

AN ILIAD

by Lisa Peterson & Denis O'Hare

Based on Homer's *The Iliad*, translated by Robert Fagles

CREATIVE ENSEMBLE

Jacole Kitchen	Director
Gunnar Biggs	Original Music
John Anderson	Scenic Designer
Melanie Chen	Sound Designer
Alex Crocker-Lakness	Lighting Designer
Mea Hutson Hall	Dramaturg
Mary Larson	Costume Designer
Kymerli Skye	Stage Manager

CAST

Linda Libby*	The Poet
Gunnar Biggs	The Muse

**Appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union for Professional Actors and Stage Management in the United States.*

There will be no intermission.

AN ILIAD is presented by special arrangement with DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE.

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; Benjamin Moore, Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director, Mara Isaacs, Producing Director).

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

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Everytime I tell this story, I hope it will be the last."

-Poet

When NVA's Artistic Director, Kristianne Kurner first approached me with the idea of directing *An Iliad*, my first thought was, *darn it! I guess I'm not going to be directing at New Village Arts this season.* I told myself, the classics aren't my forte. I told myself that I wasn't well versed enough in *The Iliad* to take on *An Iliad*. I told myself that with La Jolla Playhouse's 2012 production of *An Iliad*, who was I to think that I could do it better. But I knew I owed it to myself and Kristianne to explore it, especially given her idea of having a female Poet, so I read the play. And I read it again. And then I read it again and I started to picture Linda Libby as the Poet. That's when I told myself, *you have to do this! And Linda Libby has to do it with you.* Thankfully, Linda said yes with much less resistance than I first put forth. And suddenly the undertaking of this epic tale didn't seem quite so monumental.

Although the role of The Poet is typically played by a male actor, I was very intrigued by the idea of having a woman play the role. And having now gone through this process with a female Poet, it's hard to envision it being done any other way. There is something profound in the juxtaposition of the softness and warmth of a woman's voice telling the story of two very hardened men - shrouded in the coldness of violence, of war and of death.

At its core, *An Iliad* is the story of Hector and Achilles, and their roles in the Trojan War. But with the life that Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare breathed into it, it becomes the story of *every* war, of *every* act of violence and *every* expression of RAGE that has ever occurred in every individual who has walked the earth. *An Iliad* is an ancient story, but it is a very contemporary tale. It serves a warning. A mirror. A fantastical look at what can happen when a society is ruled by pride and by ego.

If prostitution is the oldest profession, then war is the oldest resolution, and oral tradition is the oldest form of storytelling. And as the gods would have it, our Poet has been there from the beginning, witnessing it all, and traveling in time to tell the tales. She is telling the story of the Trojan War, but she has been on the frontline of every war since. Witnessing the destruction of cultures. Participating in the demise of entire nations. Forging from battlefield to battlefield for centuries upon centuries, then being cast out to the geographies where these tales are needed the most. And she will continue on this epic journey until a time comes when stories of war of no longer need to be told. Because their warnings have finally been heeded.

-Jacole Kitchen, Director

CREATIVE ENSEMBLE



LINDA LIBBY* | The Poet

Linda is proud to be the first woman to receive the San Diego Critics Circle Craig Noel Actor of the Year Award for her body of work in 2013. Previously at NVA she played guitar and sang for *The Heidi Chronicles*. A regular on San Diego stages, favorite projects include *Gypsy, Company, The Importance of Being Earnest, Cabaret* (Cygnet), *Grey Gardens, Gypsy, Request Programme* (ion), *Ether Dome* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Pump Boys & Dinettes* (Lambs), *Milvotchkee, Wisconsin* (Mo'olelo), *Little Women* (NCRT), *How I Learned to Drive, The Women, Six Women with Brain Death* (SDRep). Linda recently directed *The Arsonists* for Southwestern College and wrote music for ion's *Sea of Souls* that premiered Off Broadway. Film: *Box of Moonlight*. TV: *Terriers*. She is a founder of the San Diego Actors Alliance and a member of Actors' Equity Association. Linda teaches at Bayfront Charter High School. lindalibby.wixsite.com/lindalibby

**Member of Actors' Equity Association*



GUNNAR BIGGS | Composer/The Muse

Gunnar has been a prominent figure in the Southern California music scene for over forty years. Theater credits include the La Jolla Playhouse's production of Randy Newman's *Faust* and *How To Succeed in Business* with Matthew Broderick. TV appearances include KPBS' *Club Date* and the Emmy-award winning documentary, *Three Generations of the Blues*. He served as Instructor of Double Bass at San Diego State University for 25 years. He now enjoys a large private studio. He took a position with the San Diego Symphony when he was 19 then toured with the Buddy Rich Big Band. He has played with many of the jazz greats including Tommy Flanagan, Mose Allison, Charles McPherson, and Peter Sprague. He performs regularly with MandoBasso, a duo featuring Bill Bradbury on mandolin. Gunnar is active in the classical world as well as the jazz world and has performed with the San Diego Opera Orchestra, Orchestra Nova and Orquesta de Baja California. He can be heard on numerous recordings including his own CD, *Footprint*, featuring all original compositions.



JACOLE KITCHEN | Director

Jacole is thrilled to be at the helm of this epic journey. Directing credits include *September and Her Sisters* (Out on a Limb New Play Festival, Scripps Ranch Theatre). Assistant directing credits include *Tiger Style* and *Guards at the Taj* (La Jolla Playhouse), *HONKY*, *The Oldest Boy* and *Detroit* (San Diego Repertory Theatre). Jacole spent four years as the Casting Director and Artistic Associate for San Diego REP, and is currently the Artistic Programs Manager at La Jolla Playhouse. Jacole teaches acting and professional etiquette for UCSD Extension and is a private acting coach. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for the San Diego Performing Arts League. A very special thank you to Kristianne Kurner, and to the incomparable Linda Libby.

CREATIVE ENSEMBLE

JOHN ANDERSON | Scenic Designer

For the past fourteen seasons, John has spent his days and nights as the Production Manager of San Diego Repertory Theatre. Now and then, Mr. Anderson stretches his wings to work with other local theatres including Moxie, Diversionary, ion, Chronos, Teatro Mascara Magica, and Green Raven in a variety of capacities. John was a member of the core company of The Minnesota Shakespeare Company and was the founding Artistic Director of Summer Shakes in Virginia Beach, VA. He is pleased to have been welcomed so warmly to New Village Arts.

MELANIE CHEN | Sound Designer

Melanie is a San Diego based freelance sound designer who has designed over 70 productions in San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. She recently traveled to Beijing to work on a large-scale immersive installation of Peter Pan with Broadway Asia and Randy Weiner. Recent regional credits include: *Marjorie Prime*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *The Cocktail Hour* (North Coast Repertory Theatre); *Seven Guitars*, *King Hedley II* (Cygnet Theatre); *Our Lady of Kibeho* (Moxie Theatre); *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (The Old Globe/USD MFA Program); *Native Son* (UC San Diego MFA Program). Currently, she is working on La Jolla Playhouse's POP Tour 2017: #SuperShinySara, which will tour schools, libraries, and community centers in San Diego. Coming up, she will be working on North Coast Repertory Theatre's *An Illusion*, New Village Arts' production of *Awake and Sing*, and the *Lisa Kron Rep* at Diversionary Theatre. Melanie holds an M.F.A. in Sound Design for Theatre & Dance from UC San Diego. Visit www.melaniesound.com for more updates.

ALEX CROCKER-LAKNESS | Lighting Designer

Alex is a recent transplant from Cincinnati, Ohio and currently works as the Master Electrician at San Diego Repertory Theatre. He has been a lighting designer for many years, but this will be his first show in San Diego. Previous credits include the tour of *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*.

MEA HUTSON HALL | Dramaturg

Mea is happy to be back in the production process after proudly serving as Patron Services Manager here at NVA for the last few years. Select dramaturgical work includes: *Oklahoma!*, *Orphans* (NVA), *Play in the Park* (Carlsbad Academy of Performing Arts), *You Never Can Tell* (Moonlight), *The Most Happy Fella* (Moonlight), *The Vagina Monologues* (North County African American Women's Association), *The Real Inspector Hound & After Magritte* (MiraCosta). Mea holds a BA from University of Arizona (Dramatic Theory) and an MA from CSUSM (Literature and Writing). In her world outside of the theatre, she is adjunct faculty, teaching writing and theatre courses at CSUSM and elsewhere, and she is mama to three geniuses.

CREATIVE ENSEMBLE

Mary Larson | Costume Designer

Credits: *Oklahoma*, *Golda's Balcony*, *The Weir*, *Stage Kiss*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Summer and Smoke*, *Golden Boy* (NVA). *Hold Please*, *Lobby Hero* (Old Globe). *A Feast of Fools* (La Jolla Playhouse). *Zoot Suit*, *Hairspray*, *The Blessing of a Broken Heart*, *A Hammer, a Bell and a Song to Sing*, *The Road to Mecca* (San Diego Repertory Theatre). *Little Women* (North Coast Repertory Theatre). *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (ion Theatre). *The Quality of Life* (Intrepid). *Skin Deep*, *The Sunshine Boys* (Scripps Ranch Theatre). Mary holds an MFA in Theatre from the University of California, San Diego.

Kymerli Skye | Stage Manager

Kymerli is thrilled to continue to work with New Village Arts! Recent credits include: *The 1940s Radio Hour*, *God of Carnage*, *Oklahoma!* (NVA); *True West*, *Forever Changed* (UCI); *Macbeth* (New Swan Shakespeare Festival); and *Physical Graffiti* (UCI Dance). Kymerli received her B.A. in Drama & Stage Management at the University of California, Irvine. She is grateful everyday to her family and friends for their love and support. And thank you to the wonderful NVA team and this incredible group of artists for helping make this piece.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Rosalee Barrientos
Eric M. Casalini
Ben Cole
Ben Zeilinggold

Production Manager
Master Carpenter
Fight Choreography Consultant
Assistant Stage Manager,
Sound Design Intern

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Kristianne Kurner
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AJ Knox
Rosalee Barrientos
Tiffany Tang
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Director of Connectivity
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Communications Specialist
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Caroline Floto
Jonah Gercke

Ginny Gregg
Avery Henderson
Sawyer Henderson

Elijah Howlett
Kymerli Skye
Katie White

INTERNS

Reid Moriarty
Lucas Velazquez

NVA ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

KRISTIANNE KURNER

CO-FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Kristianne co-founded New Village Arts in 2001 and has led the company since that time. Kristianne is primarily an actor and director, but has also worked numerous times as both scenic designer and costume designer. She has produced every production at NVA and her work has received numerous awards. Favorite NVA productions include: *Big River*, *The Clean House*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Sailor's Song*, and *Oklahoma!*. Kristianne has a BFA in Theatre from the College of William & Mary and an MFA in Acting from the Actors Studio Drama School at the New School University.

ALEX GOODMAN

MANAGING DIRECTOR



Alex previously served as the Audience Development Manager and Corporate Relations Manager with La Jolla Playhouse. In Chicago, Alex worked with Victory Gardens, Steppenwolf, and the award-winning Strawdog Theatre. He is also the co-founder of a theatre company dedicated to exploring popular culture, MOB Productions. Goodman currently serves on the boards of the North County Philanthropy Council and the North County Arts Network, and is a graduate of the American Express Leadership Academy through the Center for Creative Leadership. Education: BA in Theatre, Western Michigan University; MFA in Theatre Management, Wayne State University.

AJ KNOX

DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIVITY



AJ is a San Diego native who spent the last several years pursuing various theatrical endeavors throughout the country. He has received numerous awards for his directing, acting, and academic work. Directing: *Psycho Beach Party*, *Mistletoe*, *Music & Mayhem!*, *Mr. Marmalade*, *The Alchemist*, *Endgame*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Laramie Project*. Acting: *The Clearing*, *Rumors*, *Hamlet*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Pterodactyls*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *Little Shop of Horrors*. Education: BA in Theatre Arts, Loyola Marymount University; MA in Theatre Education, Emerson College; PhD in Drama, Tufts University.

ROSS BARRIENTOS

OPERATIONS MANAGER



Ross began her career as a stage manager and has worked in numerous theatres around San Diego County. From 2007 to 2012, she served as Production Manager for Cygnet Theatre and assisted in producing 35 shows at the theater's 2 venues. Stage Management: *Stage Kiss*, *Big River* (NVA), *miXtape* (Lambs Players Theatre); *Fuddy Meers*, *First Night*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *The Rivals* (North Coast Repertory Theatre); *The Glass Menagerie*, *Our Town*, *The Norman Conquests Trilogy*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Noises Off*, *A Christmas Carol*, (Cygnet); *A Dream Play*, *Macbeth*, *Nu*, *[sic]*, *Berzerkergang*, *The Universal Monster* (Sledgehammer Theatre). Education: BA in Theatre Arts, SDSU.



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Linda Hosaka	Rachel White

NVA's Village People are a volunteer group that provide the cast dinner and other outreach for the productions. For information on joining, contact AJ Knox at aj@newvillagearts.org