



THE POWER OF THE ILIAD TODAY

LIBRARY COORDINATOR INFORMATION

For this first year Page and Stage is based around themes found in Homer's *Iliad* and their relationship to contemporary American life. The *Iliad* is one of the most remarkable texts to have come down to us from Ancient Greece and has been the inspiration for literature, poetry and drama all over the world. A leading scholar in the field of Classics will guide reading groups, post performance discussions, lectures and workshops all exploring the program theme you have chosen as it relates to the *Iliad* and today.

PERFORMANCE: HOMER'S ILIAD: BOOK ONE

For many of you the first Page and Stage events held at our library will be the performance of Homer's *Iliad: Book One* by the New York based Aquila Theatre and a workshop on exploring classical texts. The performance will feature seven professional actors and last approximately seventy minutes. There are photos of the production available on the Page and Stage website (www.pageandstage.org) and the translation by Stanley Lombardo has been distributed to all our partner libraries as one of our collected program texts. Professor Lombardo is also a consultant on the program and you can learn more about him and read an essay by him on our website.

Our production manager, Nate Terracio will also be in touch regarding the actual staging of the show, which is very simple. We will bring in and set up all the equipment we need to stage the show and send you all a detailed explanation of how this will work.

The production of the *Iliad: Book One* is an excellent way to introduce your patrons to the program and attract some new visitors to your facility. The performance is suitable for all ages but very small children should be discouraged from attending as they may disturb other members of the audience. This production of the *Iliad: Book One* premiered at Lincoln Center in New York in 2000 to critical and audience acclaim and we know your audience will relish having a production of this caliber at their library.

After the performance the local scholar will hold an audience discussion focused on the themes of the program. We encourage you to perhaps hold a small reception after the show so audience members can mingle with the scholar and members of the cast.

WORKSHOP

Members of the *Iliad: Book One* component will also present an acting workshop at your library. Some of these will be scheduled on the same day as the show, some at other times. Ideally we envision that the workshop may reach another type of audience than the performance. Aquila has found that their workshops attract adult members of the community, students, local actors and artists, teachers and scholars. Participants do not



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have to have any acting experience and they can opt to watch rather than participate. The workshop will last approximately one hour, followed by discussion. The workshop will focus on Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* and explore the program themes connecting modern films and drama with Shakespeare back to the Greeks and Homer. We encourage you to publicize the workshops to community groups, bookstores, dance and drama schools, colleges, high schools, local theatres and arts groups.

PUBLIC LECTURE

Your local scholar will schedule a meeting with you to discuss and schedule a public lecture based around the program theme. We have an amazing group of scholars hand picked by the American Philological Association. They are all professors from university Classics departments. Our scholars are published authors, recognized literary critics and experts in their field and have been briefed on how to pitch their talks to your audience. We hope you will greatly enjoy working with your scholar to develop a great public lecture. The Page and Stage office will facilitate the initial communication between you and your local scholar.

READING GROUPS / FILM SERIES

Your local scholar will also work with you to plan a reading group / film series. Your input here will be most valuable and we suggest using the existing models you have for reading groups at your library. Three or four books, including sections from Homer's *Iliad* will be chosen and Page and Stage will provide up to twenty sets of these books to give to reading group participants and add to your collection. You and your scholar may also opt for a film series or a combination of reading group and film series. Our consultant, Professor Herbert Golder will provide suggestions of films that reflect the program themes and provide commentaries on each title. We will also provide these DVD's that can then be added to your collection.

BOOKS

Each participating library will be receiving a set of new translations of ancient dramatic texts. We would like you to create a display with these books accompanied by some of the Page and Stage posters and flyers we are sending you to engage your patrons in some of the books behind the program. People who are serving as scholars or consultants on Page and Stage have authored most of these books. These books will then make a nice addition to your collection.



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PUBLICITY

We will be sending you a plethora of publicity materials to advertise this program. These include bookmarks, brochures, posters and banners and we hope you will use them to prominently advertise the program through the course of all the events at your library. We will also be providing you with some funds to be used for local publicity and publicizing the program at the local performing arts center where Aquila will be performing. We have also engaged a national press agent to gain publicity at that level. The program has already been featured in the New York Times and Washington Post and we encourage you to put the person who handled your publicity and outreach (if indeed it is not you!) in contact with our office.

We will also be circulating a press pack with listing details, photos, logos, a press release, program information, bios and web links. We ask that before you release anything to the public via your website or in print that you run it by the Page and Stage office just to make sure we are all on the same proverbial page. Also we are supplying you with photos, which are under copyright to the photographer so we ask that you credit the photographer and only use the photos we provide, this press info can also be downloaded at www.pageandstage.org

WEBSITE

The program website www.pageandstage.org is up and running and growing every day. Here you will find, background material, contact information, scholar essays, podcasts, video clips, resources and useful links. There is also an online discussion board which we hope will start a national conversation on the program themes and encourage you and your patrons to post. As the site grows, more and more content will be added and this will provide a useful resource for the program. Please do add a link to the Page and Stage site from your library site.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Aquila will be performing at a local arts center near you. The audience there will be encouraged to attend the program at your library by way of program and lobby publicity, announcements and a scholar essay and brochure distributed in every playbill. We will put you in contact with the Page and Stage coordinator at each venue and hope this will foster an ongoing relationship between you and the arts center to mutually develop audiences and programming in the future. Most of our arts centers are also offering significant discounts to Aquila's productions which this year are Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* and of course Homer's *Iliad: Book One*.



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CONTACT

Please do not hesitate to get into contact with us for anything at all. We can be reached at (212) 992-9642 or andrea@aquilatheatre.com. Andrea Skafish is our point person but anyone in The Aquila Theatre Company office can help you if Andrea is off site for any reason.

VISITS

We are going to try and visit you all before, during or after the program. We want your feedback, ideas and suggestions. This is the very first time a program like this has taken place and we will have much to learn and improve.

REPORTING

Our friends at the Urban Libraries Council have agreed to undertake the job of compiling data and research. We will be in touch about polling your patrons on the program and getting both their and your feedback.

PARTNERS

Page and Stage is a program administered by Aquila Theatre a 501(c) 3 Not for Profit Organization based in New York. Our program partners are: The New York University Center for Ancient Studies where Aquila is professional company in residence; the American Philological Association, the association of professional classicists in the United States; and the Urban Libraries Council. Page and Stage is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and Aquila Theatre. Full bios of each partner organization are available at www.pageandstage.org

PEOPLE

Please visit www.pageandstage.org for a complete list and bios of program staff, advisory board, consultants and scholars.

THE FUTURE

We are applying for two further expansions of Page and Stage. The first is a program at public libraries aimed at youth called Page and Stage to Screen based around developing a film of Sophocles' *Antigone* and exploring the humanities themes found in the play. The second is a major expansion of Page and Stage to fifty libraries nationwide. We hope you will continue to be part of both the start and future of this great new program.