



# FLOAT

F L O T A T I O N T A N K S

*let it go*

**Coming this fall to Magoun Square.**

Learn more and join our mailing list at [floatboston.com](http://floatboston.com).

## small theatre **ALLIANCE** of boston

The Small Theatre Alliance of Boston fosters the growth of Small Theatre companies and artists through providing professional development, initiating collaborative conversation, sharing resources, and cultivating and engaging audiences. Visit [smalltheatreallianceofboston.org](http://smalltheatreallianceofboston.org) for more information.

### **check out these upcoming STAB shows!**

BYE-BYE BIRDIE until November 22nd  
at The Footlight Club <[footlight.org](http://footlight.org)>

ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD until November 22nd  
at The Longwood Players <[longwoodplayers.org](http://longwoodplayers.org)>

IDENTITY CRISIS from November 21 to December 7  
at Hibernian Hall <[hibernianhall.org](http://hibernianhall.org)>

DISTANT NEIGHBORS from December 5 - 13  
at Fresh Ink Theatre Company <[freshinktheatre.com](http://freshinktheatre.com)>



# TROJAN WOMEN

NOVEMBER 14-22  
[THEATREATFIRST.ORG](http://THEATREATFIRST.ORG)

# WELCOME TO THEATRE@FIRST

Theatre@First is a Somerville-based community theatre project, part of the Massachusetts Community Theatre Corporation, a non-profit 501(c)3 arts organization.

## Our Mission Statement:

The mission of Theatre@First is to work together to provide a fun, friendly, and creative theatre experience for cast, crew, and audience alike. We welcome volunteers at all levels of experience and offer a supportive environment in which to work, play, grow, and explore new areas of the theatre arts. We offer affordable and eclectic entertainment to the community, aiming to surprise, delight, entertain, and educate our audiences.

We fill an important niche in the vibrant Davis Square arts scene, drawing upon the talents and contributions of individuals and organizations throughout the community to provide a venue for affordable, thought-provoking and entertaining performing arts for all those who love to be on either side of the curtain.

**SUBSCRIBE** to a year of our productions—just \$50 for a seat at every show.

## MAKE THEATRE@FIRST POSSIBLE WITH A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

Each production we undertake is the dream of someone in our community. When you support Theatre@First you make these dreams a reality for our participants and the wider community. Make your money count!

\* amounts are approximate and vary by production

\$35\* pays the rent for one night of rehearsal

\$50\* buys the make-up for one production

\$100\* purchases the rights for one night of performance

\$500\* and we can build a set—and paint it, too

\$1000\* provides the lights for a show

TO MAKE A DONATION OR BECOME A SUBSCRIBER TODAY,  
PLEASE VISIT THE CONCESSIONS STAND—OR SEE OUR WEBSITE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION!

[WWW.THEATREATFIRST.ORG](http://WWW.THEATREATFIRST.ORG)

**James Scheffler** (*Movement Coach*) used to teach people how to move like this for a living, but it involved way more yelling.

**Sanjana Shankar** (*Light Board Operator*) is a graduate of Northwestern University and a new face at T@F. While in her spare time she works as a Sales Rep at Oracle, as a true theatre geek she looks forward to getting involved in more performances to come—on and off stage!

**Hannah Sharafian** (*Cassandra*) has recently relocated from California after graduating from UC Davis in June. Her previous favorite roles include Margaret (*Richard III*), Rosalind (*As You Like It*) and Frenchie (*Grease*). She also acted in two shows at the 2014 Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August. This is Hannah's first show with T@F.

**KyOnese Taylor** (*Greek Soldier*) is happy to be a part of her first theatre production. She has always been interested in expressing herself through ballet, playing the flute and now acting. She would like to thank T@F for awarding her the role of a Greek soldier in *Trojan Women*.

**Vickie Wu** (*Costume Designer*) has been having great fun learning how to sew. She thanks J. for this amazing opportunity and already had nefarious plans to work with her again soon. In the meantime Vickie hopes to find her way back to the front of the stage for a while and will continue being that hanger-on that T@F can't get rid of. (Or, y'know, she'll just continue being involved because she loves this community ever so very much)

**Zeph** (*Hair & Makeup Design*) has been a hair and makeup artist for T@F since *Festival@First 7: Shaken-Up Shakespeare*. This will be her eleventh production here, and she's so glad to be involved! Zeph thanks her family and all her wonderful supporters for their awesomeness.

## STOP THE PRESSES!

LOGO DESIGN—BUSINESS CARDS—INVITATIONS—CUSTOM STATIONERY—

LET ME HELP YOU LOOK GOOD ON PAPER  
CALL TODAY FOR A **FREE** CONSULTATION

 **ROSENTHOL DESIGN** 

ROSENTHOLDESIGN.COM 617.302.4616

**Jason Merrill** (*Assistant Technical Director*) is a common sight on stage at T@F, having appeared this year in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* and *Henry the 4th*, but enjoyed helping behind the scenes on this show.

**Douglas Miller** (*Menelaus*) has performed with T@F as Laches (*Lysistrata*), Mr. Bennet (*Pride & Prejudice*), Vinnie Pliers (“Brush Up Your Shakespeare,” *Festival@First 7: Shaken-Up Shakespeare*), Antigonus (*The Winter’s Tale*), and Leonato (*Much Ado About Nothing*). Other local productions: David Lewis (*Mask of Innana*; [www.themaskofinnana.com](http://www.themaskofinnana.com)), Egeus (*Midsummer Night’s Dream*; Footlight Club). His other life is described at [www.mit.edu/~demiller](http://www.mit.edu/~demiller).

**Brooke Morgan** (*Andromache*) is a full-time professional performance artist, model, and magical being. She graduated from Boston University in 2012 with a B.A. in The History of Art and Architecture. This is her first show with T@F, but she has been on stage since age 12. Brooke has deeply appreciated the opportunity to get back to her performance roots in community theater.

**Mary Parker** (*Stage Manager*) can be heard prowling around backstage, but only if you listen closely through a crystal and silver ear-horn after midnight on a Tuesday.

**Deidre Purcell** (*Props Manager*) first worked with T@F as director of *Trifles* for *Bare Bones: Staged Readings at T@F*. She has spent the last ten years working in stage/production management and publicity at Watertown Children's Theatre and is slowly rejoining the world of theatrical productions that feature grown-ups.

**Santiago Rivas** (*Soldier*) is in his fourteenth production with T@F. In the nine years since *Merry Wives of Windsor*, he's handled Shakespeare, jurors, hippophiles, British officers, transcendentalists, and a toddler. When not in theatre, he is immersed in the logic of SQA Engineering, the warmth of the House of Squee, and the insanity of everything else.

**Gilly Rosenthol** (*Graphic Designer*) is a method designer. She consumed seven pounds of baklava while designing the art for this show. She is hoping that T@F will do a Japanese show soon, she could really go for some sushi.

THEATRE@FIRST PRESENTS

# TROJAN WOMEN

WRITTEN BY EURIPIDES

TRANSLATED BY EDITH HAMILTON

DIRECTED BY J. DESCHENE

PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH W.W. NORTON & CO., INC.

The running time of this show is approximately 90 minutes without intermission. Please silence all electronic devices and refrain from using them during the performance.

## SPECIAL THANKS

*Theatre@First extends our heartfelt thanks to:*

**Betty Walker** and all the members of **Unity Somerville** for hosting us.

**Stan at Fleming Printing** for all his help with program printing.

**Andy Hicks** for projection equipment and assistance.

**Tim Brash** for loaning his sewing machine and donating fabric.

**Chris Cebelenski** for assistance with sound.

**James Scheffler** for creating Pallas Athena’s helmet.

**Dean Johnson, Katherine Lynn, Christy Colburn, and Thalia Tringo** for carpeting our set.

Our dedicated and tenacious team of volunteers, including the members of the cast and crew. Thank you for building our set, working the box office, selling snacks, ushering and generally making this show happen.

*We also thank our friends, family, and all the members of our audience.*

*Without your support of the arts, we wouldn't be here.*

## SYNOPSIS

It has been two days since the sacking of Troy by the Greeks. Poseidon, patron god of Troy, laments the destruction of his city when his old enemy, Pallas Athena, makes a surprising proposal. She asks for his help to punish the Greeks for disrespecting her temple during the siege, and Poseidon is happy to oblige.

Dawn breaks and Hecuba, the aging former queen, awakes and bemoans the fate of her fallen city along with other once-noble women.

The arrival of the Greek herald, Talthybius, brings news of certain women's fates. He has come for Cassandra, who was chosen by King Agamemnon. Cassandra (a mad prophetess cursed by Apollo to always speak the truth but never be believed) appears, already knowing her fate, and rejoices. She has seen that both she and Agamemnon will be murdered by his wife upon arriving in Greece, an event she considers a victory. She is taken to the Greek ships and the women recall the ironic and short-lived joy that filled the city when the Trojan Horse was first brought in.

Andromache, wife of Hecuba's dead son Hector, arrives with her baby son, Astyanax, and gives Hecuba the sad news that Hecuba's youngest daughter, Polyxena, has been sacrificed at the tomb of Achilles. Andromache and Hecuba both think themselves at the height of sorrow when Talthybius arrives with even worse news: the Greek generals have ordered that Astyanax be thrown from the wall of Troy.

The women contemplate the loss of Troy's innocence as they recall the story of Ganymede, a Trojan prince who was chosen to be the water bearer to the gods.

Menelaus arrives in search of Helen, his runaway wife whose affair with Paris, Hecuba's son, began the entire Trojan war. After he promises Hecuba that Helen will pay with her life, Helen arrives and proceeds to charm Menelaus. Despite Hecuba's urging that he kill Helen and his favorable responses, it is clear that Menelaus is quite under Helen's spell and that she will live to see another day. The women acknowledge their defeat and that of their city.

A shaken Talthybius returns with the dead Astyanax. Since Andromache's ship has sailed, Hecuba and the women give the child a funeral, after which Talthybius gives his men the order that Troy be burned. Hecuba is stopped from rushing into the flames and she and the women engage in a mourning ritual for their city and those they have lost. At last, a trumpet sounds and, one by one, the women go to the Greek ships which will carry them "on to the new day of slavery."

**Jo Guthrie** (*Producer*) is still crazy after all these years. Ten of them with T@F in the roles of: Producer, Director, Technical Director, Lighting Designer, Actor, Props Master, Set Designer, Concessions Manager, and Usher. She thanks her amazing friends, Elizabeth Hunter & Jason Merrill for years of adventures and J. Deschene for this latest one.

**Elizabeth Hunter** (*Hecuba*) most recently appeared as Mrs. Hawking in both *Mrs. Hawking* and *Vivat Regina* for *Bare Bones: Staged Readings at T@F*. Previous roles with T@F include *Dysart* (*Equus*), *Penny* (*You Can't Take It with You*), and *Raina* ("My Boyfriend's Wife", *Festival@First 2: Summer Splash*). Elizabeth is the founding Artistic Director of T@F and has directed twelve T@F shows, including the 10th Anniversary production of *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, in addition to working with other collegiate and community groups throughout the Boston area. Enormous thanks to J., Jason, and Jo and to the crack team of babysitters who made this possible. Don't worry, Alice—Mama will be home soon!

**Kerry Anne Kilkelly** (*Old Woman*) is performing with T@F for the first time. She thanks her kids for their love and support—and Zeph for the amazing transformation!

**Idony Lisle** (*Set Designer*) has been lurking around T@F for a while now. She is always happy to throw in random skills and geekery from her BS in Art from UW Madison or PhD in English from Hahvahd. She works with the mentally ill and adores her kids, ferrets, and cats (2 of each).

**Caitlin Mason** (*House Manager*) is thrilled to work with T@F! She has worn many hats in Boston theater over the past three years, and looks forward to producing for Flat Earth Theatre and Stage Managing for Zeitgeist Stage in Spring 2015. Caitlin is the Artistic Director of the PMRP ([pmp.org](http://pmp.org)), and is a company member of Flat Earth Theatre ([flatearththeatre.com](http://flatearththeatre.com)).

**Chris Mason** (*Talthybius*) is happy to be appearing in his first production with T@F. Chris has appeared as Philip Glass (*All in the Timing*), as well as in several Shakespearean productions as Richard III, Macbeth, Julius Caesar, and Caliban. Chris also works with Deana's Educational Theater to teach middle school children how to avoid abusive relationships.

## BIOS

**Samantha Amodeo** (*Girl*) is wicked pissed at the Greeks for ruining her senior prom, and also for killing her family. Corinth might be nice though, right?

**Andrea Aptecker** (*Woman*) has most recently appeared with T@F as Dame Northumberland in *Henry the 4th*, and Lady Nijo/Louise in *Top Girls*. Much love and gratitude to the incredibly talented J., Mary, Jo, Elizabeth, and Vickie, as well as the rest of this delightful cast and crew.

**Matt Arnold** (*Lighting Designer*) holds a BA in Theatre Studies from Emerson College. This is his first lighting design credit. He has done fight design for the Boston Latin School (*She Kills Monsters*, *Unnecessary Farce*), Flat Earth Theatre (*Pygmalion*) and Unreliable Narrator (*Human Contact*).

**J. Deschene** (*Director*) is honored to bring this powerful piece to the stage and humbled by the immense talent and dedication of the cast and crew. Thanks to all involved.

**Kamela Dolinova** (*Pallas Athena*) recently appeared as Franny and Yarrow in Flat Earth Theatre's *What Once We Felt*, and has worked with T@F previously in numerous capacities, most recently as director of *The Baltimore Waltz*. Her inner goddess is doing a war dance.

**Leslie Drescher** (*Helen*) is very excited to be working with such a talented cast on this anti-war play. Leslie has not personally started any wars that she is aware of.

**Brian Edgar** (*Poseidon*) was obviously typecast due to his godlike physique. Nevertheless, he's grateful to J. for this chance to revisit Classical Greek theater after his stint as Magistrate (*Lysistrata*). His six years with T@F have been the highlight of his 15 in Boston. Thanks to all who have made it possible.

**Nellie Farrington** (*Technical Director*) really just wants this semester to be done.

## EURIPIDES' CASSANDRA SYNDROME

In psychology, Cassandra syndrome occurs when valid warnings go unheeded. This metaphor is named after the character, Cassandra, appearing in our play. According to legend, Cassandra was given the gift of prophecy by Apollo, but when she refused his advances, he cursed her to always speak the truth but never be believed.

No doubt Euripides felt a connection to Cassandra. No one listened when he first presented *Trojan Women* in 415 B.C.E. and, in doing so, blasted those who wage war. If they had, we wouldn't still be performing the work.

Unfortunately, the antiwar message of *Trojan Women* is just as relevant today as it was when the play was first performed. War and violence are so commonplace that we hardly bat an eyelash when another breaks out. News outlets are saturated. There's the new war against ISIS, the recent conflict in the Ukraine, and even the rash of shootings here at home. With so much to report, it's easy to forget the human side of war, but Euripides reminds us by focusing on its most innocent victims. While those who fight certainly suffer, it is still the lot of those left behind to remain silent, their pain hidden and unappreciated.

Without knowing, Euripides has asked us to consider the wives of ISIS, the daughters of the Ukraine, and the mothers of the shooters and their victims. If everyone who held a weapon could somehow be reminded of one of these innocents every time they were tempted to use it, one wonders if they would use it at all.

As you watch our show, remember that what you're seeing is real. Every day innocent people suffer because of war, though they may not be as vocal about it as Hecuba or Andromache. We who have produced this are proud to give Euripides the power to speak for them once more, as he has since his own time.

Thank you for listening and believing.

*J. Deschene*  
November 2014

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer	Jo Guthrie
Director	J. Deschene
Technical Director	Nellie Farrington
Assistant Technical Director	Jason Merrill
Stage Manager	Mary Parker
House Manager	Caitlin Mason
Movement Coach	James Scheffler
Set Designer	Idony Lisle
Lighting Designer	Matt Arnold
Light Board Operator	Sanjana Shankar
Sound Designer	Chris Mason
Props Designer	Deidre Purcell
Costume Designer	Vickie Wu
Hair & Make-up Designer	Zeph
Graphic Designer	Gilly Rosenthol

## CAST

Poseidon	Brian Edgar
Menelaus	Doug Miller
Talthybius	Chris Mason
Soldiers	KyOnese Taylor Santiago Rivas
Pallas Athena	Kamela Dolinova
Hecuba	Elizabeth Hunter
Helen	Leslie Drescher
Andromache	Brooke Morgan
Cassandra	Hannah Sharafian
Girl	Samantha Amodeo
Woman	Andrea Aptecker
Old Woman	Kerry Anne Kilkelly

## WEDGWOOD-CRANE & CONNOLLY

*Insurance agency, inc.*

19 College Age • PO Box 40313 • Davis Square • Somerville, MA 02144 • 617.625.0781



Residential • Commercial

Auto • Home • Life • Business • Contractors • Condo • Renters Insurance

Visit Our Web Site for a Quote [www.wccins.com](http://www.wccins.com)

Over a Century of Service to the Community



Coming soon!

## *Agatha Christie's* THE MOUSETRAP

directed by Mike Haddad

Auditions: December 2-3

Visit [theatreatfirst.org](http://theatreatfirst.org) to sign up today!

Performances: February 27 - March 7

Mark your calendar now!