

Excerpt from Splendid Productions' 'The Odyssey'
By Homer
adapted by Kerry Frampton & Ben Hales



INTRODUCTION

When all the preparations are made, Old Man of Sea gathers himself together.

OMS **I am The Old Man of the Sea and I see everything.**

OMS 1 What is past,

OMS 3 what is present

OMS 2 and what obstacles lie ahead.

ALL **I sail the world on a sea of stories.**

OMS 3 My [NUMBER] friends, we are all stories in the making.

OMS 2 Each of us on a unique journey, with obstacles to face and overcome.

OMS 2 Me

OMS 3 Me

OMS 1 Me

The old men look at each other fondly, and then at the audience.

ALL **You.**

OMS 2 But this story,

OMS 1 this journey

OMS 3 is that of the Greek legend

ALL **Odysseus!**

Odysseus, in the form of a wooden spoon, is revealed.

OMS 1 Here he is, he's being played by a spoon.

OMS 2 Unexpected!

OMS 3 And this is his voice. (*Ludicrous high-pitched puppet voice*)

"I'm a king! Born to win!" Odysseus was a king

OMS 2 of the bountiful Greek island of Ithaca.

ALL (*gestic moment*) **Home.**

OMS 1 And his long journey homewards is a story that's been told for

ALL **thousands of years.**

OMS 1 His story begins with a war.

ALL *(gestic moment)* **War!**

OMS 3 A war that lasted for ten years.

OMS 2 A war that Odysseus and his Greek army won.

ALL *(as the Greeks)* **Winners!**

[ARCHETYPE: ODYSSEUS THE HERO]

OMS 1 Odysseus, one war hero

OMS 3 leads twelve ships

ALL *(counting the paper boats on their beards)* **One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven... twelve ships!**

OMS 2 That set sail across the wine dark sea towards

ALL *(gestic moment)* **home.**

OMS 2 But

ALL **Life has a habit of throwing obstacles in your path.**

OMS 2 Like this one:

OMS 3 Obstacle. Why can't we do what we want, when we want, all of the time?

OMS 2 *(impressed)* Good question, myself.

OMS 1 Six hundred triumphant men sail with Odysseus, winner of wars, setting out on an epic journey homewards.

OMS 3 However, they clearly haven't had enough war, so they decide to invade the small coastal town of Cicones on their way.

OMS 2 First stop, the small coastal town of Cicones.

FIRST STOP: THE COASTAL TOWN OF CICONES

OMS 2 Here we shall witness thousands of innocent people being murdered. Behold! Odysseus the killer.

[ARCHETYPE: ODYSSEUS THE KILLER]

Enter the Warriors.

Warrior 1&3 **Yeah! Brothers! Warriors!**

Warrior 1 Look at us warriors, sailing on our massive ship away from war.

Warrior 3 With Odysseus at our helm.

Warrior 1 Yeah!

Warrior 3 Triumphant warriors with Odysseus our leader. We're amazing!

Warrior 1 Yeah!

Warrior 3 We can do anything we want!

ALL **We can do everything we want!**

Warrior 2 See that seagull? *(He pulls out imaginary bow and arrow and shoots it, sound effect of dying seagull.)* Dead!

Warrior 3 See that whale? *(He harpoons it with imaginary harpoon, sound effect of dying whale)* Dead!

Warrior 1 See that small coastal town? Let's invade!

Warrior 2 Let's rape!

Warrior 3 Let's murder!

Song 1: The Song of the Winners

Warriors We see it, we want it, we storm it, we take it
Don't get in our way
We'll smash it, we'll grab it, we'll slash it and stab it
Prepare for judgement day

We're born to be the winners
We sat on a winner's knee
Naturally we'll win again
We're bred for victory

Everyone loves a winner
The famous and the brave
You won't survive for we've arrived
To put you in your grave

ALL **Yeah!**

Warrior 2 Did you see Odysseus out there? He was knee deep in Ciconian guts.

Warrior 1 What a killer!

Warrior 3 Yeah, but now he's saying we have to leave Cicones!

Warrior 1 What? That's ridiculous, we've just won. Again.

Warrior 2 Men, I say, we stay here and celebrate another comfortable victory.

ALL **Yeah!**

Warrior 2 All the men have been slaughtered and the young women have been herded up.

Warrior 3 Come on lads! We deserve them.

Warrior 1 We'll show them what real men are!

ALL **YEAH!**

Their faces change as they see a large terrifying army in front of them

ALL **Oh no, where did that massive army come from?**

They turn and run in slow motion. We see them being cut down in various gruesome ways. Being very manly they make light of their mortal wounds ('It's just a spear, I'm fine!'. 'Does anyone have a plaster?'. 'I'm still better than you!' etc).