

The Shodyyssey

A comic romp through Ancient Greece
Written & Produced by Assembleth Theatre



Supported as associates of:

thrive
barbican theatre



About the Show

Troy – Something BC. A young bull herder accidentally eats a golden apple. Three Goddesses aren't happy. And then 10 years later a city burns.

Obviously, a lot happened in between these points and several important things happened before, all of which will be revealed for the first time in a millennium. Join the four members of Assembleth Theatre as they bring to life kings, queens, heroes, gods and monsters and take you on a journey through the Trojan War as you've never seen it before. The sort-of truth behind Achilles heel, a doorless wooden horse, the twelve accidental labours of Hercules and more will be revealed as the history of one of the most important conflicts of the ancient world comes to life.

The Shodyssey was originally commissioned by New Model Theatre in conjunction with the Barbican Theatre Plymouth for performances in non-traditional spaces in Plymouth. It was named in British Theatre Guides top South West picks of 2017. The show was reworked as part of the company's associateship with Barbican Theatre Plymouth and is set to tour to outdoor and indoor spaces in summer 2022 after a successful Devon & Cornwall Tour 2021. It is completely Covid secure.

"A very funny romp through mythology with much stomping about and clattering of swords. There's carnage, chaos and a huge amount of humour as Assembleth Theatre populate Greece, Troy and a doorless wooden horse."

Rated in British Theatre Guides top South West Picks of 2017
British Theatre Guide



Key Points

- Based on traditional Greek epic 'The Iliad'.
- Engaging plot-lines to keep audiences on board.
- Family friendly.
- Physical theatre and farce.
- Makes history accessible.
- Normalising and celebrating disability within the performing arts for audiences.

Target Audiences

Comedy Audiences (including Panto) – Our work combines fast paced humour, physical comedy & farce. Fans of La Navet Bete, Scratchworks or Mischief Theatre will enjoy our work.

Families with children aged 8+ - This show is perfect for families with pre-teens and teenagers. We have found that children of all ages enjoy the more physical and farcical elements, as well as the storyline, with the show helping to make history accessible.

Additional audiences:

Over 60's - Through extensive rural touring we have developed a good audience of over 60's who enjoy the style and content of our work.

Fans of British TV comedy – We are influenced by British comedies such as: Blackadder, Monty Python, Fleabag, This Country and Fry & Laurie and audiences have often described seeing the similarities between our work and the above.

"Sound crazy? It is. It is also ridiculously funny... you will find something to amuse you in Assembleth Theatre's original, well crafted, wonderfully silly script."

#1 comedy of the Edinburgh Fringe in Broadway Baby's Top 10 list, Edfringe 2015

Broadway Baby [Shakespeare's Avengers Assembleth: Age of Oberon]



Industry Feedback

"Assembleth Theatre were a joy to work with when they brought their comedic mash-up to New Place in 2018. Their unique blend of Shakespeare and pop culture had the crowd in stitches. A treat for both hosts and audiences alike."

David Percival

Creative Programmer, New Place, Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust Ltd

"I saw this show in a glorious outdoor setting which seemed perfect for a story about an epic voyage. The Shodyyssey is a joyful romp through the Greek tale, and the script and acting are as sharp as the previous work that Assembleth have produced. The comedy was perfectly suited to a family audience, and the company are easy and professional to work with. Highly recommended!"

Claire Marshall

Deputy Director, Carn to Cove

"The Shodyyssey is a hilarious journey through classical mythology, and our rural audiences loved it! The company were self-contained and professional throughout the process and a pleasure to deal with."

Mair George

Director, Villages in Action



"Great fun! barking mad and some wondrously daft gags. Cheers Assembleth for a riotous afternoon!"
Audience comment



About the Company

Assembleth Theatre (formerly Drake's Drummers Theatre Company) are a new writing company based out of Plymouth. Having been formed in 2014, they have gone on to have success at several national and international festivals, and produced theatre for a local and national stage. They create shows for all ages, aiming to bring laughter to the heart of the theatre. Using traditional stimuli, from Homer to Shakespeare, they tell stories that are accessible to everyone and can travel anywhere. From village halls and traditional auditoriums to First World War diving platforms, they take their unique and fast paced comedy across the country to bring high quality stories to the centre of the community. Assembleth have performed in local, regional and national tours. In 2019 the company were named Thrive Associates at the Barbican Theatre, Plymouth.

An integral aim of Assembleth Theatre is to normalise and celebrate disability within the performing arts for audiences. We've found from conversations with audiences that Cal Moffat (joint company founder), is often the first disabled actor that they've seen onstage, particularly in roles not specifically written for disabled actors, or one of the few. We're proud to show them that disabled people have roles to fulfil in all parts of society, particularly the performing arts.

Company Members:

Plum Grosvenor-Stevenson – Plum is a graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and has toured across the UK and Europe as an actor, he is a founder member of Assembleth Theatre.

Cal Moffat – Cal studied at the University of Plymouth and has worked in outreach work with Balik Arts across the continent. He is the other founder member of Assembleth Theatre.

"I liked it all, it was amazing! I learnt about Greece at school but it was much better learning about it here."
- KS2 audience member



Education & Outreach

We have a combined 14 years' experience of leading workshops for both children and adults. We can tailor sessions for ages 8+ and can provide workshops on one or more of the following areas:

- **Comedy acting & writing.** Suitable for ages 8 - 16, this session runs through the basics of how to develop your comedy craft, this workshop works through one or more of Commedia dell'arte, farce, improv & physical comedy.
- **Adaptation and comedy.** Suitable for ages 8 - 16, this session uses Greek mythology as a basis for how to develop your own comedy through working from a set text.
- **Shakespearean comedy in a modern setting.** Suitable for 11+ this workshop uses Shakespeare's classics as a basis to develop comedy stories and characters relevant to a modern audience.
- **How to produce a fringe show.** Suitable for 16+, this workshop is a practical guide built on our knowledge of multiple successful Edinburgh Fringe runs and works through the basics of how to produce a show, how to get it seen by the right people and how to get an audience.

We are also happy to take part in post-show discussions or Q&A sessions, involving a wide range of topics.

Education packs – We have an educational resource pack to accompany the show including exercises and games to help community workshop leaders or teachers lead sessions on devising and writing comedy. These can be made available to local schools or youth groups attending a performance.

For more information or to discuss workshops please email Plum on assembleththeatre@gmail.com



Show Information & Booking Details

Show Details

Space: The show needs a minimum of 3m x 3m playing space.

Running Time: 65 minutes no interval, 80 minutes with interval.

Get in: 1hr minimum

Get out: 30 mins minimum

Touring Company: 4 actors

Age Guidance: 8+

Sound: Needs basic PA system, the company can travel with their own.

Lights: Needs basic lighting rig if indoor or after dark outdoors. Company can bring their own, this will need to be discussed in advance.

Marketing

o Print: leaflets (A5) and posters (varying sizes)

o Short, medium & long copy

o E-flyer: PDF format

o Production Shots: Downloadable via Dropbox

o Artwork: Downloadable via Dropbox

o Press release: Word doc via Dropbox

o Twitter: @assembleth

o Facebook: Assembleth Theatre

o Instagram: Assembleth Theatre

o Website: www.assembleththeatre.co.uk

For more information or to discuss booking please contact Plum Grosvenor-Stevenson on

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