

Visions & Voices: An Iliad

 Tags: [theater](#), [visions_voices](#), [war](#)

Guide to Visions and Voices to accompany the play's performance at the Broad Theater on January 22, 2014.

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Event

This brief guide was created to complement the Visions & Voices event scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2014.

This trip is for current USC students only. You must use the provided transportation to participate.

Space is limited and advance registration is required. [RSVP](#) beginning Monday, December 9, 2013 at 9 a.m.

For event details, go to www.usc.edu/visionsandvoices.

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Reviews of An Iliad

[Los Angeles Times, January 12, 2014](#)

[Boston Globe, April 30, 2013](#)

[Chicago Tribune, November 18, 2013](#)

[Chicago Tribune, November 21, 2011](#)

[New York Times, March 7, 2012](#)

[Washington Post, Dec.30, 2012](#)

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About This Guide

This guide was originally created for Visions and Voices.

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About the Play

An Iliad is based on Homer's ancient Greek epic poem adapted by Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson from the translation by Robert Fagles. Rendered in contemporary prose, this one-actor production is being performed at Santa Monica's [Broad Stage](#).

"The action in "An Iliad" unfolds in the ninth year of the Trojan War, with Troy under siege by the Greeks. "Fighting on and off, fighting to the wall and back," says O'Hare. "Greeks win one day, Trojans win the next, like a game of tug-of-war, and nothing to show for it but exhaustion, poverty, and loneliness." Emotions are equally raw and specific in a scene, enacted by O'Hare with harrowing force, in which Patroclus is killed by Hector, a prince and the commander of the Trojan army. Upon learning of the death of his friend, the Greek leader Achilles is driven to a fury of revenge.

Not content just to kill his foe, Achilles drags his dead body by chariot around the walls of Troy while Hector's mother, father, and brothers watch helplessly. Before he does that, though, Achilles takes a moment to proclaim to his soldiers that "we have won ourselves great glory." But "An Iliad" makes abundantly clear that when the subject is war, glory is the very last word we should ever use."

Don Aucoin, [Boston Globe](#)

Fagles' blank verse translation was originally published in 1990. It has been called "groundbreaking" and is considered one of the best translations of *The Iliad*.

Copies are available in Leavey and Doheny, call no. PA4025.A2 F33 1990

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Director, Collection Development



Amy Navratil Ciccone

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The Librarian (Wolfgang Lazius), ca. 1562
 Oil on canvas. 97 x 71 cm (38 3/16 x 28 in.)

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Denis O'Hare

Denis O'Hare, playwright and performer

From [Examiner.com](#):

"Denis O'Hare won the Tony, Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk Awards for his performance as "Mason Marzac" in the hit Broadway play Take Me Out. Other Broadway productions include Assassins (Tony nomination), Sweet Charity and Inherit the Wind, among others. An Iliad is his first collaboration and his debut as a writer for theatre. He has written two screenplays, as well as short stories and poetry.

While at Northwestern University pursuing an acting degree, he followed the poetry writing program for two years and studied poetry under Alan Shapiro, Mary Kinzie and Reginald Gibbons. He has appeared on Broadway and Off-Broadway numerous times, as well as in many regional theatres, including the McCarter Theatre. He has appeared in many films, including Milk, Michael Clayton, Charlie Wilson's War, A Mighty Heart, Duplicity, An Englishman in New York, 21 Grams, Garden State and Eagle. His television work includes roles on Brothers and Sisters, CSI Miami, all of the Law & Order franchises and recently he completed Season 3 of True Blood as the Vampire King 'Russell Edgington."

[O'Hare's webpage](#)

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Lisa Peterson, Co-Playwright and Director

From [Examiner.com](#)

"Lisa Peterson has directed ten productions at La Jolla Playhouse, including the world premieres of Surf Report and Be Aggressive, both written by Annie Weisman, Mother Courage and her Children, The Country, Wonderland, Valley Song, The Triumph of Love, The Good Person of Setzuan, Arms and the Man and Marisol. Her New York credits include Shipwrecked, The Model Apartment (Primary Stages); End Days (EST); The Poor Itch, Tongue of a Bird, The Square (Public Theater); The Fourth Sister, The Batting Cage (Vineyard); Birdy, Chemistry of Change (WPP/Playwrights Horizons); Collected Stories (MTC); Tight Embrace (Intar); Sueno (MCC); Bexley Oh, Slavs!, Traps, Light Shining in Buckinghamshire (Obie Award), The Waves (NYTW); and The Scarlet Letter (CSC). Her regional work includes: Mark Taper Forum (Resident Director 1995-2005), Seattle Rep, Berkley Rep, Intiman, South Coast Rep, CalShakes, OSF, Guthrie Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Arena Stage, McCarter, Center Stage, Yale Rep, Hartford Stage, Long Wharf, The Huntington, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Philadelphia Theater Co., Sundance Theater Lab, O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Midwest Playlabs, NY Stage & Film, and Executive board of SDC."

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The Iliad



Achilles Fights Hector

Bowl for mixing wine and water
Greek, Athens, ca 500-480 BCE

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Background Information

For background on the *Iliad*, please see the following sources.

- [Reading Homer's Iliad](#)
Temple University, Robin Mitchell-Boyask
- [Homeric Scholarship since 1985](#)
University of Pittsburgh Library School
- [Homer](#)
R.B. Rutherford in Oxford Bibliographies Online
- [Iliad](#)
Mark Edwards, The Homer Encyclopedia, 2011
Print ed. in Doheny Reference/Classics
Call no. PA4037.A5 H58 2011

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