

ARGONAUTIKA



presented by Chatterbox Audio Theater
as told by Apollonius of Rhodes
adapted for audio
and directed by Robert Arnold



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Rhodes College
—1818—

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We are grateful to the Neely Mallory family for the endowment gift of The Noreen Cathey Mallory Theatrical Fund, which will underwrite one production a year.

The McCoy Theatre infrared hearing system is the gift of the Menke Foundation in honor of Edwin Howard.

The McCoy Theatre is the producing component of the academic program of the Department of Theatre. In order to continue producing plays, our production costs must be met through gifts and subscriptions, as well as single ticket sales. Through your financial support and your intellectual curiosity, you are literally giving life to this important developmental stage of an incredibly valuable art form. We extend our deepest thanks to our supporters and hope that others will consider becoming a Producer, Benefactor or Patron-level donor.

CHATTERBOX AUDIO THEATER

presents

ARGONAUTICA

As told by Apollonius of Rhodes

Adapted for audio by Robert Arnold

Acknowledgement made to Benjamin Britten's *Six Metamorphoses after Ovid, Op. 49*, excerpts of which are featured in the production.

Cast

Orpheus	Billy Pullen
Jason	Chris Jowers
Medea	Natalie Jones
Heracles / Argos	Joe Vescovo
Hylas / Eros / Apsyrtos	Odell Atkinson
Idmon / Phineus / Glaukos / Alcinous	Jim Robinson
Telamon / Aetes	Jyo Carolino
Tiphys / Zetes / Pelias	Brent Morgan
Idas / Calais / Cyzicus	Ross Williams
Hypsipyle / Narrator / Nymph / Aphrodite / Arete	Abigail Amsden
Chalciope / Alcimedede / Iris / Hera	Renée Kemper

Presented in two acts, *Argonautica* will have a 15-minute intermission.

Friday's performance will be followed by remarks from Rhodes Professor David Sick and a Q&A with the cast and crew.

Crew

Sound Effects Coordinator Bill Short
Music Director Renée Kemper
Musicians Anthony Gilbert (violin)
Renée Kemper (piano)
Nathan Nix (oboe, English horn, bassoon)
Ed Richter (guitar, mandolin)
Consultant David Sick
Assistant Producer Mike Hanrahan
Assistant Director Tommy Harless
Producer James Antoine
Director Robert Arnold

Special Thanks

Kevin Collier, Cookie Ewing, Laura Canon,
and all the great people at the McCoy Theatre

Bill Andrews
Karen Strachan
Deborah Hyatt
Eric Sefton
Jason Hatcher
Stan Head

The Artists

Abigail Amsden (Ensemble) is excited to get back into acting after a five-year hiatus. Abby started participating in Memphis theatre at age 16. She has been seen in ShoWagon's *A Christmas Carol* at Theatre Memphis, *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* with the Emerald Theatre Company, *Babes in Toyland* and *Charlotte's Web* at Circuit Playhouse, and Playhouse on the Square's touring show *The Toymaker's Apprentice*. She is thrilled to be a part of Chatterbox's production and hopes to participate in future endeavors.

James Antoine (Producer) is a recent graduate of the University of Memphis, where he earned a Computer Science degree. He also holds a Bachelor of Music degree with a concentration in recording technology and is a former president of the Audio Engineering Society at the U of M. He has bounced around in the arts, acting in plays, playing music, singing, and recording audio.

Robert Arnold (Director) is a 2002 graduate of Rhodes College and the Executive Director of Chatterbox Audio Theater. Begun in 2007 with fellow alums Kyle Hatley, David Mickle, and Andrew Sullivan, Chatterbox has since released more than 40 original works, has become an official nonprofit organization, and has moved into its own recording studio. Robert has adapted, directed, and performed in a large number of Chatterbox productions, as well as appeared onstage in productions at the McCoy, Germantown Community Theatre, and Theatre Memphis. During the day, he is the Grants Manager at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art. He would like to thank his friends at the McCoy for letting Chatterbox crash on their metaphorical couch for awhile.

Odell Atkinson (Ensemble) originally planned to go into a field involving animals, biology, zoology, or veterinary practices. Once his education hit the skids, Odell did the only respectable thing available: acting. Odell has been voice-acting since 2007, and has slowly been building his repertoire in the Memphis and Nashville areas. He grew up listening to the cartoon inspirations of Maurice Lamarche, Frank Welker, Tony Jay, Mel Blanc—the list goes on. He is signed with Abby Elzemeyer Talent Agency. Odell's other artistic endeavors include ballet, piano, animation, writing, and singing.

Jyo Carolino (Ensemble) is known for teaching dance workshops centered on swing dancing, hip-hop, and contemporary. He is also the former two-time president of the Gay-Straight Alliance, a SafeZone participant, and a stalwart advocate of GLBT rights. In the Memphis community, Jyo is a renowned fighter. His training spans American boxing, Muay Thai, and Pekiti-Tirsia Kali. Jyo would like to thank 4th Company for his experiences. In his words, "Igalang ang kamatayan. Tayo ay nabubuhay para makipaglaban."

Natalie Jones (Medea) is a graduate of the University of Memphis. After college she joined the ShoWagon troupe of Theatre Memphis. She later moved to Los Angeles,

where she interned at Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum, studied under Ellen Geer, and was a company member for three years. At Theatricum, she was seen in *Romeo & Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, *The Tempest*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *Cymbeline*. After moving back to Memphis, she became the proprietor of the local bar and grill, The Poplar Lounge.

Chris Jowers (Jason) is debuting on the McCoy stage as the voice of Jason. He previously directed *Arkham for America*, in which he also voiced Dr. Arkham, Bane, Killer Croc, and the Joker. Chris enjoys creative writing during his leisure time.

Tommy Harless (Assistant Director) is a first-year student at Rhodes. He has previously worked with Chatterbox, but *Argonautica* is his first production to work on from beginning to end, and he is excited to work at the McCoy in the upcoming production of *Twelfth Night*. He has performed at the Lincoln Center for the National Shakespeare Competition.

Renée Kemper (Music Director, Musician, Ensemble), a Texas native, has been musical directing in theatres across the country for over fifteen years, including such venues as the Fulton Opera House (Lancaster, PA), the Barter Theatre (Abingdon, VA), Le Petit Theatre (New Orleans), and Playhouse on the Square (Memphis), where she is Resident Music Director. Renée holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, and a Master of Music degree from the University of Memphis. She has received two Memphis Theatre Awards and two Ostrander Awards for excellence in Musical Direction, and an Ostrander for a Featured Role in *Jacques Brel*.

Brent Morgan (Ensemble) has provided broadcast, narration, and musical vocal talent for various organizations, but Chatterbox represents his first breakthrough into the dog-eat-dog world of local audio theater. It is true, however, that Brent unabashedly had a leg up, as he and Robert Arnold were both founding members of the Rhodes College improv troupe, Contents Under Pressure. Using his pen rather than his voice, Brent has earned a Master of Science degree in Experimental Psychology, and hopes to complete his Ph.D. in 2012. His research areas include cognitive science and artificial intelligence, which he uses to help build expert computer tutors to aid children struggling to succeed.

Billy Pullen (Orpheus) teaches IB (International Baccalaureate) English and Creative Writing at Germantown High School. A published/produced playwright, Billy is the recipient of the Tennessee Williams scholarship for the Southern Writers' Conference in Sewanee. His one-act play, *Fallen Short of the Glory*, won five national prizes and a production in New York City's Theatre Row. He is also an avid fan of Bard College's Writing and Thinking Institute, whose literary journal, *Writing from the Inside Out*, has published two of his short stories. Billy serves as a theatre judge in the college division for the Ostranders.

Jim Robinson (Ensemble) marks his Chatterbox debut with *Argonautica*. Having developed an interest in audio and video production in college, and having been an ardent fan of the Firesign Theater, Jim's performing in Chatterbox fulfills a long-shelved desire. An Assistant District Attorney General, Jim has practiced law since 1982. He served as a General Sessions Criminal Court Judge and is currently a prosecutor in the Shelby County Environmental Court. He is married to Jessica, his wife of 32 years, and has two grown sons, Jay and Jesse. In his spare time, Jim is the lead singer for his reformed high school rock 'n' soul band, The Strangers, and finds time each year to coach the MUS mock trial team.

Bill Short (Sound Effects Coordinator) is a 30-year veteran of the Memphis theatre scene. A member of the Chatterbox Board of Directors, he has received numerous Ostrander Awards and is the 2006 recipient of the Eugart Yerian Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre.

David Sick (Consultant) was raised in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Greek at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio, in 1988. He completed his graduate work in the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Minnesota. A member of the Department of Greek and Roman Studies at Rhodes College since 1997, he previously worked with Chatterbox on its recording of the Cupid & Psyche myth and its as-yet-unreleased production of *Oedipus the King*.

Joe Vescovo (Ensemble) is excited to return to the McCoy to voice the roles of Heracles and Argos. He graduated from Rhodes in 2002 and is currently a dentist in Arlington, Tennessee. He performed previously in *Lysistrata and the Death of Cupid, Not About Nightingales*, and *All in the Timing* at the McCoy, and contributed to Chatterbox's productions of *Bartleby the Scrivener, Six, The Dead Girl*, and *Partridge's Perfect Present*.

Ross Williams (Ensemble) is a native Memphian and former high school math teacher who has recently decided to pursue his love of acting. He has been involved in productions at Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Memphis, and Germantown Community Theatre. *Argonautica* represents his first time working with Chatterbox Audio Theater, and he is very grateful for the opportunity.

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