



PERFORMING ARTS THE ODYSSEY



PRODUCTION NOTE

Welcome to the epic odyssey of Homer's timeless tale!

Join us as Odysseus navigates a perilous journey home post-Trojan War. Amid mythical creatures, gods, and obstacles our narrative delves into themes of heroism, the cycles of violence and who has the power to give voice to the voiceless.

Homer's *Odyssey* takes a captivating turn in this innovative theatre production, offering a fresh interpretation through a fusion of diverse styles. Drawing inspiration from Butoh's hauntingly expressive movements, Suzuki's rigorous physicality, the masked dance of Talchum, the vibrant traditions of Peking Opera, infusing elements of Rakugo and the enchanting storytelling of Chinese Shadow Puppet Theatre, the production weaves a tapestry of cultural influences.

This unconventional blend is juxtaposed with contemporary physical theatre practices, creating a dynamic dreamlike dialogue between ancient narratives and modern expressions. The characters embark on a multidimensional journey, their movements echoing the rich history of Asian performing arts while resonating with the visceral language of contemporary theatre.

As the actors seamlessly transition between styles, the *Odyssey* unfolds with a mesmerizing synergy of old and new. The fusion not only breathes new life into a classic tale but also invites audiences to witness the convergence of diverse artistic traditions, fostering a unique theatrical experience. Homer's *Odyssey*, in this reimagined form, becomes a testament to the timeless power of storytelling through the lens of global performing arts.

PROLOGUE

THE DESTRUCTION OF TROY

By Dulwich College (Singapore), Dulwich College, James Allen's Girls' School (JAGS) and Dulwich High School Suzhou.

Scene 1 Antenna entreats Zeus to free Odysseus from the clutches of ocean Nyripi, Calypso. He constructs a raft nearing to flee, near Phaecia. Poseidon intervenes with a fierce storm. Saved by Athena, Odysseus reaches Phaecia, recounting the saga of Troy's downfall to King Alcinous.
Dulwich College (Singapore)

Scene 1A Odysseus' fleet, driven by fate, sets sail for the land of the Cicones, where they wreak further havoc and plunder the island. Subsequently, a tumultuous storm propels Odysseus' ships to the land of the Cyclops, marking another fateful turn in their journey.
Dulwich College (Singapore), Dulwich College and James Allen's Girls' School (JAGS), with Odysseus played by Renzo Limentani (DCSG), Alexander Au (DCSPD), Aristou Meehan (London), Nathan Ahn (DCSL)

Scene 2 Twelve men, including Odysseus, come upon the empty hut of the Shepherd of Polyphemus. They stay to eat his cheese, waiting for his return to demand a gift. However, Polyphemus returns and instead of giving a gift, he eats two of Odysseus' men.
Dulwich College Seoul

Scene 3 As the fleet nears home, Odysseus' men, driven by greed, open a bag they believe holds hidden gold, causing the ships to be propelled back to the island of Laestrygonia. Here, they encounter cannibal Giants, resulting in the loss of two ships. Only Odysseus's ship finds refuge on the island of Aea, home to the Witch-Goddess Circe.
Dulwich College (Singapore)

Scene 4 Circe transforms Odysseus' men into pigs, but with Hermes' help, Odysseus saves them and they return to human form. Odysseus becomes Circe's lover, enjoying a period of happiness before his men express a desire to return home. Circe advises Odysseus to seek guidance from the blind Prophet Teiresias in Hades. That night, one crew member, Elpenor, falls to his death.
Dulwich College Beijing

Odysseus and his men are pulled into the haunting underworld, where they navigate treacherous waters amidst eerie mist and echoing cries of lost souls. Odysseus, the steadfast leader, urges his men to stay strong as they face this unprecedented test of courage.

Scene 4A *Tara Tezel (DCSG), Angelina Ole (DCSG), Hana Vincent (DCSG), Charlotte Scott (DCSG), Olivia Thacker (DCSG) Angel Wei (DCSG). Gabriella Huang (DCB), Grace Kim (DCSL) Seoyoon Song (DCSL), Dylan Zaraspe (DCL/JAGS), Nia Keogh-Peters (DCL/JAGS), Freya Turner Webster (DCL/JAGS), Frankie Worsley (DCL/JAGS)*

After descending into the underworld, Odysseus meets Elpenor, who asks for a proper burial. He then consults Teiresias, who warns him of future trials. He reunites with his mother, Anticlea, learning of his family's hardships. These encounters deepen Odysseus' understanding of his journey.

Scene 4B *Odysseus play by Josh Lee (DCSL), Elpenor played by Frankie Worsley (JAGS), Teiresias played by Tina Zhang (DHSZ), Anticlea played by Kalli Yang (DCB)*

As Circe recounts the perils awaiting Odysseus on his journey home— from the enchanting Sirens whose songs lure sailors to their doom, to the monstrous Six-Headed Scylla, and the treacherous whirlpool of Charybdis— Odysseus and his men finally reach the island of the Sun God, Helios. The air is thick with anticipation and anxiety as they approach this final leg of their odyssey, knowing that the challenges ahead will test their courage and resolve, like never before.

Scene 4C *Circe played by Andi Au (DCB), Shariel Qi (DHZH), and Ivy Gilbert (DCSG), with Dulwich College (Singapore), Dulwich High School Zhuhai, Dulwich College Seoul, Dulwich College Beijing, Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong*

Marooned and starving, Odysseus' men defy Teiresias' warning and consume the forbidden cattle of Helios. Enraged, Helios appeals to Zeus for justice. As the men set sail, Zeus summons a violent storm that sinks their final ship, resulting in the death of all of Odysseus' men.

Scene 5 *Dulwich High School Suzhou*

Odysseus survives being swept back to Charybdis, barely escaping its whirlpool, only to be captured by Calypso. After Odysseus finishes recounting his tale to King Alcinous, he is given a ship and finally arrives in Ithaca.

Scene 6 *Dulwich College & James Allen's Girls' School (DCL/JAGS)*

<p>Scene 7</p>	<p>Athena disguises Odysseus as a beggar, and he reunites with his son, Telemachus. Athena then transforms Odysseus back into his younger self, allowing Telemachus to recognize him. Together, they plan to defeat the Suitors by hiding weapons in the house. Disguised as the beggar, Telemachus brings Odysseus to meet the Suitors, who abuse and beat him.</p> <p><i>Dulwich College & James Allen's Girls' School</i></p>
<p>Scene 8</p>	<p>Spurred by Athena and losing hope of Odysseus' return, Penelope announces she will marry the suitor who can string Odysseus' bow and shoot an arrow through twelve axes. None succeed. Odysseus, disguised as a beggar, effortlessly strings the bow and shoots the arrow through the axes.</p> <p><i>Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong</i></p>
<p>Scene 9</p>	<p>Odysseus shoots a suitor and reveals his true identity, sparking a battle. With Athena's help, Odysseus and Telemachus defeat the remaining suitors. Penelope, who has been unaware of the fight, comes down to see her husband. Initially unsure, she tests him by ordering their bed to be moved, which prompts Odysseus to reveal the tale of its construction. Convinced by his story, Penelope joyfully reunites with her husband.</p> <p><i>Dulwich College & James Allen's Girls' School</i></p>
<p>Scene 10</p>	<p>The suitors' families seek revenge against Odysseus. They start a fight, but Athena intervenes, stopping the violence and causing the families to forget the massacre. This allows them to recognize Odysseus as their king, bringing peace to Ithaca.</p> <p><i>Dulwich International High School Zhuhai</i></p>
<p>Epilogue</p>	<p>The scene opens with a promising conclusion, abruptly interrupted by the gradual, haunting entrance of the veiled Trojan Women, captivating Odysseus and his companions. As they reflect on their journey, it becomes evident that they are trapped in a relentless cycle of conflict and loss. They are deeply affected by the violence and suffering they have caused, yet feel powerless to stop it. Despite Athena's desperate attempts to intervene, each effort proves futile as the cycle stubbornly repeats. However, with each iteration, another fearless, strong female character joins Athena, ultimately breaking the cycle. This scene prompts us to ponder: How can we truly bring an end to war? How can we escape the cycle of repeating our past mistakes?</p> <p><i>Full Company</i></p>

PERFORMERS

Dulwich College & James Allen's Girls' School	Rufus Angel, Olivier Badzioch, William Beresford, Ella Brooks, Calvin Chen, Henry Findlay, Amelie Forest, George Gooderham, Flynn Halfweeg, Emily Humphreys, Nia Keogh-Peters, Joshua Kirkland-Kidd, Ella McIvor, Aristou Meehan, Matthieu Perrin, Toby Polli, Rose Powell, Andrew Salisbury, Arun Slatter, Calum Skinner, Clara Threadgould, Freya Turner-Webster, Frankie Worsley, Dylan Zaraspe
Dulwich College Beijing	Yang Jojo, Yang Kalli, Chang Benjamin, Lee John, Du Florence, Huang Gabriella, Au Andi, Sun Andrew
Dulwich College Seoul	Jaime Yoon, Grace Minseo Kim, Uno Kim, Eric Hwang, Joshua Hyun-Bin Lee, Seoyoon Song, Nathan Ahn
Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong	Abi Jung, Alexander Au, Caroline Lu, Coco Takano, Erin Duan, Luther Lu
Dulwich High School Suzhou	Annie Zhou, Daisy Wang, Jasmine Zhao, Jerry Zhang, Michelle Fan, Tina Zhang, Yolanda Hu, Molly Huang, Jackie Yu, Amy Chen, Rosalind Wu
Dulwich High School Zhuhai	Angel Chu, Alva Wang, Beverly Liu, Shariel Qi, Minny Song, Tony Luo
Dulwich College (Singapore)	Aurelia Brannasch, Amelia Chalmers, Ivy Gilbert, Amelie Jackson, Keira Kebernik, Max Kirby, Renzo Limentani, Flare Martin, Aadiya Marwah, Phoebe McPhail, Angelina Ole, Charlotte Scott, Katsiaryna Shvedziuk, Tara Tezel, Olivia Thacker, Hana Vincent, Qintong Wei

PRODUCTION TEAM

Lead Artistic Director	Catherine Howe (DCSG)
Lead Choreographer	Aileen Morrison (DCSG)
Producer	Katrina Hegarty (DCSG)
Directors and Creative Team	Kathryn Norton-Smith (DCL), Peter Jolly (DCL), Emily Brook (DCL), Engela Ackermann (DCB), Matthew Readman (DCSL), Dean Poulter (DCSP), Jessica Fannon, (DHSZ) Sammie Zhou (DHSZ), Philip Moon (DHZH)
Set	Katrina Hegarty (DCSG), Afiqah Azhar (DCSG), Ridzuan Suraimi (DCSG) and OnStaging Singapore
Choreographers	Catherine Ibbotson (DCL), Lindsey McDonald (DCL)
Costume/Wardrobe	Charlotte Scott (DCSG), Max Kirby (DCSG), Kathryn Hall (DCSG), Katrina Hegarty (DCSG), Gerlyn Ong (DCSG), Sophia Pardon (DCL), Heather Baskerville (DCL)
Audio Visual Team	Ridzuan Suraimi (DCSG), Shazlina Ibramshah (DCSG), Afiqah Azhar (DCSG), Josiah Yoong (DCSG), Hazli Ngasri (DCSG)
Stage Manager	Aysha Gagie (DCSG)
Assistant Stage Managers	Fizzy Haustorfer (DCSG), Gabriel Frade (DCSG), Sophia Moloney (DCSG)
Lighting	Max Kirby (DCSG), Flare Martin (DCSG)
Sound	Nuri White (DCSG), Flare Martin (DCSG)
Stagehands	Morgan Hopkin (DCSG), Hana Heywood (DCSG)

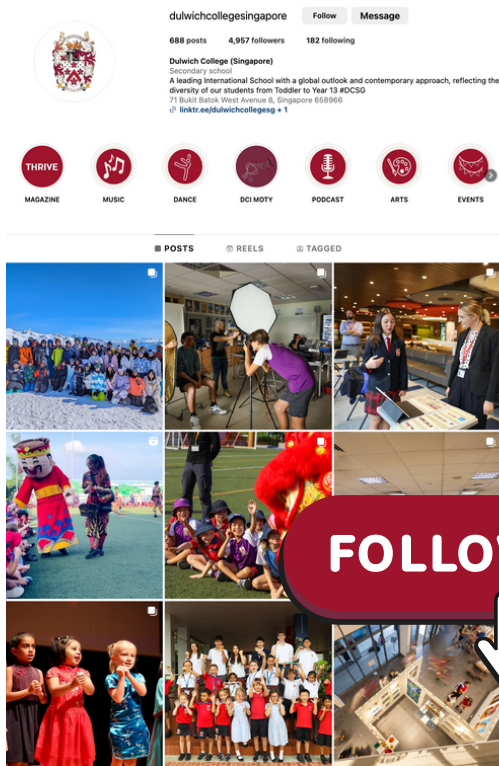
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