



# THE ODYSSEY!

THE MUSICAL!

JULIE VAN GOR

# ***The Odyssey! The Musical!***

Music, Lyrics and Book by  
Louis Epstein and Daniel Groll

Arrangements and Orchestrations by  
Frank Galgano and Matt Castle

Directed by Dale Kruse  
Conducted by Shari M. Speer

Performed by the students of  
Music 267: Advanced Acting for the Lyric Stage

Premiere Performances  
8 p.m., April 28, 29, and 30, 2026  
Urness Recital Hall  
St. Olaf College

# Cast

## Gods

Athena ..... Jordan Fox  
Hermes..... Norah Purcell  
Zeus ..... Alexander Van Etten  
Poseidon ..... Bjorn Johnson

## Demigods

Polyphemus (Cyclops)..... Nick Rhodes  
Brontes (Cyclops)..... Owen Henkemeyer  
Circe ..... Christine Whear  
Naiad (Nymph) ..... Joanna Highfill  
Dryad (Nymph) ..... Harper June Pearce  
Echo (Nymph) ..... Francesca Hajj  
Calypso ..... Annalisa Nardiello  
Taylor (Siren) ..... Margaret Black  
Adele (Siren) ..... Alycia "Auggie" Lehn  
Barry (Siren) ..... Tavin Grigsby

## Maids

Philippa ..... Erin Crowe  
Judy ..... Maggie Housley  
Petra ..... Marin O'Malley  
Daphne ..... Maria West  
Phoebe ..... Avari "AJ" Parker  
Chloe ..... Eliana DeVoe  
Sophia ..... Lydia Mang'era

## Suitors

Antinous ..... Andrew Kramer  
Justin ..... Harry Pratt  
Hugh ..... Kevin Kodalen  
Stan ..... Nathan Rysavy

## Mere Mortals

Odysseus ..... Alden Wright  
Penelope ..... Maisy Scheuneman  
Tiresias (dead mortal) ..... Brady Martin  
Aeolus (King of Winds) ..... Hailey Guptail  
Nausica'a ..... Amelia Wise  
Lyra (Nausica'a's Crew) ..... Louise Pfeiffer  
Aria (Nausica'a's Crew) ..... Selwe Mbingo

## Sailors

Eurylochus ..... Drew Erickson  
Jordan ..... Peter Markham  
Avery ..... Noah Hubbard  
Drew ..... James Williams  
Christos ..... Vassar Price  
Damian ..... Sam Lewis  
Stefanos ..... Sam Mattson  
Atlas ..... Owen Henkemeyer  
Other Sailors ..... Stella Cianchetti, Tavin  
Grigsby, Alycia "Auggie" Lehn, Brady Martin,  
Zoe Ottinger, Nick Rhodes

## Lotus Eaters/Crew/Families of Dead Mortals

Margaret Black ..... Thea Freitag  
Maddy Boyko ..... Piper Kuehl  
Kaitlyn Brown ..... Alycia "Auggie" Lehn  
Analise Budziak ..... Selwe Mbingo  
Stella Cianchetti ..... Zoe Ottinger  
Mars Dailey ..... Josephine Schwartz  
Lillian Engelsgerd ..... Juliette Weidner  
Argos Handler ..... Sam Mattson

# The Odyssey Orchestra

Shari M. Speer, conductor

Flute/Piccolo ..... Ava Durfey  
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet ..... Christian Kremer  
Trumpet/Flügelhorn ..... Sophia Kepros  
Trombone ..... Brian Winter  
Percussion ..... Chloe Rousseau  
Drum Set ..... Matteo Machado  
Guitar ..... Aidan Busse  
Harp ..... MaKenzie Kuckkan, Finn Coleman  
Keyboard ..... Elizabeth Chen  
Violin ..... Maggie Bevans  
Cello ..... Ella Sweeney  
Bass ..... Oliver Borisch

## Production Staff

Rehearsal Pianist: Elizabeth Chen

Stage Manager: Ben Thompson

Sound Engineer: Maurizio D'Errico

Choreography: Johanna Makela

Set Design: Dale Kruse

Paint Crew: Dale Kruse, Tim Sneer, Louis Epstein, Clio Epstein, Lisa McDermott, Madeline McDermott,

Wesley Dunnagan, Tracey Engleman, Francesca Hajj

Costume Design and Construction: Shari M Speer, Alycia "Auggie" Lehn,

Karen Wilkerson, Monica Murray

Show Poster and Program Cover Art: Julie Van Grol

# Act I

As the show begins, we hear an invocation to the Muse to recount the tale of clever Odysseus and his ill-fated journey home (“Proem”). Odysseus and his crew ready their ship to return to Ithaca after 10 years of war. Back in Ithaca, Odysseus’s long-suffering wife, Penelope, fends off suitors (“Going Home”).

Blown off course by Poseidon, Odysseus and his crew row to the island of the Lotus Eaters (“Row On”). The crew soon forget about their journey home (“Lost”), but Odysseus gets them back on course (“Remember”). In Ithaca, the suitors hope to win Penelope’s hand (“Old Fashioned Hospitality”). Penelope hatches a plan to delay: she will host a song competition and marry the winner (“Intro to the Song Competition,” “Suitors’ Barbershop”).

Odysseus and his crew row (“Row On II”) to the island of the cyclops, Polyphemus, who tortures them (“Trapped”). Odysseus and most of his crew escape. Poseidon blows them off course again. They land on Aeaëa (“Row On III”). The crew plunders. Odysseus spies the island’s inhabitants – the demigoddess Circe and her nature-loving nymphs – from afar and the messenger god Hermes gives him a protective herb (“This Land”). Circe is furious at Odysseus’ crew and turns them into pigs (“Mercy Circe”). Odysseus, armed with Hermes’s herb, tricks Circe into promising to transform his crew back.

On Ithaca, Penelope realizes the song competition won’t keep the suitors at bay. She tells them that she’ll remarry only when she finishes weaving a shroud. But every night she unravels the previous day’s work (“Weave”). On Aeaëa, the crew love their life as pigs. Odysseus’ developing relationship with Circe reminds him of his loyalty to Penelope who is, likewise, thinking of him (“No One Else”). The oblivious suitors perform the next entry in the song competition (“Doowop Suitors”).

On Circe’s orders, Odysseus and his crew visit the blind prophet Tiresias and stop by the island of Aeolus before navigating the strait between Scylla (six-headed monster) and Charybdis (sea-swallowing monster) (“Episode Montage”). The crew is mutinous. Odysseus refuses to take responsibility. In Ithaca, Penelope recognizes she must take more decisive action (“It’s Not Me”).

## Act II

While Penelope and her maids dream of a world where they can rule (“What We Want”), Odysseus and his crew approach the island of the Sirens. The crew tie him to the mast and agree not to stop rowing, no matter what (“Siren Song”).

The Suitors sing to Penelope again (“Country Suitors”). Fed up, she orders them poisoned. Odysseus’s crew lands on Thrinacia, where they eat the sacred cows (“Sacred Cows”). Poseidon unleashes the worst storm yet. Odysseus washes up alone on the demigoddess Calypso’s island. She won’t let him go (“Talk Talk Talk”). Athena convinces Zeus that Odysseus should be sent on his way.

Penelope and the maids prepare a poisoned dish for the suitors (“The Recipe”). Odysseus finds himself in the hands of Nausica’a and her friends, who transport him back to Ithaca disguised as a beggar (“You Gotta Learn”). Odysseus heads to the palace unrecognized, except by his loyal, impossibly long-lived dog Argos (“My Old Friend”).

Inside the palace, the suitors learn of the poisoning (“The Poisoning”). They angrily conclude the song competition (“Boyband Suitors”) to force Penelope’s hand. Penelope spies the beggar who has entered the throne room (“Weave (Reprise)”). She promises the suitors that, given their equal excellence in singing, whoever can string Odysseus’s bow will marry her. Only the beggar succeeds. The suitors are vanquished (“No One Else Reprise”).

Odysseus and Penelope reunite (“These Three Words”). Peace is set to reign. But the Gods are bored and set the mortals against each other (“People Never Learn”). Were they doomed from the start? Yes! But doom makes such great art.

# Musical Numbers

## Act I

Proem .....	<i>Ensemble</i>
Going Home .....	<i>Odysseus, Sailors, Penelope, Suitors, Gods</i>
Row On I .....	<i>Odysseus, Sailors</i>
Lost/Remember .....	<i>Lotus Eaters, Sailors, Odysseus</i>
Old-Fashioned Hospitality .....	<i>Suitors</i>
Intro to the Song Competition .....	<i>Penelope</i>
Barbershop Suitors .....	<i>Suitors</i>
Row On II .....	<i>Odysseus, Sailors</i>
Trapped! .....	<i>Odysseus, Sailors, Polyphemus, Brontes</i>
Row On III .....	<i>Odysseus, Sailors</i>
This Land .....	<i>Circe, Nymphs, Odysseus, Hermes</i>
Mercy, Circe .....	<i>Circe, Nymphs, Odysseus, Sailors</i>
Doowop Suitors .....	<i>Suitors</i>
Weave .....	<i>Penelope, Suitors</i>
Happy as a Pig .....	<i>Sailors</i>
No One Else .....	<i>Odysseus, Penelope</i>
Episode Montage .....	<i>Circe, Odysseus, Sailors, Tiresias, Aeolus, Gods</i>
It's Not Me .....	<i>Ensemble</i>

## Act II

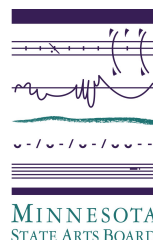
What We Want .....	<i>Penelope, Maids</i>
Siren Song .....	<i>Taylor, Adele, Barry, Odysseus</i>
Country Suitors .....	<i>Suitors</i>
Row On IV .....	<i>Odysseus, Sailors</i>
Sacred Cows .....	<i>Odysseus, Sailors</i>
Talk, Talk, Talk .....	<i>Calypso, Odysseus, Gods</i>
The Recipe .....	<i>Penelope, Maids</i>
You Gotta Learn .....	<i>Nausica'a, Lyra, Aria, Odysseus</i>
My Old Friend .....	<i>Odysseus</i>
The Poisoning .....	<i>Maids</i>
Boy Band Suitors .....	<i>Suitors</i>
Weave (Reprise) .....	<i>Penelope</i>
No One Else (Reprise).....	<i>Penelope, Odysseus, Suitors</i>
These Three Words .....	<i>Odysseus, Penelope</i>
People Never Learn .....	<i>Ensemble</i>

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