

AQUILA THEATRE

Aquila Theatre's mission is to make classical works accessible to the greatest number. A play becomes 'classical' because we recognize that after a time it transcends the original culture it was created for. It retains the power to provoke the central question of what it means to be human. As a company dedicated to the classics, we feel a responsibility to acknowledge and explore newfound classical works. Founded in London in 1991 by Peter Meineck, Aquila is now based in New York City. Aquila's programs include:

PRODUCTIONS IN NEW YORK CITY: Aquila is a major part of New York's theatrical landscape, producing a regular season of plays. Aquila produced Joseph Heller's *Catch-22* and Homer's *The Iliad: Book One* Off-Broadway at the Lucille Lortel Theatre, and Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*, Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* at the Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.

A MAJOR ANNUAL NATIONAL TOUR: Aquila is the foremost producer of touring classical theatre in the United States, visiting 60-70 American cities per year. The 2009/2010 season of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* began with The Festival of the Aegean on Syros, Greece and the Shakespeare Festival/LA. The 2010/2011 Tour presented Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. The 2011/2012 Tour is Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The 2012/2013 season will be Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* and Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS: Aquila is dedicated to theatre arts education and produces three major initiatives: *Workshop America*, a nationwide program that provides an opportunity for people to share in the art of Aquila; *Theatre Breakthrough*, which brings America's schools to the stage; and *Shakespeare Leaders*, an after-school program that enables inner-city students to perform the classics.

The *Shakespeare Leaders* program has enabled Aquila to visit Frederick Douglas Academy in Harlem, NYC and develop close mentoring relationships on a program that teaches the holistic craft of creating theatre and encompasses elements of Literacy, English Comprehension, Performance, Directing, Design, Production, Sales, Administration, and Leadership. The goal of *Shakespeare Leaders* is to affect positive change in students' lives by introducing them to challenging texts, providing a unique means of self expression, and sharing proven techniques in ensemble-building and team-work. Last season, at Frederick Douglas Academy in Harlem, NY *Shakespeare Leaders* students performed *Julius Caesar*.

ANCIENT GREEKS/MODERN LIVES: Aquila has been awarded a highly prestigious NEH Chairman's Special Award for a major national humanities public program, Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives: Poetry-Drama-Dialogue, which places live theatrical events, reading groups and lectures in 100 cultural institutions across America to inspire people to come together to read, see, and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life.

For further information, please visit: www.aquilatheatre.com



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