

Acting Edition

Orphie and the Book of Heroes

Book and Lyrics by
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ORPHIE AND THE BOOK OF HEROES was first produced at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, on February 8, 2014. It was directed by Joe Calarco, with music direction by Jenny Cartney, orchestrations by Mike Pettry, choreography by Karma Camp, costumes and puppetry design by Timm Burrow, scenic and puppetry design by Tony Cisek, sound design by Matt Rowe, and lighting design by Dan Covey. The production stage manager was Karen Currie. The cast was as follows:

ORPHIE Lauren Du Pree
HOMER Christopher Bloch
NEMEAN DANDELION, HADES, ATLAS Thomas Adrian Simpson
AESCHYLUS, TELLY,
PEGASUS, SISYPHUS, CERBERUS #2 Paul Scanlan
HERACLES, EURIPEDES,
AGLAOPE, TANTALUS, HYDRA Evan Casey
HERMES, SOPHOCLES, PEISINOE, CERBERUS #1 Samuel Edgerly
PERSEPHONE, CERBERUS #3, STATUE OF LIBERTY Gia Mora
UNDERSTUDIES Shayna Blass, William Diggle,
Nora Palka, Christopher Wilson

CHARACTERS

ORPHIE – A spunky, pigtailed girl. Plucky and scrappy. Eleven.

HOMER – A blind poet and Orphie's guardian.

NEMEAN DANDELION, HYDRA & CERBERUS – Three fantastical monsters in Orphie's imagination.

AESCHYLUS, EURIPIDES & SOPHOCLES – Three school boys. The Ancient Greek equivalent of Mean Girls. Twelve-ish.

HADES – Lord of the Underworld. Urbane and charming, but dangerous.

HERACLES – A hero with an ego the size of the Persian empire. A cross between a movie star and an obnoxious athlete.

HERMES – Messenger to the Gods. Loquacious, insecure, and neurotic.

AGLAOPE, PEISINOE & TELLY – Sassy Sirens.

PERSEPHONE – Hades's depressed wife.

ATLAS – A gigantic, cantankerous Titan with a sensitive side.

PEGASUS – A flying horse/flight attendant.

TANTALUS & SISYPHUS – Residents of the Underworld.

STATUE OF LIBERTY – The Statue of Liberty.

POSSIBLE DOUBLING

1. Orphie
2. Persephone/Cerberus #3/Statue of Liberty
3. Homer
4. Aeschylus/Telly/Sisyphus/Pegasus/Cerberus #2
5. Euripides/Heracles/Aglaope/Tantalus/Hydra
6. Sophocles/Hermes/Peisinoe/Cerberus #1
7. Hades/Atlas/Dandelion

SETTING

Ancient Greece

MUSICAL NUMBERS

- 00. Opening Instrumental
- 01. The Book of Heroes Dandelion, Orphie, Homer, Hydra,
Cerberus & Ensemble
- 01a. The Book of Heroes (Playoff)..... Instrumental
- 02. One More Story Homer & Orphie
- 03. Scrawny Little Orphan Girl Sophocles, Euripedes
& Aeschylus
- 03a. Orphie's Bedroom Instrumental
- 03b. Hades's Telepathic Grip Instrumental
- 04. What Would a Hero Do?..... Orphie & Heracles
- 04a. Orphie Sets Sail Instrumental
- 05. Orphie Go Home Hermes
- 05a. The Siren's Song.....Aglaope, Peisinoe & Telly
- 06. To the Underworld..... Instrumental
- 07. Misery Hades, Tantalus & Sisyphus
- 07a. Sing, O Muse, of the Rage of Achilles..... Instrumental
- 08. To Be a Siren Aglaope, Peisinoe, Telly & Orphie
- 08a. Sirens (Playoff)..... Instrumental
- 08b. Atlas's Entrance..... Instrumental
- 09. Wrapped Up in a Story Orphie & Atlas
- 09a. Into the Heavens Instrumental
- 09b. Air Pegasus to Hades..... Instrumental
- 09c. The Skies Above Mount Olympus..... Instrumental
- 09d. Heracles's Fanfare Instrumental
- 10. He's the Man Heracles, Orphie & Male Ensemble
- 11. Mount Olympus..... Hermes & Orphie
- 11a. Mount Olympus (Playoff)..... Instrumental
- 11b. Orphie's Entrance Instrumental
- 11c. Orphie's Story..... Instrumental
- 12. Finale Homer, Persephone, Orphie & Ensemble
- 13. Bows..... Instrumental

[MUSIC NO. 00 – OPENING]

START TRACK 01

(At rise: ORPHIE, wearing a homemade helmet, stands, role-playing and narrating as the Parthenon set transforms into Homer's garden.)

ORPHIE. In the beginning, there was only chaos. Out of chaos came Darkness and Night, Light and Day, the Heavens and Earth. From the Heavens and Earth sprung the gods, and then came the greatest age of all: the Age of Heroes.

(She draws her sword.)

The heroes performed daring feats of bravery, fetching the Golden Fleece, sacking the city of Troy, and...

(She sighs and looks down at the garden.)

Weeding the garden.

(She gives the garden a loud “raspberry.”)

HOMER. *(Offstage.)* Orphie? Orphie? Orphie
Extraordinary!

ORPHIE. Homer!

(Enter HOMER.)

HOMER. Are you quite finished with your chores, child?

ORPHIE. Almost.

HOMER. I may be blind, my girl, but I'm not that blind.

ORPHIE. Heroes don't weed gardens.

HOMER. Orphie –

ORPHIE. Please, Homer. Just one story?

HOMER. Orphie, my dear child –

ORPHIE. A story of adventures, and monsters, and the greatest hero who ever lived.

HOMER. I know no such story.

ORPHIE. Told by the greatest storyteller who ever lived.

HOMER. You have the cunning of Odysseus, my girl.

ORPHIE. The story of the great hero Heracles.

START TRACK 02

HOMER. Sing, Muse, of the great hero Heracles, charged by the gods to complete twelve impossible labors.

ORPHIE. And so?

HOMER. Our hero sets out to complete his first labor. A perilous task filled with danger at every turn.

ORPHIE. What kind of danger?

(The set transforms into a fantastical landscape.)

HOMER. The ground begins to tremble.

ORPHIE. But Heracles is not afraid.

HOMER. The skies turn black.

ORPHIE. But Heracles presses on.

HOMER. The earth beneath him splits open...

ORPHIE. But Heracles will not fail.

HOMER. Our hero draws his trusty blade...

(ORPHIE draws her sword.)

ORPHIE. And finds himself face-to-face with...

HOMER. The ferocious Nemean Dandelion.

[MUSIC NO. 01 – THE BOOK OF HEROES]

*(The **NEMEAN DANDELION** appears.)*

DANDELION.

WOE TO THE ANCIENT GREEKS WHO CROSS MY PATH.
WOE TO THE HERO WHO INVOKES MY WRATH.

LIKE JASON, DECKED OUT IN BRONZE AND BRASS.
TASTY JASON, I SWALLOWED WHOLE, ALAS!
FOR HE GAVE ME AWFUL GAS.

ORPHIE. You've drunk your last drop of hero's blood, you
wretched weed of the wild.

DANDELION. Heracles!

*(Throughout the following, **ORPHIE** slays the
DANDELION.)*

ORPHIE.

THEN HE STRINGS HIS BOW,
TURNS TO FACE HIS FOE.
HIS HONOR IS REWARDED.

HERACLES TAKES AIM.
HE EARNS HIS FAME.
YES, HIS NAME WILL BE RECORDED
IN *THE BOOK OF HEROES*.

HOMER. But no sooner had he begun his quest to water the
azaleas, then he was set upon by the nefarious Hydra.

*(The **HYDRA**, comprised of several hoses,
appears.)*

HYDRA.

NOW LITTLE HERO, YOU MUST DEAL WITH ME.
FEAR YE THE HYDRA, SERPENT OF THE SEA.

HYDRA.

ACHILLES, WHO NEVER KNEW A LOSS.
ACHILLES, I ATE WITH TARTAR SAUCE.
AND I USED HIS BONES AS FLOSS.

And now, time for dessert!

(**ORPHIE** *slays the* **HYDRA.**)

ORPHIE.

WITH HIS TRUSTY SHIELD,
HE TAKES THE FIELD.
A HERO FOR THE AGES.

WITH HIS SWORD IN HAND,
HE TAKES A STAND.
AND HE FILLS A THOUSAND PAGES
OF *THE BOOK OF HEROES*.

HOMER.

WHEN SWORDS ARE CLASHING, AND SLASHING
THROUGH THE AIR.

ORPHIE.

WHEN SHIELDS ARE CRASHING, AND DANGER'S
EV'RYWHERE.

BOTH.

A THOUSAND SPEARS MAY GLISTEN IN THE SUN.
A HERO WILL NOT RUN
'TIL THE BATTLE'S WON.

(**CERBERUS**, *the three-headed hound of Hades,*
appears.)

CERBERUS.

WOE TO THE MAN WHO TREADS UPON THIS GROUND.

ORPHIE. Cerberus!**CERBERUS.**

NOW FACE THE DREADED, GREAT THREE-HEADED
HOUND.

ORPHIE.

BEWARE, YOU'LL SOON
 REGRET THAT THREAT.
 PREPARE, TO BECOME MY
 HOUSEHOLD PET.

(She slays CERBERUS.)

HERACLES STEPS UP.
 AND HE TAMES THAT PUP.
 THE CAVE RINGS WITH HIS
 LAUGHTER.
 WITH A MIGHTY BLOW

HE SLAYS HIS FOE,

AND LIVES HAP'LY EVER
 AFTER.

HE LIVES HAP'LY EVER
 AFTER.

ENSEMBLE.

OOH AH

OOH

OOH

OOH

HIS LAUGHTER

WITH A MIGHTY BLOW

HE SLAYS HIS FOE.

AH

HE LIVES HAP'LY EVER
 AFTER.

ORPHIE.

*IN THE BOOK
 OF HEROES.*

*IN THE BOOK
 OF HEROES.*

TENOR 1.

*IN THE BOOK
 OF HEROES.
 HEROES.*

*IN THE BOOK
 OF HEROES.
 HEROES.*

**TREBLE VOICES,
 TENOR 2 &
 BARITONE.**

*IN THE BOOK
 OF HEROES.*

*IN THE BOOK
 OF HEROES.*

ALL.

IN THE BOOK OF HEROES.

**[MUSIC NO. 01A – THE BOOK OF HEROES
 (PLAYOFF)]**

START TRACK 03

(The lights shift back to reality. ORPHIE is washing Argos, Homer's pet dog.)

HOMER. Ah, my little Orphie, what am I to do with you?

ORPHIE. What do you mean?

HOMER. When your parents, rest their souls, left you in my charge, I promised to take care of you. You should be learning a practical trade, like philosophy. And what have I done? Filled your head with fancy and frivolity.

[MUSIC NO. 02 – ONE MORE STORY]**START TRACK 04**

ORPHIE. No way. Everyone in Ancient Greece knows that the stories in Homer's *Book of Heroes* are the greatest, most thrilling, most historically accurate tales in the world. They will be remembered forever.

HOMER. Not yet. Not quite yet.

ORPHIE. What do you mean?

HOMER.

I HAVE TOLD A THOUSAND STORIES,
AND I'VE SEEN MY FAME INCREASE
AS THE STORIES SPREAD THROUGH ALL OF ANCIENT
GREECE.

FROM ACHILLES AND HIS ARMOR,
TO JASON AND HIS FLEECE.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING.

FOR THE STORIES I'VE BEEN TELLING,
LIKE THEIR TELLER, HAVE GROWN OLD.
THERE'S A TALE TO TELL THAT I HAVE LEFT UNTOLD.

YES, I'VE TOLD A THOUSAND STORIES,
AND I'VE TOLD THEM RATHER WELL.

BUT THERE'S ONE MORE STORY
LEFT TO TELL.

ORPHIE. Well then, go on and try. You tell it, and I'll write it down.

HOMER. I... I can't.

ORPHIE. Please?

HOMER. Orphie, I –

ORPHIE. For me?

HOMER. Sing...Muse...of the great hero Crayon. Who once had to do something. And then he did it.

ORPHIE. Oh.

HOMER. It's terrible!

START TRACK 05

WHAT'S THE USE IN PRESSING ON,
IF THE GIFT I HAD IS GONE?
I HAVE WRACKED MY MIND,
BUT I CAN'T FIND
ONE MORE TO LEAVE BEHIND.

ORPHIE.

DID ODYSSEUS SIT CRYING
WHEN THE CYCLOPS ATE HIS MEN?
OR DID HE SAIL FOR ITHACA AGAIN?

IF ODYSSEUS COULD DO IT,
WELL, HOMER, TAKE YOUR PEN.
LIKE THE HEROES IN YOUR STORIES, YOU'LL PERSEVERE
AND THEN,
YOU WILL FIND ANOTHER STORY AND MANY MORE AS
WELL.

YES, YOU'LL FIND THE STORY
YOU HAVE TO TELL.

HOMER. It's the final story, Orphie. It must be perfect.
The tale of a hero the likes of which Ancient Greece has
never seen.

ORPHIE. So...

HOMER. I have no more papyrus. I crumpled it all up and
threw it in the trash. Though, I may have missed.

ORPHIE. I'll go to the Acropolis Mega Mart, and get us
some more.

HOMER. You're a sweet child, Orphie. A sweet child.

ORPHIE. Even a blind man can find what he's looking for,
if he looks in the right place.

HOMER. Well then, best hop to it, young Heracles.

(**HOMER** *exits.*)

ORPHIE. And so, Heracles embarked on the treacherous
journey. He crossed rivers.

(*She hops over a puddle.*)

He climbed mountains.

(*She climbs over Homer's lawn furniture.*)

Until he found himself face-to-face with...

(*Enter* **EURIPIDES**, **AESCHYLUS**, and
SOPHOCLES, *three Greek schoolboys.*)

The three Gorgons.

EURIPIDES. O-M-Zeus.

AESCHYLUS. It's, like, Greece's greatest hero.

SOPHOCLES. Lambda-Omicron-Lambda.

(*They laugh.*)

ORPHIE. The vile Harpies would rue the day they mocked
the mighty Heracles.

[MUSIC NO. 03 – SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN GIRL]

START TRACK 06

AESCHYLUS. Heracles?

SOPHOCLES. Oh my gods, she, like, totes thinks she's Heracles.

AESCHYLUS. That is, like, hilaricles.

ORPHIE. Be quiet.

EURIPIDES. Orphie, Heracles is like, the greatest hero in *The Book of Heroes*.

ORPHIE. So?

SOPHOCLES. So?

HEROES ARE LIKE

EURIPIDES.

BIG AND TOUGH.

SOPHOCLES.

THEY DO UHM... LIKE...

AESCHYLUS.

HEROIC STUFF.

EURIPIDES.

FIGHTING MONSTERS.

SOPHOCLES.

WINNING WARS.

NOT DOING SOME OLD BLIND GUY'S CHORES.

EURIPIDES.

HEROES, LIKE, DEFY THE ODDS.

AESCHYLUS.

HEROES HAVE BODACIOUS BODS.

SOPHOCLES.

AND THEY'RE, LIKE, DESCENDED FROM THE GODS.

ALL THREE.

AND YOU'RE A
SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN GIRL.
SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN GIRL.

ORPHIE. Yeah, well someday I'll be all grown-up. And then you'll see.

AESCHYLUS. Uh, Orphie, I know it's like whatever or whatever, but heroes are also...

ORPHIE. What?

EURIPIDES. Uhm...

ORPHIE. What?

SOPHOCLES.

HEROES ARE LIKE

AESCHYLUS.

MORE STUFF TOO.

SOPHOCLES.

THEY ARE LIKE,

EURIPIDES.

THEY'RE NOT LIKE YOU.

AESCHYLUS.

SUPER MACHO ALPHA MALES.

ALL THREE.

NOT SCARED OF BUGS.
OR BREAKING NAILS.

MANLY PECS.
AND MANLY THIGHS.
MANLY MEN OF
MANLY SIZE.

SOPHOCLES.

MAINLY 'CAUSE THEY'RE GUYS.

SOPHOCLES & AESCHYLUS. EURIPIDES.

AND YOU'RE A	AND YOU'RE A
SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN	SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN,
GIRL.	SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN
SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN	GIRL.
GIRL.	SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN,

ALL THREE.

SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN,
 SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN,
 SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN GIRL.

ORPHIE.

THAT'S A BUNCH OF FOOLISH NOISE.
 GIRLS CAN BE HEROES JUST LIKE BOYS.

YOU'LL OWE ME AN APOLOGY
 WHEN I SHOW YOU OUR MYTHOLOGY
 IS FULL OF GREAT GIRL HEROES JUST LIKE ME.

EURIPIDES. Oh yeah?**AESCHYLUS.** Name one.**ORPHIE.** Easy. There's...uh...well...**SOPHOCLES.** Uh-huh.**AESCHYLUS.** See?**EURIPIDES.** That's what we thought.**AESCHYLUS.**

SO GO PLAY YOUR STUPID GAME.

EURIPIDES.

DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S MEGA LAME?

SOPHOCLES.

YOU'LL NEVER LIVE UP TO
 YOUR MADE-UP NAME.

AESCHYLUS & EURIPIDES.

OOH AH

SOPHOCLES & AESCHYLUS. EURIPIDES.

YOU'RE JUST A

SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN

GIRL.

SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN

GIRL.

SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN,

SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN,

SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN

GIRL.

YOU'RE JUST A

SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN,

SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN

GIRL.

SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN

GIRL.

SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN,

SCRAWNY LITTLE ORPHAN

GIRL.

AESCHYLUS. See you, hero.*(They exit.)***ORPHIE.** You're gonna eat those words.*(Beat.)*

Homer! There has to be at least one story in *The Book of Heroes* about a girl hero. Ha! That'll show those jerks.

WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

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