

For Immediate Release

(NAME OF LIBRARY) Program on theater and culture - PAGE & STAGE: The Power of the Iliad Today

(CITY, STATE) – (NAME OF LIBRARY) will host a brand new free program series, “Page and Stage: The Power of the Iliad Today;” a ground breaking in-depth partnership between the library and the theatre sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and involving New York’s acclaimed Aquila Theatre, the American Philological Association which represents Classics professors in the US, the Urban Libraries Council and New York University’s Center for Ancient Studies. The events are designed to inspire people to come together to read, see, and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life.

Peter Meineck, artistic director of Aquila Theatre and clinical assistant professor of classics at New York University is directing the program “The themes that articulated the human condition in ancient drama were transmitted and interpreted by later poetry and literature. A play becomes ‘classical’ because we recognize after a time that it transcends the culture it was created for. It has the power still to provoke that central question of what it means to be human,” said Mr. Meineck.

Thus (LIBRARY NAME) will explore Homer’s *Iliad* through the perspective of the program theme: (THEMATIC UNIT) and exploring the power of The Iliad today.

The program kicks off with a free performance of Aquila Theatre’s innovative production of Homer’s *Iliad: Book One* live at the library on (DATE) followed by a post show discussion with noted local scholar (NAME OF SCHOLAR) from (NAME OF INSTITUTION). This production premiered at Lincoln Center in New York and was hailed by the New York Times as “a performance of staggering power...stunning, stirring, and memorable theatrical experience”.

Other free events include a workshop with the Aquila actors on staging classical plays, a multi-session reading group and or film series and a public lecture by the local expert scholar on the theme of (LIST THEME HERE). These events are designed to inspire people to come together to read, see, and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life. (LIBRARY NAME) is one of sixteen libraries in seven states nationwide receiving grants to host this series.

Aquila Theatre’s performance of Homer’s *Iliad: Book One* to be held on (DAY, DATE) at (TIME) at (LIBRARY NAME AND ADDRESS).

An acting workshop, during which participants may explore the performing of classical theatre will be held on (DAY, DATE) at (TIME) at (LIBRARY NAME AND ADDRESS).

For more information regarding the scheduling of a monthly reading group and a public lecture with a local Professor please visit (LIBRARY’S WEBSITE OR www.pageandstage.org) or

Local Contact: (LIBRARY PRESS CONTACT NAME & PHONE NUMBER)

National Contact: (David Gersten, David Gersten & Associates 240 West 44th Street, NY, NY 10036 (212) 575-0263 Fax (212) 575-2240 www.davidgersten.com)



THE POWER OF THE ILIAD TODAY

contact (LIBRARY/PROGRAM DIRECTOR).

Aquila Theatre's mission is to bring the greatest theatrical works to the greatest number. By presenting a regular season of plays in New York, at international festivals, and touring to approximately seventy American towns and cities a year, Aquila provides access to excellent theatre for people in under-served rural and inner city communities.

(MORE)

PAGE TWO:

(END RELEASE WITH BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR LIBRARY, HOURS, LOCATION, WEBSITE, ETC.)

(END OF PRESS RELEASE)

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***LISTING INFO FOR ALL EVENTS – Please use the following information for website and print copy**

Four Ways for Library Patrons to Get Involved

READING GROUP: Discover and discuss the impact of Homer with a leading scholar

PERFORMANCE: Come see New York's Aquila Theater performs Homer's *Iliad: Book One* and join in a post-performance discussion

*(Please allow between one hour and one hour and forty-five minutes for the performance and the post-performance discussion with the local scholar.)

WORKSHOP: Participate in a Classical Theatre Workshop with actors from Aquila Theatre

*(Please allow between one hour and hour and fifteen minutes for the performance and the post-performance discussion with the local scholar.)

PUBLIC LECTURE: Attend exciting talks given by expert scholars

On Aquila Theatre's Performance of the *Iliad: Book One*

Aquila's groundbreaking production of the *Iliad: Book One* premiered at Lincoln Center, New York in 2000 and has been hailed by the New York Times as "a performance of staggering power...stunning, stirring, and memorable theatrical experience." Aquila's production is inspired by the cover of Stanley Lombardo's translation, which is a photograph of the D-day landings, entitled, "Into the Jaws of Death." A disparate group of soldiers and refugees take refuge from a savage war and find solace and humanity in Homer's epic tale. 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.

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