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AN ENCORE PERFORMANCE BRINGS DENIS O'HARE BACK TO BOSTON

ARTSEMERSON PROUDLY PRESENTS

AN ILIAD

**AWARD-WINNING ADAPTATION OF HOMER'S EPIC POEM RETURNS
A HOMER'S COAT PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH OCTOPUS
THEATRICALS**

**FOUR PERFORMANCES ONLY
NOVEMBER 20 – 24, 2019
EMERSON PARAMOUNT CENTER
ROBERT J. ORCHARD STAGE
[VIEW TRAILER HERE](#)**

Press Performance is Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:30pm

[Boston, MA – November 1, 2019] – Six years after its original Boston run, **ArtsEmerson** is delighted to welcome back Tony Award-winning actor **Denis O'Hare** and **Lisa Peterson** with their Obie Award-winning adaptation of Homer's classic, **An Iliad**.

An Iliad spins the familiar tale of gods and goddesses, undying love and endless battles told through the eyes of a single narrator, whose enigmatic experience of the war reverberates with today's headlines. Peterson's acclaimed, cutting edge work as a theatre director here combines with O'Hare's inimitable range as an actor to create a tour-de-force performance of this sweeping account of humanity's unshakeable attraction to violence, destruction and chaos.

A visceral and breathtaking encore performance, **An Iliad** plays four performances only, November 20 -24, 2019, at the Emerson Paramount Center's Robert J. Orchard Stage. Tickets may be purchased at www.ArtsEmerson.org, by phone at 617.824.8400 or at the box office.



Photographer credit: Joan Marcus

Tickets may also be purchased as part of an ArtsEmerson Season Package, featuring savings up to 40%. Groups of 10+ attending a performance save 20%-30%. For more information, contact the box office at Tickets@ArtsEmerson.org or 617.824.8400.

"We are really looking forward to returning to ArtsEmerson, where we built the tour of **An Iliad**," says director and Homer's Coat co-founder Lisa Peterson. "We have very fond memories of the Boston audience."

"Denis O'Hare's performance in **An Iliad** remains an indelible high-water mark in our first decade, and from the moment the lights went down on his first show at ArtsEmerson we began talking about bringing him back for an encore," says ArtsEmerson artistic director David Dower. "That was in our third season, and ArtsEmerson has since gone on to establish a reputation for memorable solo storytelling-- Daniel Beaty's *Mr. Joy*, Melinda Lopez' *Mala*, Thaddeus Phillips' *17 Border Crossings*, Alex Alpharoah's *Wet*, and Isabella Rosellini's *Green Porno* all followed. Denis and director Lisa Peterson delivered a powerful and thoroughly gripping adaptation of Homer's epic text, and the intimacy and immediacy of the performance itself knocked us out. Our desire to share this experience with a wider Boston audience actually gave rise to the animating idea of our 10th anniversary season-- bringing back five iconic moments from our first nine seasons and coupling them with five brand new commissioned works."

About Homer's Coat

Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson are founding members of Homer's Coat - a creative collective that explores foundational literature. An actor and a director respectively, they both develop, write and edit the pieces they make together. The creative process differs according to subject matter but the lens through which they view the theatrical medium makes for unique, energetic, imaginative performative experiences. Together they created the stage piece, **An Iliad**, over a period of 5 years, utilizing video, video transcriptions, improvisation, original music, and diligent research. Their latest work, *The Good Book*, examines faith and the creation of the Christian bible over centuries, and is currently running at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. They are also working on a commission from the McCarter Theatre in Princeton called *The Song of Rome*, which is a solo for a female performer, and picks up where **An Iliad** leaves off, with the destruction of Troy, and follows Aeneas through the founding of Rome, examining the idea of government and empire, both the rise and the fall.

About Octopus Theatricals

Founded by creative producer Mara Isaacs, Octopus Theatricals collaborates with artists and organizations to foster an expansive range of compelling theatrical works for local, national and international audiences. We eschew boundaries—aesthetic, geopolitical, institutional—and thrive on a nimble and rigorous practice. Current projects: *Hadestown* by Anaïs Mitchell (Broadway, 8 Tony® Awards including Best Musical); *Iphigenia*, a new opera by Wayne Shorter and Esperanza Spalding; *Dreaming Zenzile* by Somi Kakoma, **An Iliad** by Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson; Theatre for One; and Project Springboard: Developing Dance Musicals. We are also proud to work with Phantom Limb Company, Ripe Time, Lola Arias, Song of the Goat Theatre and more. www.octopustheatricals.com

About ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is Boston's leading presenter of contemporary world theatre. Our mission is to bring people together to experience powerful performances that delight, provoke, and inspire, celebrating both our differences and common humanity. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard — the year the U.S. Census confirmed there was no single cultural majority in Boston — we committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative season of globe-spanning performances, film, and dialogue invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by Artistic Director, David Dower and Executive Director, David Howse. For more information, visit

ArtsEmerson.org.

About Emerson College

ArtsEmerson is the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals, with the first program launching this fall in Paris. The College has an active network of 39,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit Emerson.edu.

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR AN ILIAD

Dates:

November 20 – 24, 2019

Venue:

Emerson Paramount Center
Robert J. Orchard Stage
559 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111

Performance Schedule:

Wednesday, November 20, 2019	7:30pm Press Performance
Thursday, November 21, 2019	8:00pm
<i>Friday, November 22, 2019</i>	<i>No Performance</i>
Saturday, November 23, 2019	8:00pm
Sunday, November 24, 2019	2:00pm

Ticket Information:

Online: ArtsEmerson.org

Phone: **617-824-8400**

In Person: **Paramount Center Box Office (559 Washington Street)** open Tuesday-Saturday from 10am-6pm

Prices range from \$25-\$95 (subject to change)

For production stills and other media kit assets, click [here](#).

CREATIVE/CAST LISTINGS & BIOGRAPHIES

Credits

Written By Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare

Based on Homer's Iliad, translated by Robert Fagles

Directed by Lisa Peterson

Starring Denis O'Hare

Bassist: Eleonore Oppenheim

Scenic Design: Rachel Hauck

Costume Design: Marina Draghici

Lighting Design: Scott Zeilinski
Composer/Sound Design: Mark Bennett

Production Manager: Davison Scandrett
Production Stage Manager: Lucy Kennedy
Audio Supervisor: Andrew Rovner
Audio Consultant: Chris Luessman

For Octopus Theatricals:
Executive/Creative Producer - Mara Isaacs
Producer - Ronee Penoi
Production Coordinator - Bryan Hunt
Business Manager - Michael Francis
Producing Assistant - Victoria Detres

Creative & Cast Biographies

DENIS O'HARE (Actor, Co-Creator)

Denis O'Hare is the co-author, along with Lisa Peterson, of the award winning Solo Performance Play, **An Iliad** (Obie, Lucille Lortel awards) and *The Good Book* which premiered at the Court Theatre and recently had its West Coast premiere at Berkeley Rep. Denis wrote and starred in his first feature length film, *The Parting Glass*, directed by Stephen Moyer. Denis most recently starred in *Tartuffe* at the National in London. His Broadway credits include *Elling*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Sweet Charity* (Drama Desk award) *Assassins* (Tony nom), *Take Me Out* (Tony Award, Drama Desk, Obie and Lucille Lortel awards), *Major Barbara*, *Cabaret* and *Racing Demon*. His off-Broadway credits include *Helen*, *Silence*, *Cunning*, *Exile* and *Into the Woods* (The Public Theater), *Vienna Lusthaus* and *An Iliad* (New York Theatre Workshop – Obie award) and *Pig Farm* (Roundabout).

His film credits include *The Goldfish*, *Late Night* with Emma Thompson and Mindy Kaling, *The Day Shall Come*, *Private Life*, *Lizzie*, *Edgar Allan Poe: Buried Alive*, *Novitiate*, *From Nowhere*, *The Normal Heart*, *Dallas Buyers Club*, *C.O.G.*, *The Eagle*, *5,000 Feet is the Best*, *Edge of Darkness*, *The Proposal*, *An Englishman in New York*, *Duplicity*, *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*, *Milk*, *Changeling*, *Baby Mama*, *Charlie Wilson's War*, *Michael Clayton*, *A Mighty Heart*, *Rocket Science*, *Half Nelson*, *Garden State*, *21 Grams*, *The Anniversary Party*, *Sweet and Lowdown*. Denis has also appeared in a number of television series including 5 seasons on *American Horror Story*, 2 seasons on *True Blood* and 2 seasons on *This is Us*. Some of his other television work includes *When We Rise*, *The Good Wife*, *The Comedians*, *Banshee*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *CSI: Miami*, *Brothers and Sisters*, *Bored to Death*, and *100 Centre Street*.

LISA PETERSON (Director, Co-Creator)

Lisa Peterson is a two-time OBIE award winning director and writer. She created and co-wrote **An Iliad**, with Denis O'Hare, based on Homer's epic poem. She also recently directed their second collaboration, *The Good Book*, at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Last summer she reimagined and remounted her musical adaptation of Virginia Woolf's *The Waves*, with music by David Bucknam and Adam Gwon, at New York Stage & Film. In addition to many classic plays, Lisa has directed the premieres of new works by Donald Margulies, Tony Kushner, Beth Henley, Naomi Wallace, Caryl Churchill, Janusz Glowacki, Marlane Meyer, Culture Clash, Jose Rivera and many others at theaters including NYTW The Public, Vineyard, MTC, Primary Stages, Mark Taper Forum, La Jolla Playhouse, Guthrie, Actors Theater of Louisville, Berkeley Rep, McCarter, Arena Stage, OSF, and many more.

MARA ISAACS/OCTOPUS THEATRICALS (Producer)

Mara Isaacs is a creative producer and founder of Octopus Theatricals, a theatrical producing and consulting company dedicated to fostering an expansive range of compelling theatrical works for local, national and international audiences. Current projects include *Hadestown* by Anaïs Mitchell; *Iphigenia*, a new opera by Wayne Shorter and Esperanza Spalding; *Theatre For*

One; *Falling Out* by Phantom Limb Company; *Minefield* by Lola Arias; and Haruki Murakami's *Sleep* by Ripe Time. Mara is the Project Director for The Springboard Project: Fostering Collaboration in Dance-Driven Musical Theater and was Executive Producer for the Opening Weekend of Princeton University's Lewis Center for the Arts in 2017. Additional projects/clients include: The Civilians, Song of the Goat Theatre, Baryshnikov Arts Center, CalArts Center for New Performance, The Shakespeare Theatre, The Wilma Theatre, and more. Mara has produced over 100 productions that have been seen on Broadway, off-Broadway, around the U.S. and Internationally, garnering Tony, Obie, and many other awards. She was Producing Director at McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, NJ for 18 seasons and previously produced new play development programs and productions for Center Theatre Group/Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. www.octopustheatricals.com

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