

The Penelopiad

Interlochen Center
For The Arts

Phoenix Theatre

Fri. 4/29 7:30pm
Sat. 4/30 2:00pm
Sat. 4/30 7:30pm

Written by Margaret
Atwood

Directed by Andrew McGinn

**TRIGGER
WARNINGS:** This
play contains
strong inferences of
sexual assault,
violence, and death.

HAPPY endings Are
best Achieved by
keeping Your Mouth
Shut

OH WHEN OH WHEN OH WHEN
will dear ODYSSEUS
come??

“She got away with everything.”



Interlochen

ARTS ACADEMY

Interlochen, Michigan
212nd, 217th, 221st Program of the 60th Year

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The Penelopiad

by Margaret Atwood

Directed by Andrew McGinn

Stage Manager: Djuka Palleck, London, Canada

Co-Set Design by Nettie James-Drost, Interlochen, Mich.

Co-Set Design by Stephen John

Costume Design by Joiya Fishburn, Traverse City, Mich.

Lighting Design by Quinn Hammerlund, Milwaukee, Wis.

Sound Design by Stephen John

Projection Design by Zoe Ritchie, Dover, Mass.

Dramaturgs: Dara Wallace, Memphis, Tenn.

Finley Jacobs, Harbor Springs, Mich.

Original Choreography by Sydney Manno, Brookville, Pa.

Original Music by Tatiana Arias, Naperville, Ill.

Margaret Deely, Morgantown, W.Va

Hudson Orfe, Hopewell, N.J.

Friday, April 29, 2022

7:30pm, Phoenix Theatre

Saturday, April 30, 2022

2:00pm, Phoenix Theatre

Saturday, April 30, 2022

7:30pm, Phoenix Theatre

CAST

Dead Penelope	Bella Crosby, Traverse City, Mich.
Young Penelope	Lara Chiswell, Christchurch, New Zealand
Odysseus	Hudson Scheel, Mountain Dale, N.Y.
Eurycleia.....	Claire Mitchell, Shorewood, Wis.
Telemachus.....	Hudson Orfe, Hopewell, N.J.
Melantho.....	Tatiana Arias, Naperville, Ill.
Tanis	Margaret Deely, Morgantown, W.Va.
Kerthia	Ruth Abramovitz, Boca Raton, Fla.
Iole	Skyela Jones, Nassau, Bahamas
Celandine.....	Kaylin Gines, Groveland, Fla.
Klytie	Olivia Goosman, Pinckney, Mich.
Selene	Finley Jacobs, Harbor Springs, Mich.
Zoe	Grace Holscher, Pacific Palisades, Calif.
Alecto	Romina Khodaverdy, Woodland Hills, Calif.
Chloris.....	Lilly Schmeda, Middletown, Del.
Phasiana/Helen	Kayla Pickett, Southfield, Mich.
Narcissa	Sydney Manno, Brookville, Pa.
Antinous	Finnegan Sutherland, Traverse City, Mich.
Menelaus/Laertes	Copeland Diver, Clarkston, Mich.
King Icarius/Oracle.....	Garraway Nance, Sallisaw, Okla.
Anticleia	Sophie Pugh, Wyndmoor, Pa.
Appolonius	Alejandro Gutierrez Ballester, Barcelona, Spain
Suitor.....	Tavish Dungan, Nevada City, Calif.
Naiad Mother.....	Audrey Leiser, Durham, N.C.

UNDERSTUDIES

Dead Penelope	Kayla Pickett
Young Penelope	Grace Holscher
Odysseus	Finnegan Sutherland
Eurycleia	Finley Jacobs
Telemachus	Alejandro Gutierrez Ballester
Anticleia/Helen/Naiad Mother.....	Lilly Schmeda
Antinous/Menelaus/King Icarius	Tavish Dungan
Maids Swing	Audrey Leiser

SETTING:

Hades, the underground abode of the dead

—The play will run approximately two hours
with one ten-minute intermission—

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Thank you for coming to this special production. There is a very collaborative process behind what you are about to see. The source material, Margaret Atwood's book of the same name, was a collaboration between herself and the legendary Homer - who himself was an ancient Hellenic orator. Homer's stories were written down hundreds of years after his death, so who knows how many interpreters and translators came between Homer and Atwood? Ms. Atwood then adapted her novel into a play in collaboration with Josette Bushell-Mingo at Canada's National Arts Centre.

In our production, we furthered the collaborative spirit in the rehearsal room with many stagings and interpretations having come from the students themselves. In addition, we have original choreography by student Sydney Manno, and original music by students Tatiana Arias, Margaret Deely, and Hudson Orfe. Also, the entire design of what you will see was created by students in our Design and Production department, with additional design by faculty member Stephen John. All of this with a cast of a size usually reserved for musicals, this production amounts to what is likely the most student involvement in the shaping of a mainstage department production we have ever had.

Additionally, some of the topics of our show are undeniably disturbing, if not triggering. Please be mindful of this as you settle in. Ms. Selena Delgado and Christine Marie Brown have been vital to our process, providing insight, support, and stepping in to direct some of the most difficult events in the story; a welcome collaboration amongst colleagues as well.

To the Ancient Greeks, Hades was a place in the afterlife where you went to endlessly reflect. You take with you all your joys and memories, and also your shame and regrets. You relive them for all time with no power to amend or conclude. For us the living, the prospect of Hades is a warning to live carefully.

DRAMATURG NOTES

The Penelopiad is about the life of Penelope, and how she goes through suffering throughout her life. She waits twenty years for her husband Odysseus to get home to her. The story is about Penelope's side of the Odysseus myth. She tells about her loneliness, her husband and her twelve maids. The Odyssey is about how Odysseus goes away to rescue Helen of Troy. On his journey he fights monsters, and sleeps with goddesses.

When Margaret Atwood was reading the Odyssey at fifteen, she noticed that there's one part that Homer, the author, brushes over. When Odysseus gets back from his journey, Odysseus hangs the maids for entertaining the suitors, who understandably thought her husband was dead, that were vying for Penelope's hand and wealth. Margaret Atwood points out that the violent death of the maids was painted as if what Odysseus did was justified. We can all relate to the characters in some way, but in the Odyssey, we don't get that opportunity to relate to the maids because their part was very brief in it. In The Penelopiad, however, the light shines on the maids to show their importance.

Margaret Atwood is known for her feminism, and her prose. She ponders human behavior and celebrates the natural world. Margaret Atwood is a versatile writer. She writes about the female body in relation to entrapment, sexual politics, and myths about femininity. The Penelopiad raises issues about female representation. In the Odyssey, Penelope is seen as faithful, and is always weeping or sleeping. In The Penelopiad, Margaret Atwood humanizes Penelope, and makes her more complicated and thus relatable. There are a lot of simplistic female stereotypes in the Odyssey, but The Penelopiad reimagines that.

—Dara Wallace, dramaturg

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**—NO VISITORS BACKSTAGE—
PLEASE GREET CAST MEMBERS IN THE LOBBY**

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Assistant Stage Manager Audrey Leiser, N.C.
Poster Creation/Marketing Ivery Libby, Mich.; Natalie Rudman, Colo.
Stage Electricians..... Ivery Libby; Nettie James-Drost, Mich.;
Emma Wilson, Conn.; Djuka Palleck, Canada;
Ana Schroeder, Texas; Rose Lehrman, N.Y.;
Olivia Ray, Mich.
Carpenters Ivery Libby; Nettie James-Drost;
Emma Wilson; Djuka Palleck;
Joiya Fishburn, Mich.; Quinn Hammerlund, Wis.;
Ana Schroeder; Natalie Rudman;
Zoe Ritchie, Mass.
Director, Theatre Arts William Church
Director of Design and Production..... Stephen John
Technical Director Stephen John

Special Thanks

Selena Delgado, Christine Marie Brown,
Mary Ellen Newport, Bailey Sitton, Emily Wilson,
and the Interlochen Presents Team

Interlochen Center for the Arts acknowledges that it occupies the ancestral and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe Three Fires Confederacy, and specifically the Odawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi peoples. We pay our respects and give thanks to the past, present, and future traditional stewards of this land.

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You can ensure the next promising young artist has the opportunity to come to Interlochen by supporting student scholarships. Make your gift to the Interlochen Annual Fund by visiting interlochen.org/giveonline.

In consideration of the performing artists and other patrons, the use of flash photography is not permitted. Federal copyright and licensing rules prohibit the use of video cameras and other recording equipment.

In order to provide a safe and healthy environment, Interlochen maintains a smoke-free and alcohol-free campus. Michigan law prohibits any weapons, including concealed weapons, on Interlochen property because we are an educational campus. Thank you for your cooperation.

www.interlochen.org

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Phoenix Theatre

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