



Μυθολογία

Affordable Theater, Inc.

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This newsletter is for members and friends of Affordable Theater, Inc. of Los Altos, California. If you would like to receive a copy of your own, please contact us at musings@affordabletheater.com

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10 Things You Didn't Know About...

Aesop

10. He was born a slave.
9. He was granted his freedom because he managed to educate himself, and therefore impressed his master.
8. In Ancient Greece only free men were allowed to take an interest in public affairs.
7. He used his fables as diplomatic tools while on missions to the various Greek republics.
6. Aesop died in Delphi. It was either because he was so disappointed in the Delphians greed that he refused to give them the gifts he was sent to bring, or it was because he attempted to steal the money for himself. The former is the more popular opinion.
5. The adage that "no wrong deed goes unpunished" was originally "you are beset with the blood of Aesop" – referring to his death at the hands of the Delphians.
4. The first known written account of Aesop describes him as a horribly deformed monster.
3. Socrates translated Aesop's fables into verse while wiling away his time in prison.
2. The oldest surviving book (4th century) of Aesop's fables contains 42 stories. The second oldest (9th century) contains 55. The next, 1476, contains 100. The next, 1480, contains 144. The last, printed in 1894, contains 233.
1. Aesop's history is so obscure, that some scholars to deny his existence altogether.

Up and Coming

Auditions

Performance Date:
Monday 10am
September 20, 2004

Auditions:
Wednesday/Thursday 6:30pm-9pm
July 21 and 22, 2004 (Callbacks July 28, 29)

Rehearsals:
Wednesdays/Thursdays 6:30pm-9pm
August 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, September 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, and 16, 2004

Auditions and Rehearsals will be held at the Serra Park stage, 739 The Dalles Ave, Sunnyvale CA.
[Map](#)

The Play: *Shakespeare 101*
A slight variation of the original script that includes work from "All's Well That End's Well".

For more information visit
www.affordabletheater.com/sarah/shakespeare101/



2004 Fundraiser

Come join Affordable Theater at our second annual fundraiser. This year we will gather together to celebrate the holiday season. Join us...



© Margaret Cebama 1998

When Santas Collide...

Christmas Around The World

Saturday, December 11, 2004

There will be food, there will be fun, there will be Santas...there will be colliding.

Who could ask for anything more?

Bring some holiday cheer, and leave knowing you're supporting a good cause.

Further information will be available soon online, in this space, and in your local newspapers.

The Technical End

Affordable Theater has entered a new phase of our development. Stepping boldly into the world of audio/visual arts, ATI's latest version of *Shakespeare 101* five different characters appeared only onscreen.

Shakespeare 101, like all Sarah's Troupe shows, is presented as part of our "live theater for every school" initiative. This program brings theatrical productions to classrooms all over the Bay area. The beauty of a Sarah's Troupe performance is it can be done anywhere. Whether the school can provide us with a full stage or a 10'x10' corner in a classroom, we can deliver Shakespeare, Aesop's Fables, Greek Tragedy, or one of a dozen other shows. The trouble with this flexibility, is that we have to design all of the shows around the absolute minimum – the 10'x10' corner. All sets, props, equipment, and actors must be able to arrive, set up, run the show, clean up, and depart in the space of a few hours. This means there are no multi-part sets, no orchestras, no lighting, and very few costumes and props. Thus the introduction of any new technology allowing us to bring a better show to the students is welcome. With this in mind ATI took a closer look at using audio/visual affects to add to the depth of our next show.

Shakespeare 101 has a modular script designed for two to seven actors. The addition of A/V technology allowed the 2-person show to have four actors on stage at the same time. Using digital video we presented the characters of Romeo, Juliet, Priam, Pyrrhus, and Hecuba each on a full set designed for the particular scene. Romeo and Juliet had their famous balcony scene on the steps of a gazebo, and the fall of Troy took place before a Greek-style temple. The possibilities that this type of technology opens to us are practically endless.

Work on filming began many weeks before the actors were called. First we found the locations for both shots: Lincoln Park in Los Altos for Romeo and Juliet, and the Stanford Mausoleum in Palo Alto for the fall of Troy. We determined the filming times and then contacted our actors. *Romeo and Juliet* was filmed first. We discovered early in that we would have to have multiple takes, which added the requirement of film editing software. That problem was taken care of after we spoke with Tom Padula and Lance Scott. Tom was one of the original designers of Apple's iMovie program, and Lance had a Mac available for us to learn the software.



We filmed Romeo and Juliet on two different days. Though we discovered site lines, and background issues that we had been unaware of in our first shooting, it wasn't too bad for our

first try. The filming of Troy was much more involved, and in the end, much more impressive. Calling upon two of our more experienced actors, David McGaffey and Brian Larsen, we scheduled a single day for the shoot. Brian and David worked together beautifully, and after only a few takes we had plenty of footage. Now it was time for iMovie.

Not having used an Apple computer regularly since the late 80's I was somewhat apprehensive about the process, but iMovie proved to be a fairly intuitive program. We edited together all the Romeo and Juliet takes into one good cut – and then added the sound, which had been recorded separately, over the final cut. The fall of Troy had no sound at all – all the dialogue would be live. iMovie once again proved painless, and we were able to edit together a rather moving piece of cinematography. This is of course in comparison to nothing, as this was our first foray – but our audience enjoyed it, and that's what we were aiming for.

The final step in the process was actually presenting our works to the audience. This involved bringing together a stereo, dvd player, and projector. With much thanks to Audrey McCombs were able to acquire the use of a Dell projector, which was small enough and bright enough for our needs. We used large pieces of foam core for a projector screen, and with the availability of remote controls for all the devices, we were set to go.

Now, as with all things, we encountered problems. The dvds took forever to burn, the remotes proved somewhat problematic, and even indirect sun had a greater fading effect than anticipated. Despite these setbacks, we were able to present an entertaining and educational multi-media show for the first time. And judging by our audiences' reaction – we'll be doing it again.



ATI Update

I give, you give, we all give through iGive

Fundraising is a tricky business. The internet has opened many new pathways, but a constant barrage of spam has made people wary of any offer that includes the phrase "enter your email address". So when we became aware of iGive, we looked at it carefully before deciding to join their program.

Through iGive, many of the online purchases you make in your everyday life can now benefit Affordable Theater. Need books? Order from the Barnes and Noble website, and they'll donate a percentage of your purchase to us. Tired of hauling large bags of pet food from the car to the house? No problem. Petco.com will deliver to your home and give a portion of the sale to ATI. Out of ink for your printer? It's not an inconvenience, it's an opportunity to help out Affordable Theater by ordering through 123inkjets or Staples.com. Cooking.com, Eddie Bauer, wine.com, the FTD florist, and hundreds of other online retailers have signed up to help causes around the country.

So, how do you make this happen? Well, first you sign up with iGive. Don't worry; they won't sell your information to anyone, we checked. Go to www.iGive.com/ATI, and follow the instructions to join iGive.

Then, when you're ready to shop, go to the iGive shopping page, <http://www.iGive.com/html/mall.cfm>, and look at their list of merchants. Find the merchant you're looking for, click the link, and shop as you always do. You'll be supporting the theater while purchasing products you needed anyway. Do you have friends that shop online? Forward the link to them or send them to www.affordabletheater.com/support. The more the merrier! No matter how much or little you shop online, your contribution will make a difference to us. We appreciate your support.



How You Can Help

All contributions, whether goods, services, monies, or time, are deeply appreciated. At the moment, however, we are looking to expand our technical program.

ATI is looking for a Mac computer with iMovie, firewire and s-video capabilities, and a dvd burner.

Please contact us at giving@affordabletheater.com. Affordable Theater, Inc is a non-profit corporation under tax code 501(c)(3). As such, all contributions qualify for a tax deduction, as well as our undying gratitude.

Useful Information

Email Lists

Click on the link to join a list, or adjust your settings.

Actors

Auditions, and other actor-specific notices.

<http://lists.affordabletheater.com/mailman/listinfo/atiactors>

Musings

The ATI Newsletter.

<http://lists.affordabletheater.com/mailman/listinfo/atimusings>

Everyone

A public list for anyone involved with ATI.

<http://lists.affordabletheater.com/mailman/listinfo/everyone>

