

JEWEL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

An **ILLIAD**



by **Lisa Peterson &  
Denis O'Hare**

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

THE COLLIGAN THEATER

**May 18** thru **June 12, 2022**

Directed by  
**Kirsten Brandt**



**JEWEL THEATRE  
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LIVE THEATRE THRIVES IN SANTA CRUZ.



**W**hen I chose to produce *An Iliad*, a play that underscores the impact of the rage and atrocities of war, half the world was in some stage of lock down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and those tracking conflict zones around the world had hoped that warring regions might put aside their differences temporarily to fight their shared viral enemy. However, it appeared areas in conflict saw little if any respite from the battering.

And now as we witness the newest war taking place in Ukraine, the prescience of this play couldn't be stronger. Its lone poet and muse explain the Trojan War and the abominable power of human rage in ways that we can all relate to. There is a sense of timelessness as the compelled poet meshes past and present calamity in order to make us understand, pausing now and then to ask the simple yet important question "Do you see?"

And the beauty of the play is that this uncomplicated question helps us see the real hope that comes from recognizing the tragedy. Hope we feel today as we emerge from the devastation of the pandemic and look forward to presenting another season, and along with our fellow performing arts organizations, exhibiting the resilience of the arts and the communities like Santa Cruz that support that art.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

**Julie James**  
Artistic Director

## SEASON DEDICATION



Jewel Theatre's 2021-2022 season is dedicated in loving memory to Joanne Linville and John Deck. Joanne and John were cousins, but as close as brother and sister. Joanne, who was a member of JTC's Advisory Board, was an exceptional and accomplished film and television actress with a fierce spirit who taught and inspired hundreds of actors, including JTC's artistic director. John was an honored writer of both fiction and non-fiction, a book reviewer for the NY Times, a member of JTC's board, and a gentleman above all.

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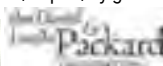
Jewel Theatre Company operates under a contract with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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# An **ILIAD**

by **Lisa Peterson & Denis O'Hare**

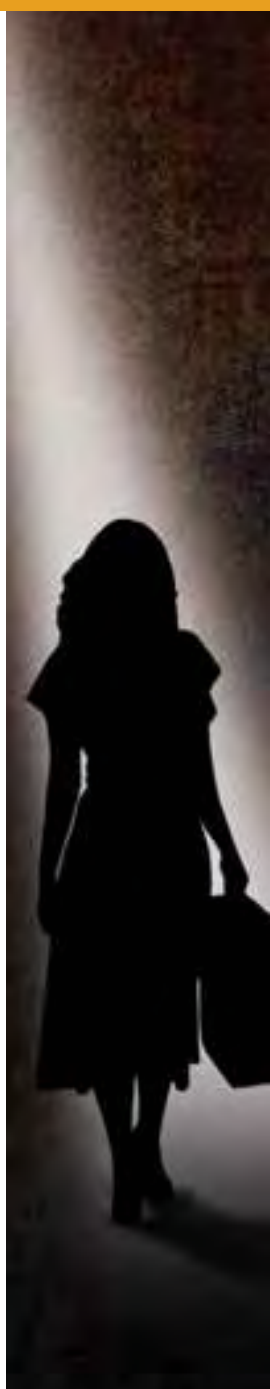
based on Homer's *The Iliad*, translated by Robert Fagles

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AN ILIAD is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.



## CAST (in order of appearance):

The Poet ..... Patty Gallagher\*  
The Muse ..... Jake Sorgen

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**The Setting:** Here, now

**The Story:** A lone poet retells the story of the Trojan War, setting ancient history and present day side by side.

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\*Member, Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

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## About the **PLAYWRITERS**



**Lisa Peterson** is a theater director who wrote and adapted *AN ILIAD* with actor Denis O'Hare, for which they won 2012 Obie and Lucille Lortel Awards. Her other adaptations include *THE WAVES*, adapted from the novel by Virginia Woolf, with composer David Bucknam (Drama Desk nominations), the upcoming *THE GOOD BOOK* with Denis O'Hare, and *INSURANCE MEN* with composer Todd Almond. She was Resident

Director at the Mark Taper Forum for ten years, and Associate Director at La Jolla Playhouse for three years before that. Her directing credits include the world premieres of Tony Kushner's *SLAVS!*, Donald Margulies' *COLLECTED STORIES* and *THE MODEL APARTMENT*, Naomi Wallace' *TRESTLE AT POPE LICK CREEK*, Janusz Glowacki's *THE FOURTH SISTER*, John Belluso's *THE POOR ITCH*, Beth Henley's *RIDICULOUS FRAUD*, Jose Rivera's *SUENO*, Marlane Meyer's *THE CHEMISTRY OF CHANGE*, and many others. She has worked at theaters around the country including New York Theater Workshop, The Public, Playwrights Horizons, The Vineyard, Primary Stages, Manhattan Theater Club, MCC, Guthrie Theater, Seattle Rep, Berkeley Rep, Actors Theater of Louisville, Arena Stage, Yale Rep, and the McCarter Theater. Lisa won an Obie in 1991 for Caryl Churchill's *LIGHT SHINING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE* at NYTW, and Dramalogue, Drama Desk, and Calloway Award nominations for many other productions. She was the recipient of a TCG/NEA Career Development grant, and regularly develops new plays with the Sundance Theater Lab, New Dramatists, The Playwrights' Center, and the O'Neill Theater Center. She is a graduate of Yale College, and a member of Ensemble Studio Theater, and the executive board of SDC.



**Denis O'Hare** is an actor and writer who lives in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. Mr. O'Hare attended Northwestern University where he studied poetry for two years under Alan Shapiro, Mary Kinzie, and Reginald Gibbons. He ultimately received a B.S. in the theatre department and pursued an acting career in Chicago while maintaining a literary salon called the "Ansuz." In 1992, Mr. O'Hare moved to New York to continue

his acting career where he appeared in numerous productions on Broadway and Off-Broadway all the while exploring creative writing in the form of plays and screenplays. He has written three screenplays, numerous poems, and one other play. Mr. O'Hare and Ms. Petersen began collaborating on *AN ILIAD* in 2006 and honed the project through multiple workshops with New York Theatre Workshop at Vassar and Dartmouth and with the Sundance Lab Institute. Denis is married to Hugo Redwood, an interior designer, with whom he has a son.

# DIRECTOR NOTES

## **RAGE!**

***Goddess, sing the rage of Peleus's son Achilles...***

Let's sing a song. A familiar song. A song of war. A song of rage.

Lisa Peterson and David O'Hare's distillation of Homer's epic poem *The Iliad* (8th century BCE) places us right in the action - at the tipping point in the war between the Greeks and The Trojans. We are nine years into the conflict, and the Greek general Agamemnon and their shining hero Achilles are at odds, fracturing an already demoralized Greek army. The Trojans, led by their good Prince Hector, are barely holding back the invading army from sacking their city.

Equal parts heart-wrenching and exhilarating, this play takes us on a journey that investigates honor and loyalty, petty Gods and loving companions, and uncontrollable anger and grief. A lone Poet must call on the muses to sing of this song of rage, and in doing so confesses that every time, she hopes it is the "last time" she has to tell it.

The tale of the *Iliad* has been told for centuries. Our playwrights invite us to consider why we have such a compelling need to sing it. What is our obsession with war and glory? When does honor get in the way of doing what is right?

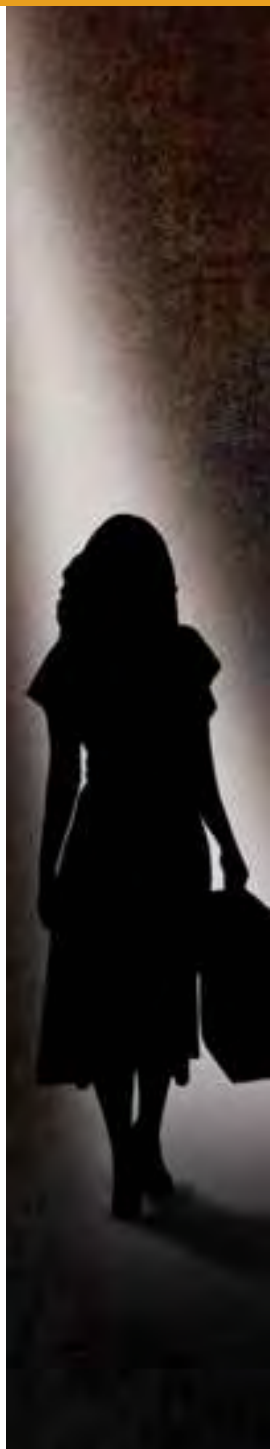
I ask myself what keeps bringing me back to these ancient tales. I love Greek myths. I love these stories. I've directed plays by the great Greek Tragedians; Euripides, Aeschylus, and Sophocles. The stories surrounding the Trojan War have been an endless source of inspiration for me as a playwright. These are characters I know - characters whose humanity intrigues me. They are deeply flawed and deeply human. They reflect us - who we are and what we are capable of.

Why sing this song - the song of the two warriors Achilles and Hector? Because we need to *hear* it. Because we need to *see* what war and rage can do to us, to the individual, to the community, and to entire civilizations. We need to see the destructive power of intractable rage and, hopefully, learn from it.

As I write these notes, there is a war raging in Ukraine. We see the loss and relentless waste as images of destroyed cities, footage of constant bombardments, and cries of civilian victims play every night in the media. But, we also see the heroism of the remarkable people of Ukraine and how they have harnessed the power of their rage to stand up and fight for their home and way of life.

I invite you to let our Poet sing this song again. And let's hope this is the last time we have to sing it.

Kirsten Brandt  
Director, *An Iliad*



# BIOGRAPHIES

## CAST



**PATTY GALLAGHER** (The Poet) is honored to return to the Jewel stage. She is an actor, choreographer, and director with specialties in Shakespeare, Beckett, and Clown. She has performed and taught in Asia, Europe, South America, and the US. Favorite roles include Maria Callas (*Master Class*, Jewel Theatre), Winnie (*Happy Days*, California Shakespeare Theatre), Rosencrantz (*R&G Are Dead*, Rogue), Hoopoe (*Conference of the Birds*, Folger Theatre), The Dromios (*Comedy of Errors*, Santa Cruz Shakespeare), and Fool (*King Lear*, Rogue). She is a Fulbright Scholar (Ecuador), and an Artistic Associate at both Santa Cruz Shakespeare and the Rogue Theatre. She received her Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin Madison. She is Professor of Performance, Play, and Design at UC Santa Cruz, and her students provide her with boundless joy and inspiration.



**JAKE SORGEN** (The Muse) (he/him) is a composer, interdisciplinary performer, and poet currently based in Chicago, IL. He works primarily at the intersection of music, storytelling, and text with a wide range of approaches to each. He served as Artistic Associate and Composer in Residence for the Rogue Theatre in Tucson, AZ from 2014-2019 and has composed and performed original scores for nearly 100 plays, dance/movement troupes, and interdisciplinary ensembles. His compositions have been performed by Loadbang Ensemble, Kite Saxophone Quartet, Invoke String Quartet, and Ashley Bathgate as well as a myriad of groups featuring Jake as a musician and speaker. He has released several albums of songs on I Am Them. Records and is the co-founder, with his creative partner Matt Bowdren, of Small Giants, an interdisciplinary ensemble based in Chicago. Jake holds an MFA in Composition from the Vermont College of Fine Arts.

# BIOGRAPHIES

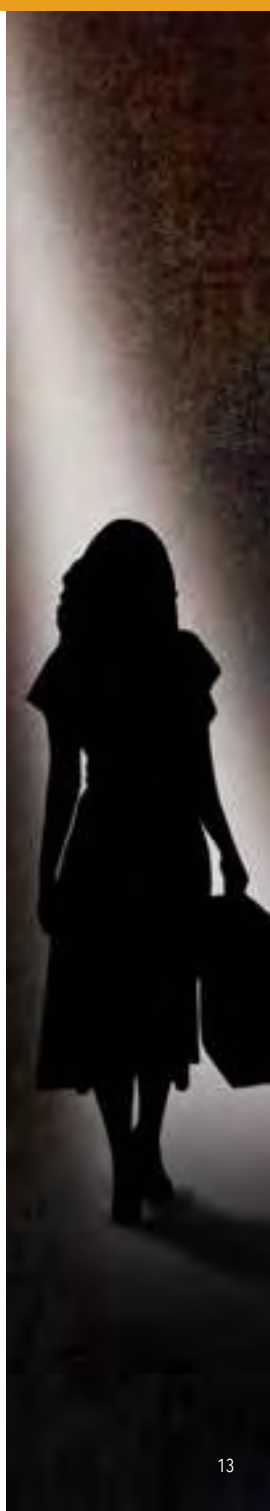
## PRODUCTION TEAM



**KIRSTEN BRANDT** (Director) Previously for The Jewel: *Breaking the Code*, *The Book Club Play*. Regional directing credits: Utah Shakespeare Festival, TheatreWorks, Arizona Theatre Company, Santa Cruz Shakespeare, San Jose Repertory Theatre (Associate Artistic Director), City Lights Theatre Company, Marin Theatre Company, The Old Globe, San Diego Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, African-American Shakespeare, North Coast Repertory, Sierra Repertory, and Diversionary Theatre. For seven years, she served as Executive Artistic Director of Sledgehammer Theatre, San Diego's alternative theatre. She is the author of the award-winning plays *Berzerkergång*, *NU*, *The Waves* and *The Frankenstein Project* as well as the co-author of the musical *The Snow Queen* and an adaptation of Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Her play *CODED* received its world premiere at City Lights Theatre last fall. Brandt is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Film & Theatre at San Jose State University. She is a proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and the Dramatists Guild of America. [www.kirstenbrandt.com](http://www.kirstenbrandt.com)



**PAMELA RODRIGUEZ-MONTERO, MFA** (Scenic/Costume Designer) (she/her/ella) is a scenographer, educator, and visual artist from Costa Rica. She earned her BFA degree in Arts and Visual Communications from the National University of Costa Rica and received her MFA in Scenography from The University of Kansas (2017). She was recently named Assistant Professor of Costume Design at The University of California, Santa Cruz. Previously she served as the Assistant Professor of Costume Design at Kennesaw State University (2019-2021). She has also worked as a guest scenographer for Washburn University and guest scenographer and cultural awareness mentor at The University of Central Missouri. Pamela combines her motherwork with her labor as an educator and artist Pamela has designed for dance, theatre, and devised work in Costa Rica and the United States. Her work has been presented at The National Theatre for the Dance in Costa Rica, Costa Rica National Theatre, Kansas Rep Theatre, The Alliance Theatre, and La MaMa, among others. She is honored and delighted to make her Jewel Theatre debut with this production! For more information, please visit her website: [www.pamelarodriguezmontero.com](http://www.pamelarodriguezmontero.com)



# BIOGRAPHIES



**DAVID LEE CUTHBERT** (Lighting Designer) is pleased to return to Jewel Theatre after designing lights and media for *Breaking the Code*. He has collaborated with Director Kirsten Brandt on over 50 productions and events across the country. Locally he designed several productions for Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and did extensive design work for San Jose Rep. Elsewhere in the

Bay area his work has been seen at The Magic Theater, Marin Theater Company, San Francisco Playhouse, Cal Shakes and TheatreWorks, where he designed Scenery and Media for Frost/Nixon. His work has been seen at major theaters across the country including The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, The Intiman, Arena Stage, ART and he has been a frequent collaborator at Arizona Theater Company. He designed Billy Crystal's 700 Sundays both times it was on Broadway, as well as its National and International tours and the HBO films presentation. He is a Professor of Design and Theater Arts Department Chair at UCSC



**SHAUN CARROLL** (Prop Master) has done props for many Jewel productions before becoming the resident props artisan. He has been doing props for various theatre companies around the Bay Area for 10 years, including 7 years as the resident Props Designer for the Willows Theatre Company in Concord. Other theatres include the Lake Tahoe, California, San

Francisco, and Santa Cruz Shakespeare Festivals, Capital Stage Theatre, Shotgun Players, Foothill Theatre Company, Opera Santa Barbara, and Ensemble Parallele. He also ran props for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, the European tour of Walt Disney's World on Ice, and the 6-month National Tour of *Nunset Boulevard*, starring Cindy Williams of "Laverne & Shirley".



**STEVE GERLACH** (Technical Director) was born and raised in Illinois but has worked in theatres along the East coast and California including New York Theatre Workshop, The Roundabout Theatre Company and La Jolla Playhouse. He recently received his MFA in Digital Arts and New Media from UC Santa Cruz. With a lifelong enjoyment of building and

creating, his main focus currently resides in how to integrate new and emerging audio/video technology into the performing arts.



**EMERSON SANDERSON** (Stage Manager) is excited to be working on his eighth season with Jewel. He is a Santa Cruz native and has been involved in the local performing arts scene since childhood. He is most passionate about the technical aspects of show production, but occasionally enjoys being in the spotlight. He is a resident at the Tannery Arts

Center and is thrilled to have the opportunity to live in such a vital community of artists. He is exceedingly grateful for the support Santa Cruz has given them and he hopes to continue sharing the performing arts with the town he loves.

## BIOGRAPHIES



**NOAH LUCÉ** (Assistant Director) (he/him) is an actor, director, fight choreographer, and intimacy director. He serves as a lecturer in Drama at University of California, Santa Cruz.

Noah trained with Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, attended Cornish College of the Arts (BFA), received his Master's Degree from the UCSC, and will complete his MFA in directing from the University of Idaho this fall. To learn more about him and his work, please visit: [www.noahluce.com](http://www.noahluce.com)



**SUSAN MYER SILTON** (Dramaturge). Dramaturge for JTC's *The Weir* (2022), *Heisenberg: The Uncertainty Principle* (2021), *The Other Place* (2020), *Moon for the Misbegotten* (2019), *The Explorers Club* (2019), *Red Velvet* (2019), *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (2018), *The Odd Couple* (2018), *Always ... Patsy Cline* (2017), *All My Sons* (2017), *The Dance of Death* (2017),

*The Book Club Play* (2017), *Next to Normal* (2016), *Talley's Folly* (2016), *The Price* (2015), *Harper Regan* (2015), *Woman in Mind* (2015), *Three Days of Rain* (2014), *What the Butler Saw* (2014), and *Arcadia* (2013); Associate Dramaturge for *Fallen Angels* (2016). Director for Jewel Theatre's *The Weir* (2022), *Women on Fire* (2021 Streaming Series), *The Other Place* (2020), *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (2018), *Silent Sky* (2018), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (2016), *Master Class* (2016), *Saint Joan* (2014), *Arcadia* (2013), *Mary Stuart* (2012), *House of Blue Leaves* (2011) and *Clouds* (2010). Artistic Director and Co-Founder Pisces Moon Productions, Inc. (1998-2011). Credits: Acting (Cabrillo Theatre Arts, Central Coast Theatre Works, Dangerous Neighbors, Mello Center for the Performing Arts, MCT, Pacific Repertory, Santa Cruz County Actors Theatre, *Twice Struck By Lightning*); Producing (*Dangerous Neighbors*, Pisces Moon) and Directing (JTC, Pisces Moon, Santa Cruz County Actors Theatre). Training: National Shakespeare Conservatory (Merit Scholarship); Casey Kizziah, James Tripp, Dana Zeller-Alexis and Mark Zeller). Advisory committee for the Arts Council's Arts in Education program. Awards: Rydell Visual Arts; Gail Rich Award. Proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.



**WYATT TROXELL** (Master Electrician) is a multifaceted entertainer, budding lighting designer, and talented artistic designer. He has been involved in numerous plays with such groups as Mountain Community Theater, Little People's Repertory Theatre, Kids on Broadway, Actor's Theater, and Cabrillo Stage, as an actor, a lightning designer, master electrician, sound board

operator, drummer, makeup designer, director, assistant stage manager, and more. This will be his 42nd production, and his 2nd with the Jewel Theatre Company.

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Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 48,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. AEA seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. AEA negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. [www.actorssequity.org](http://www.actorssequity.org)



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