

Traveling Players

Hecuba Seeks Peace: **Teens perform Ancient War Tragedy** **Peace Educator of the Year leads post-show discussion**



Photo credit: Jessica Wallach, Greater Depth Media

March 12, 2022

Hecuba – 7:30 pm

[Traveling Players Studio](#)

Tickets begin at \$15

Tysons VA - [Traveling Players Ensemble](#) performs Euripides' ancient revenge tragedy *Hecuba*, followed by a discussion led by American University Professor [Barbara Wien](#), on Saturday March 12 at the Traveling Players Studio in Tysons Corner Center.

Hecuba shows the emotional toil of war, investigating the cycles of violence that play out between people, generations, and nations – and especially the effects on women and children. By harkening back to when the mythical Greek gods punish mortals, we invoke the themes our modern world is currently grappling with: war, fear, unknown fates.

To help audiences grapple with these difficult and emotionally fraught themes, Professor Wien will lead a post-show discussion for Traveling Players. She has previously joined the company for *Women of Troy* (2018) and *Merchant of Venice* (2019).

Professor Wien has worked to end human rights abuses, violence and war. She is a practitioner-scholar with extensive knowledge of sustainable peace agreements and best practices in ending gender-based violence. Her many credits include working for the US Institute for Peace and leading V-Day, the organization founded by Tony Award-winning actor and playwright Eve Ensler to end violence against women. She moderates the Middle East Peace Cafes offered by Busboys and Poets.

Synopsis of *Hecuba*: The play begins just after the Trojan War has ended. The Greeks will set sail with the women of Troy as their prisoners and slaves; including Queen Hecuba, who has lost almost all of her children to the war. In the play, Hecuba endures the deaths of her two youngest children, at which point it becomes a cathartic revenge tragedy -- Hecuba and the Trojan women blind the man who killed her youngest son and then kill his two sons.

The play is part of a larger [festival](#) of Greek Plays, which runs weekends March 12-20 at the Traveling Players Studio in Tysons Corner Center. The festival begins each day at 11:00 am with *Ariadne's Thread* (runtime 35 minutes, recommended ages 6+), followed by *The Odyssey* at 3:00 pm (runtime 45 minutes, recommended ages 8+) and concluding with *Hecuba* at 7:30 pm (runtime 75 minutes, ages 12+). Tickets are \$15 for one play or \$35 for the whole Festival.

Presented by Traveling Players Ensemble's middle and high school student actors, the play features the talents of Greta Brown (Arlington), Silas Frickert (Arlington), Sean House (McLean), Sara Kaufman (Falls Church), Liam Kenny (Bethesda), Kaitlyn McCarley (Oakton), Lexi Miller (Arlington), Penny Mollen (Falls Church), Michaela Pearce (McLean), Hugo Ratheau (Falls Church City), Cary Tran-Trong (Arlington), Zia Wallach (Reston), and Remy Wholander (Vienna). Scenic design by Jeffery Hales, costume design by Wallace Crehan, and properties design by Morgan Shotwell.

Jeanne Harrison, Traveling Players' Founder and Artistic Director, directs *Hecuba*. She received the Strass Award in 2016 for her integration of physical and classical theatre. Previously a dancer-choreographer, she has led workshops on directing a Greek chorus for the American Alliance for Theater & Education as well as universities.

DC's veteran fight choreographer Casey Kaleba staged the fights in *The Odyssey* and *Hecuba*. Kaleba has worked with Traveling Players since 2006 and has served as fight director for more than 200 academic and professional productions, including the Folger Theatre, Signature Theatre, and Olney Theatre Center.

About Traveling Players

Recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts as "1 of 25 Summer Schools for the Arts," Traveling Players is dedicated to training students (grades 3-12) in theatre. Traveling Players' programs offer expert training in acting, character creation, physical comedy, stage combat, improvisation, and text analysis.

The ensemble ethos that permeates Traveling Players means that everyone is essential to the show. The actors assume technical roles while in performance, and the dual responsibilities students take on allow them to become more bold and resilient artists and individuals.

Year round, Traveling Players offer classes, camps, and performances at their Studio in Tysons Corner Center. Over the summer, students dedicate their time outdoors; rehearsing, swimming, and living at our residential facilities in Leesburg, VA. The faculty train students not only in theatre skills, they help students build respect for each other and nature while living in a screen-free space.

Students who are interested in training with Traveling Players can audition now for their residential summer camps & conservatories. Next round of auditions are March 26-27

One-week spring break & summer day camps are also offered at their Studio in Tysons Corner Center – no audition required.

For more information visit travelingplayers.org or call 703-987-1712

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