes; **teucer**, an argive archer and brother of ajax; **talthybius**, a herald sent by zeus.

percussionists

MICAH GOLDWATER and BRAD HARTMAN

CHRIS SWEENEY

DANIEL GLAUBER

JAMES HYKEL

RICHARD CASSARA

MONICA SNITILY

JAMIE DELMAN

TIFFANY A. WRIGHT

LESA BOETCHER

ONAJE BELL

AMANDA GOFF

MELISSA MARKLEY

ANDREA SHAYE

ALLISON DORSEY

LUCY STEVENS

KALI QUINN

## 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 Matelou* and *La Grande Duchesse du Gerolstein* for Opera Francais (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 Swenglish 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., *Spectraheliographs* (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 goes fox** (movement and voice coach) earned her BA (Hons) in Drama in her native Australia, before moving to Europe where she trained with Jerzy Grotowski, Etienne Decroux, and George Taboris, 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 stage managers

alison eastwood	kristine kennedy
shannon baker	ilya buldyrev
priya deshpande	michelle long
jennifer musumeci	mariko tamate

### master electrician assistant directors assistant to the set designer light board operator

anietie ukpe	
joe martello	
sara courtney	john gilfus
kristine kennedy	

### sound board operator

priya deshpande
-----------------

### run crew

michelle long	shannon baker
ilya buldyrev	john gilfus
jeremy barowsky	charnier corey
valerie fischer	brian harding
anthony inweh	courtney preston
thaddeus price	

### video run crew

### 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 fagles** • ms. **lourdes lopez** & **georges borchardt, inc.** • profs. **rebecca resinski** & **al geier** • the **ur classics dept.** (prof. **emil holderin**, chair) • prof. **tom hahn** • the **ur english dept. colloquium committee** (prof. **bette 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 realty** • **di-eter froese** and **dekart video** • **john mcclellan** • the **chess club of rochester** • **paul b. latshaw @ oak hill country club** • **randy hart @ global events** • **larry @ riefler concrete** • the **rochester police dept.** • the **municipality of greece, ny** • **ian quinn** • **tim @ iron mikes** • **michelle stone @ club med** • **michael corsi @ michael corsi posters** • **martin andersson @ boston brace international, inc.** • **jim ouimette @ the lighting store** • **gail ehmann @ pro motivations 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 dusaitis** • the **guys @ 119 e. henrietta** • **peg webber @ rochester community players** • **fr. brian cool** • **pamela wilkins white @ ur ballet performance group** • **mark liu @ rochester d & c** • **isobel neuberger & wxxi**

this production of **the iliad** is made possible through the hard work and dedication of students in **plays in production, eng 384 and 386**

### scenery

**ajana alexander** • **chuck audet** • **shannon baker** • **shani carty** • **ji-hung chol** • **shane cooke** • **patrick cauffield** • **rashida davis** • **john gidada** • **will haag** • **alan hunter** • **sang won kang** • **hyoung mi kim** • **thomas kise** • **ken ma** • **tamika manns** • **edwine michel** • **clint miller** • **trent nelson** • **jeremy oliver** • **cynthia ortega** • **luiz paz** • **manuel ramirez** • **leopolda santana** • **essie sierra** • **georgia tormolousi** • **nicholas waldron** • **jeanette weir** • **danny yang** • **jongho you**

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### costume

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

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**rakib azad** • **michel benain** • **kwang jun jang** • **woojin jang** • **beom jin kim** • **jun kim kim** • **kevin kyung joo lee** • **samuel lopez** • **mukul seth** • **keron twum**

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**lucy stevens**

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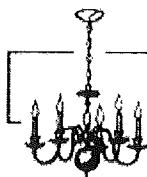
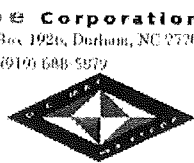
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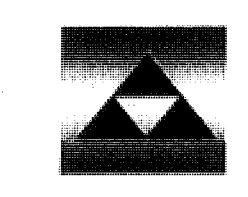


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