



3-29-2010

Discussion Explores Today's Combat Trauma Through Ancient Greek Plays

Rachel Hatch
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Hatch, Rachel, "Discussion Explores Today's Combat Trauma Through Ancient Greek Plays" (2010). *News and Events*. 1273.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/1273>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Discussion Explores Today's Combat Trauma Through Ancient Greek Plays

March 29, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The trauma endured by soldiers could be called timeless, no matter the location or century of the battle.

Bryan Doerries, founder and director of the Theatre of War project will discuss how ancient the Greek play *Philoctetes* universally depicts the psychological and physical wounds inflicted upon warriors by war. His talk, “The *Philoctetes* Project: Combat Trauma in Today's Wars, Explored in Ancient Greek Theatre” will be from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 1, in room 103 of Stevenson Hall (210 E. University St., Bloomington) at Illinois Wesleyan University.

The talk, sponsored by the University's Greek and Roman Studies program, is part of the Ides Lecture and Performance Series and is free and open to the public. A Q&A will follow the talk. Veterans are encouraged to attend.

Since 2008, Theater of War has presented readings of Sophocles' *Ajax* and *Philoctetes* to military communities across the United States in hopes of de-stigmatizing psychological trauma and open a dialogue about the challenges faced by service members, veterans and their caregivers and families. The project is funded by a \$3.7 million contract with the U.S. Department of Defense.

According to the Doerries, it has been suggested that ancient Greek drama was a form of storytelling, communal therapy, and ritual reintegration for combat veterans by combat veterans. Sophocles himself was a general. The audiences for whom these plays were performed were undoubtedly comprised of citizen-soldiers.

Doerries is a New York-based writer, translator, director and educator. Along with Theatre of War, his other recent theatrical projects include *Prometheus in Prison*, which presents Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound* to corrections professionals to engage them in conversations about custody and re-entry into society, and *End of Life*, which presents Sophocles' *Women of Trachis* to palliative care and hospice workers to engage them in dialogue with other medical professionals about medical ethics and pain management.

For additional information, contact Professor Nancy Sultan with Greek and Roman Studies at (309) 556-3171, or the Theatre of War Web site at www.philoctetesproject.org.

Contact: Rachel Hatch, (309) 556-3960