

Lex-Ham Community Theater
presents the

**2003
Lex-Ham
Short-Play
Festival**



**7:00 p.m., March 14, 15, 20, 22, 27, 28, and 29
3:00 p.m., March 23, 2003
St. Paul Central High School
275 N Lexington Parkway, Saint Paul**

2003 Lex-Ham Short Play Festival

Heroes

O'Flaherty V.C. by George Bernard Shaw

5 minute break

Rise and Shine by Urban Landreman

15 minute intermission

The Trojan Women by Euripides

Adaptation by John Townsend

Welcome to the third annual Lex-Ham Short-Play Festival. This year's theme is Heroes—primarily military heroes. I hope that you will find that the selections for this year's festival represent a delightful range of styles, interpretations, and moods.

O'Flaherty V.C. was written by George Bernard Shaw in 1915 to assist in the recruitment of Irishmen for the British Army. We find, with Shaw's usual wit, people, even those who are awarded the Victoria Cross (or V.C.), join the army for many reasons.

In *Rise and Shine*, we meet a Congressional Medal of Honor winner on an early morning TV talk show. With U.S. military action in Iraq seeming more and more likely, this situation may happen sooner rather than later.

The final show, *The Trojan Women*, takes us back thousands of years to the end of the Trojan War. The Greek soldiers are victorious and lauded as heroes back at home. The women who remain in Troy wait for what the fates have in store for them. The women's conversation among themselves and with the Greek soldiers raises questions of what it means to be a true hero and who the true heroes are. The Lex-Ham Community Theater will perform *The Trojan Women* at the 2003 Minnesota Association of Community Theatre's play festival in Crookston on Friday, April 4.

I hope that you find the plays at times humorous, often stimulating, but always thought provoking.

Urban Landreman, Producer

Production Staff

Directors - Jeremiah Scanlon, John Townsend
Stage Managers - Rebecca Weisgrau, Vicki Joan Keck
Costume Coordinator - Judy Larsen
Lighting Technician - Krystal Hall
Publicity - Sam Roberts

Photography - Lila Taft
Producer - Urban Landreman

Please consider becoming a Friend of the Lex-Ham Theater

With support from foundations and government arts agencies to arts organizations such as the Lex-Ham Community Theater down because of budget shortfalls, your financial support is needed more than ever.

Support the activities of the Lex-Ham Community: quality theatrical productions which also build community, acting classes for beginning and advanced children and adults, free informal Shakespeare Reading Series events including a potluck supper. Donations of any amount will be accepted, and are tax-deductible. Everyone who chooses to join our membership program at one of the suggested levels will receive mention in our programs.

A **Family** membership (\$50) will give you a \$1 discount on up to four tickets for each Lex-Ham production. For contributing at the **Sponsor** level (\$100), you will also receive a pair of complementary tickets for the Lex-Ham production of your choice.

O'Flaherty V.C.
by George Bernard Shaw

Cast
in order of appearance

Denny O'Flaherty Joel Schwendinger
Sir Pearce Kurt Hunsicker
Mrs. O'Flaherty Heidi Slen Walsh
Teresa Driscoll Mickalace Wright

Director Jeremiah Scanlon
Stage Manager Rebecca Weisgrau



O'Flaherty V.C.: A Recruiting Pamphlet

Written in 1915, Shaw intended to use “this little play” to recruit Irishmen for the ongoing war with Germany. Though an odd sentiment for an avowed socialist, he thought it would be more effective than implementing Irish conscription which in part led to the Irish uprising of 1916 and to the consolidation of the Sinn Fein’s political power in 1918.

It seems very strange that Ireland, having been systematically oppressed and repeatedly brutalized by the British government for hundreds of years, would raise arms for England’s enemy and not to protect themselves. But the Irish situation was much more complicated than that. Through the political pressure of John Redmond and his Irish National Volunteers, a Home Rule Bill had been slated go into effect after the war with Germany. This Home Rule bill was to give Ireland a degree of autonomy such as Ireland had not had before. This new hope for local government while still remaining within the British empire appealed to many Irish Catholics who often times could not conceptualize an Ireland separated from England’s king.

Shaw saw that, given the political atmosphere and the tendency of the Irish to choose emigration over poverty, Irishmen would flock to the banner of the King only if one made them realize that life outside of Ireland is exciting and enjoyable.

Though this play was written for the very specific purpose of recruiting, I find that it also confronts us with a lucid picture of the Irish spirit, of the questions and moral dilemmas which have faced Irishmen for centuries, and the with the questions that we must all confront about war, family and are own feelings of nationalism.

Enjoy.

- Jeremiah Scanlon

*“No war is right; and all the holy water that Father
Quinlan ever blessed couldn’t make one right.”*

- Denny O'Flaherty

Rise and Shine
by Urban Landreman

Cast
in order of appearance

Cindy Probst Mickalace Wright
Dennis Young Urban Landreman
Hannah Kelly Heidrich
Gary Brooks Kurt Hunsicker
Director Jeremiah Scanlon
Stage Manager Rebecca Weisgrau

I got interested in writing this play when I reflected on what would happen if the early morning TV shows—with their updates on the weather, traffic reports, people holding up handmade signs and waving, and news lite—were placed in the middle of a complex, graphic, and controversial news item.

Based on extensive focus groups, polls, and ratings, the networks have created a wonderful format that appeals to a large audience. The marketing departments have also mastered the art of packaging ordinary people, such as men and women on reality TV shows, and not-so-ordinary people, such as candidates for political office, into celebrities, if not heroes. We now have a system that's financially profitable to many people.

But can this system handle meeting a true hero?

- Urban Landreman



10 rating and 19 share

The terms rating and share are basic to the television industry. Both are percentages. A *rating* is a percent of the universe that is being measured, most commonly discussed as a percent of all television households. As such, a rating is always quantifiable, assuming you know the size of the universe (TV households, persons, women 18 – 34, and so forth). A *share* is the percent of households or persons using television at the time the program is airing and who are watching a particular program. Thus, a share does not immediately tie back to an actual number, because it is a percent of a constantly changing number – TV sets in use.

www.NielsenMedia.com



“You don’t know if the ‘good guys’ are going to win. Or even who the ‘good guys’ are.”

- Gary





The Trojan Women
by Euripides
Adaptation by John Townsend

Cast

Queen Hecuba	Kristen Mathisen
Talthybius	Shad Cooper
Cassandra.....	Kara Greshwalk
Andromache	Eleise Jones
Astyanax	Frank Thompson
Menelaus.....	Doug Thompson
Helen.....	Wanda Jenkins
Chorus of Trojan Women	
.....	Mary Davis
.....	Christine DeZelar-Tiedman
.....	Candace LaFontaine
.....	Rachel Lund
.....	Sarah Riemer
.....	Erin Stuhlfaut
.....	Pinky Weah
Greek Soldier Ensemble	
.....	Simon Ackerman
.....	Randall Patterson
.....	Eli Pupovac
.....	Bradley Schaefer
.....	Joel Schwendinger
.....	Leo Tushaus
Slave	Dionne King
Narrator.....	Vickijoan Keck
Director.....	John Townsend
Costumes	Judy Larsen
Chorus Leader	Erin Stuhlfaut
Stage Manager.....	Vickijoan Keck

When Euripides wrote *The Trojan Women* some 2500 years ago, he criticized not only a war that took place roughly a millenium before that, but the holy gods' lack of morality for setting it into motion.. However, that war, and apparently the cult of those gods, had taken such root in the bedrock of the Athenian patriotic imagination that his play offended many. In centuries since, it has certainly taken its place as a fundamental anti-war play and what we now call a feminist or pro-feminist work. And its commentary on the murder of children is obviously outraged.

That said, *The Trojan Women* is easily appropriated by pacifist and liberal groups whose concerns the play clearly addresses. However, from a conservative angle, it could be considered to be a cautionary work that reminds us that with war comes costs and irrevocable awful ramifications. Not only are the Trojans annihilated, but the Greeks in seeing that this annihilation is enacted, pay a price as well. A price of a shattered conscience that now comes to view violence as “just one of those things” and of spending 10 years away from a homeland raising children and building a normal life.

“We Trojans died defending our country. No action is more glorious.”

- Cassandra

- John Townsend



Simon Ackerman (The Trojan Women/Soldier Ensemble) is a recent graduate of Hamline and is in his first Lex-Ham show.

Shad Cooper (The Trojan Women/Talthybius) has been performing in the Twin Cities for the past five years. Previous credits include *A Night at the Black Pig* at Theatre in the Round, *Six Pack* at Kieran's Irish Pub and *Claude* in Unicorn Theatre's production of *Hair*.

Mary Davis (The Trojan Women/Chorus) Mary is appearing in her third show with Lex-Ham, having been in *The Neighbors* and *I Never Sang For My Father*. When she's not on stage, Mary lives in Fridley and helps her husband, Richard, with the optometric business or traveling to elderhostels around the country.

Christine DeZelar-Tiedman (The Trojan Women/Chorus) is making her third appearance with Lex-Ham, having been seen previously in *The Vegetable* and *Under the Gaslight*. Last summer she played Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof* with Como Lakeside Theatre. Other favorite roles include Eliza Doolittle in *Pygmalion*, Ismene in *Antigone* and Brigitta in *The Sound of Music*. Thanks to Steve for the chauffeur service, and many other things.

Kara Greshwalk (The Trojan Women/Cassandra) is returning for her third show with Lex-Ham Theater. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota's Theatre Arts Program. Past favorite roles include Tracy in Lex-Ham's *The Philadelphia Story*, and a drunken wife of a cop in *Every Night Mickey*, which played at the Bryant Lake Bowl. Past favorite part-time, second jobs to support her acting include: Aquaguide at Underwater Adventures, Sandwich Maker at the Four Seasons Deli, and House Manager at Stages Theatre. What she really wants to do now is wait tables!

Kelly Heidrich (Rise and Shine/Hannah) is a newcomer to Lex-Ham. She has previously appeared on the U of MN stage and with other theatres in New Orleans, Milwaukee, and Edinburgh.

Kurt Hunsicker (O'Flaherty V.C./Sir Pearce and Rise and Shine/Gary Brooks) is participating in his third and fourth Lex-Ham shows and is happy to be acting again after directing Lex-Ham's *The Philadelphia Story* last summer. He wonders, however, if he'll ever be cast in a non-military role.

Wanda Jenkins (The Trojan Women/Helen) is a recent graduate from Hamline University in St. Paul, where she studied Theatre and Education. Wanda's recent theatre credits include, directing students at the Jewish Community Center of St. Paul and student directing various shows at Hamline. Wanda's acting credits include, student-written shows performed at Hamline, the Preacher's Wife in *The Robber Bridegroom*, and a chorus member in *The Comedy of Errors*. Currently, Wanda is working as a Site Leader in the Anoka-Hennepin School district's Adventures Plus program.

Eleise Jones (The Trojan Women/Andromache) is appearing for the first time at Lex-Ham Community Theater. She has also been on stage at Rosetown Playhouse, the Guthrie Theatre, the College of St. Benedict, and Super Bowl XXVI. An environmental advocate and voracious reader, Eleise makes her living by writing and editing for a local book review magazine.

Dionne King (The Trojan Women/Slave) has been a performer since the age of three. He is returning to Lex-Ham after appearing in *George Washington Slept Here*. Dionne has also appeared in several independent films.

Candace LaFontaine (The Trojan Women/Chorus) is happy to be making her first appearance in a Lex-Ham production. Her most recent roles were in *A Night at the Black Pig* and *Our Town* at Theatre in the Round, and *Sister* for the Fringe Festival. Candy has appeared in numerous productions in the Twin Cities and Tampa, Florida; favorite roles include Flo Owens in *Picnic* at Corcoran Park Players, Doris in *Same Time, Next Year* and Gwendolyn Fairfax in *The Importance of Being Earnest* for Atlantis Theatre, and numerous roles (especially the Second Hairdresser) in *The Women* at Corcoran Park.

Urban Landreman (Rise and Shine/Dennis) has been a familiar face at Lex-Ham productions since 1996. A sampling of his past roles include Mr. Kimber in *George Washington Slept Here*, the funeral director in *I Never Sang For My Father*, and the Chief Justice in *The Vegetable*. Special thanks go out to the men and women who, in the past as well as in the present, have done heroic deeds to allow us to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Judy Larsen (Costume Coordinator) Judy has been involved in dance and community theater for many years in southern Minnesota and Iowa. She has recently relocated to Saint Paul and is pleased to have an opportunity to continue her involvement with the Lex-Ham Community Theater.

Rachel Lund (The Trojan Women/Chorus) is originally from New Mexico, and has been involved in musical performance for many years, and in some musical theater (*Li'l Abner*, *On the Town*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*) in high school and at Carleton college. This is her first straight theater production, and she's excited to be a part of it.

Kristen Mathisen (The Trojan Women/Queen Hecuba) has been active on many Twin Cities stages since coming to Minnesota from Wisconsin over 25 years ago, including roles at Theatre in the Round, Park Square, Jungle, Guthrie, Lakeshore Players, and the Lyric Theatre, as well as the Jon Hassler Theatre in Plainview. A few of her favorite roles are Bella in *Lost in Yonkers*, Elizabeth in *The Crucible*, Cordelia in *King Lear*, Mrs. Malaprop in *The Rivals*, and Sybil in *Private Lives*. She is pleased to be playing with the Lex-Ham bunch for the first time, and looking forward to representing Lex-Ham at the MACT Festival in April.

Randall Peterson (The Trojan Women/Soldier Ensemble) is a resident of Shakopee and is in his first stage production. Randall is currently studying improv at the Brave New Institute.

Eli Pupovac (The Trojan Women/Soldier Ensemble) is in his first ever production and brings a new found passion and a great respect for the stage. A semester abroad in England gave Eli experiences in Stratford upon Avon attending workshops with the Royal Shakespeare Company and also the opportunity to attend numerous productions in England and all over Europe. He hopes the experience in Trojan Woman is only the beginning of what may come.

Sarah Riemer (The Trojan Women/Chorus) starting acting as a child with The Masque Youth Theatre in Rochester, MN. She spent two years studying theatre at Drake University, and got her degree in Communications from Moorhead State University. She is very happy to be on stage again and would like to thank the cast and crew for making it such an enjoyable experience

Jeremiah Scanlon (Director/O'Flaherty V.C. and Rise and Shine) is involved with his fourth show with Lex-Ham. He has worked for many local theatre companies as both a director and actor and is a founding member and resident artistic director of the Circle of Dionysus Theatre. He is pleased to once again have the opportunity of working on a Shaw script.

Bradley Schaefer (The Trojan Women/Soldier Ensemble) is a charming young man who decided to follow his dreams to be an actor. There is more to this man than his hair and dimpled smile. Training at various theatre groups brought him to Lex-Ham.

Joel Schwendinger (O'Flaherty V.C./O'Flaherty and The Trojan Women/Soldier Ensemble) is making his first—and second—appearances with the Lex-Ham Theater. French women love him and German soldiers fear him.

Erin Ann Stuhlfaut (The Trojan Women/Chorus) recently graduated with B.A. in Theatre from Augsburg College where she performed *Oedipus Rex*, *The House of Yes*, and *Our Town* among others. Most recently, Erin was seen as the Duchess in *Alice in Wonderland* at Lakeshore Players.

Doug Thompson (The Trojan Women/Menelaus) is often referred to as, "...the husband of Karen Wiese-Thompson". Doug has been in community theatre productions off and on since 1973. Last in seen in the Fringe Festival show, *Thirst*, along with his wife and son. A second generation watchmaker, he works and/or wastes time regularly at Wixon Jewelers.

Frank Thompson (The Trojan Women/Astyanax) is a St. Paul 3rd grader with two national road tours under his belt, with Troupe America productions of *A Christmas Carol* (1999 & 2000) where he played, among others, Tiny Tim. Most recently seen as Buster in 50 Foot Penquin's version of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, a production that also featured his mother Karen. Frank enjoys playing hockey and video games

John Townsend (Director/The Trojan Women) appeared as an actor in last year's Lex-Ham Short Play Festival and returns this year to direct. He has a B.A. in English and Theater from the University of MN and a post-graduate certificate from Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. John served as Artistic Director for Actors for Change where he directed the award-winning production of *In Search of the Moon*. In 2000, John directed the Blair Comedy Project's acclaimed revival of *The Crowded Bed*. He currently teaches acting for St. Paul Community Education and the Lex-Ham Community Theater and can be reached thru www.LexHamArts.org/theater.

Leo Tushaus (The Trojan Women/Soldier Ensemble) spends a lot of time seeing plays in the Twin Cities, but his acting experience has been limited to a play he did when most of these cast members were still learning there ABC's from Big Bird. It has been an interesting experience to see the work involved to put on a production and get to know the cast and crew of *Trojan Women*.

Heidi Slen Walsh (O'Flaherty V.C./Mrs. O'Flaherty) is appearing in her fifth Lex-Ham productions including, *Bullets and Beauties*, *The Mice Have Been Drinking Again*, *The Lex-Ham Follies of 2000* and *Is That The Bus to Pittsburgh?*. When she's offstage, Heidi, along with her husband, Jim, are model nurturing parents to their two children, Beret and Seamus.

Pinky Weah (The Trojan Women/Chorus) was born in Liberia and came to the U.S. when she was 13 years old. Singing is her passion. Her uncle, aunt, and cousins believe that she will be a superstar one day.

Mickalace Wright (O'Flaherty V.C./Teresa and Rise and Shine/Cindy Probst) has been acting since she was three. Her credits include shows at the Old Log Theatre as well as many community and high school and college theatre productions, most recently Dorcas in Applause Theatre's *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. She thanks her family, friends, and sisters in the bond for their continued love and support.

Thanks to all the supporters of the Lex-Ham Community Theater. These include the following contributors to the 2003 fund drive:

Sponsors (\$100 or more)

Jack and Judy Schluckebier
Urban Landreman

**Family Members
(\$50 to \$99)**

Patricia Amidon
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Lexington Health and Rehabilitation Center
St. Paul Community Education
St. Paul Central High School Maintenance Staff
Nina Tuttle
Bruce Ehlers, Captain,
Minnesota Army National Guard
Guthrie Theater
Lexington-Hamline Community Council staff

Lex-Ham Community Theater

The Lex-Ham Community Theater began as a program of the Lexington-Hamline Community Council (LHCC). In 2002, the theater spun off from the LHCC to be part of Lex-Ham Community Arts, the umbrella arts organization for both the theater and the Lex-Ham Community Band.

Since its start in 1995, the Lex-Ham Community Theater has striven to achieve its mission of producing quality theatrical experiences by and for the residents of the Lexington-Hamline and surrounding neighborhoods in St. Paul. The company has enhanced the local theatrical scene by

- Selecting lesser-known works by noted playwrights, such as *Soul Gone Home* by Langston Hughes and *The Vegetable* by F. Scott Fitzgerald,
- Giving the regional and world premieres of works by local authors, such as *Bullets and Beauties* by Urban Landreman, and
- Reviving wonderful classics such as *The Philadelphia Story* by Philip Barry and *Under the Gaslight* by Augustin Daly.

All of its shows have provided people with little previous experience an opportunity to be on-stage or work off-stage side by side with those who have more experience.

Finally, the company strives to help build community by involving people across generations and walks of life with each of its productions.

The theater is further involved with the community by offering acting classes through St. Paul Community Education and holding free informal Shakespeare Reading Series events.

Call (651) 644-3366 to get involved.

Check out the Lex-Ham Community Theater's web site at:
www.LexHamArts.org/theater

Shakespeare Reading Series

Join neighbors and friends for an informal reading of *Julius Caesar* at 6:30 p.m., Friday, April 18, 2003, 1184 Portland Avenue, Saint Paul

6:30 p.m. – potluck supper

7:00 p.m. – sit down and read the play

Parts are reassigned at the start of each scene, so everyone gets lots of opportunities to read. Please bring your own copy of the play

Lex-Ham Community Theater

Upcoming shows in the 2003 Season

June: *Quilters* by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek

Auditions: April 12 and 14, 2003

Music/Fine Arts Building, Concordia University

November: play for children