



59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860 | (401) 484-0355 | www.burbagetheatre.org
Jeff Church, *Artistic Director* | Allison Crews, *Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Burbage Theatre Co continues their 13th Season
with AN ILIAD, starring Bill Harley, accompanied by Cathy Clasper-Torch**

PAWTUCKET, RI October 8, 2024 —

Burbage Theatre Co follows *The One-Act Play that Goes Wrong* and the World Premiere of James Lucey's *Witching Hour Social Club* with a truly unique and exciting production of *An Iliad*, by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare, starring two time Grammy Award winner Bill Harley and accompanied by Cathy Clasper-Torch, with an outside eye by Burbage Theatre Co Artistic Director Jeff Church.

AN ILIAD will be presented for a **limited engagement of 13** performances spanning three weeks from **November 7 through November 24** at Burbage Theatre Co's Wendy Overly Studio Theatre.

"**This is a significant moment for Burbage Theatre Co** as we present this timeless retelling of the classic tale that is Homer's account of the Trojan war. *An Iliad* is at once intimate and epic in scope – a lone performer recounts to us in an empty theatre a tale of gods and men fighting shoulder to shoulder in seemingly unceasing conflict. **It is ancient, and yet eerily modern. It balances the gravity of war** – perpetual war and its innumerable grievous aspects – **with an uncannily familiar levity** – a reverent irreverence. It is a perfect union of content and form. The Poet, our storyteller, is thousands of years old and remembers it all. With the practiced storytelling of one who has been there and witnessed everything – from the first war to now – he thrusts this venerable tale into the present with vivid immediacy.

This play has become a tradition in Rhode Island—a powerful vehicle for an inventive and capable performer; and one that remains, perhaps unfortunately, endlessly relevant. **We are thrilled to have two-time Grammy Award-winning storyteller Bill Harley leading this production as 'the Poet', accompanied by Cathy Clasper-Torch.** Bill is a local staple and internationally renowned as a storyteller, songwriter, author, and playwright, particularly known for his work with children and families. **Accompanied by Cathy Clasper-Torch** – a versatile multi-instrumentalist with an extensive list of musical collaborations across New England and over 18 years of teaching experience – this promises to be an especially exciting and powerful collaboration.

Suffice it to say, when a perfect recipe falls into your lap – it's time to cook. **This production promises to captivate from our Burbage stage. Don't miss it."**

— **Jeff Church**, *Artistic Director, Burbage Theatre Co*

**Burbage Theatre Co's production of *An Iliad* begins previews on
November 7 and closes on November 24 after 13 performances.
LIMITED ENGAGEMENT | Only three weeks**

*All performances will take place at Burbage Theatre Co's Wendy Overly Studio Theatre
59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860.*

*Critics and members of the Press are Invited to join us on our
on our first Sunday (Sunday, November 10 at 2:00pm).
You can reply to this email or contact boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org for more information.*

AN ILIAD

by Lisa Peterson & Denis O'Hare, based on Homer's *The Iliad*, translated by Robert Fagles

Performed by Bill Harley

(LIMITED ENGAGEMENT | November 7 - 24)

A modern-day retelling of Homer's classic. Poetry and humor, the ancient tale of the Trojan War and the modern world collide in this captivating theatrical experience. The setting is simple: the empty theater. The time is now: the present moment. The lone figure onstage is a storyteller—possibly Homer, possibly one of the many bards who followed in his footsteps. He is fated to tell this story throughout history.

Burbage is thrilled to welcome two-time Grammy Award Winner, acclaimed author/storyteller/musician Bill Harley and accompanist Cathy Clasper-Torch, for what promises to be a one-of-a-kind rendition of an endlessly relevant play, performed by a true master of storytelling.

Winner of the 2012 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Solo Show.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Bill Harley (*The Poet*) is well-traveled, well-read, well-educated, well-spoken and well-loved.

Accompanied by his guitar, his narrative songs and stories, both original and traditional, are a celebration of our common humanity. Best known for his work with children and families, his ability to navigate through a confusing world with humor and wisdom is evident in his masterful storytelling as well as his numerous award-winning recordings and books.

A two-time Grammy winner, he is vibrant, outrageous, unpredictable and genuine with songs and stories about growing up, schooling and what it is to be human—our connections with one another and with the planet we share. Recognized by audiences and peers as one of the finest performing storytellers in the country, his work has influenced a generation of children, parents, performing artists and educators.

Bill tours internationally as a performing artist, author and keynote speaker from his home in Seekonk, Massachusetts.

Cathy Clasper-Torch (*The Muse*) is a teacher, performer and multi-instrumentalist (violin/fiddle, piano, erhu, cello), with a passion for improvisation and harmony. As a studio musician, Cathy's been a guest artist on over 40 albums, as well as projects of her own, solo or in collaboration with others.

Cathy plays with/collaborates with a variety of Rhode Island and New England musicians including: Atwater-Donnelly, Shelley Katsh, Kim Trusty, Mary King, Ed Sweeney, Mark Cutler, Dan Lanier, and Saddle Up the Chicken.

Cathy has been the Violin/Fiddle instructor in the Harry Martin Heritage Arts program at the Blackstone River Theatre in Cumberland, RI, for over 18 years.

Cathy is also a member of Grace Note Singers, offering bedside singing to people receiving palliative care.



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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

AN ILIAD

by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare

based on Homer's *The Iliad* translated by Robert Fagles

ENSEMBLE

The Poet Bill Harley
The Muse Cathy Clasper-Torch

PRODUCTION CREW

Jeff Church Outside Eye
Jay Forcello Stage Manager
Trevor Elliott Production Design
Andrew Iacovelli TD
Brittany Costello ATD/Props

An Iliad CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

Thursday November 7 at 7:30pm **Preview**
Friday November 8 at 7:30pm **Preview**
Saturday November 9 at 7:30pm **OPENING/Pay-What-You-Will**
Sunday November 10 at 2:00pm **PRESS**

Thursday November 14 at 7:30pm
Friday November 15 at 7:30pm
Saturday November 16 at 7:30pm
Sunday November 17 at 2:00pm

Thursday November 21 at 7:30pm
Friday November 22 at 7:30pm
Saturday November 23 at 2pm
Saturday November 23 at 7:30pm
Sunday November 24 at 2:00pm

TICKET POLICY —

"The best bang for your theatrical buck in the Ocean State." — Warwick Beacon

Preview Performances — \$15

General Admission — \$30

Students — \$15

High School Students — Any and all rush tickets are available to High School students for FREE

Group Discounts are available - contact boxoffice@burbagetheatre.org for more info.

COVID-19 PREVENTION POLICY —

Burbage has implemented an *optional masking policy* for our patrons.

While masks are no longer required, you are encouraged to mask if you like.

Burbage will continue to make masks available to our patrons.

We do ask that you remain mindful of your own health and wellness before attending the theatre.

If you begin exhibiting new symptoms of Covid-19 that cannot be explained by regular seasonal allergies, we ask that you reconsider attending the theatre.

There is nothing more important to us than your health and safety.

If you must cancel or change your reservation with us, just contact the box office and we'll be happy to exchange your tickets to another performance.