



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
CORPUS
CHRISTI

DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE & DANCE

Award-winning author of **THE HANDMAID'S TALE**

**MARGARET
ATWOOD'S
NEW PLAY
THE PENELOPIAD**

Directed by Meredith Melville

Arguably the
most famous story
in history,
THE ODYSSEY,
as told by
the women...
who never
had
a voice.



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The Penelopiad

Margaret Atwood

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DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE
& DANCE

NOV. 15-17 &
21-23

COME
SEE A
SHOW
SEASON
24/25



Adapted & Directed by
Meredith Melville
Music Composed &
Directed by
Meredith Melville
Choreographed by
Alexandra Shaw
Book Directed by
Preston Wagoner
Scene Design by
Kevyn Giamberini
Light Design by
Alex Mason
Costume Design by
Rosa M. Lozano
Assistant Director
Lucas Collins
Stage Manager
Meredith Melville
Asst. Stage Manager
Meredith Melville

Starring
Kevin Hammond
Ben Domingue
Michael Mondejar
Jalen Wheaton
Frank Wiltrazo
Robby Cochran
Angel Puri
Jaxon Mabry
Zaniel Watts
Sai Nicholson
Zoe James
Ryan Perez-Castaneda
Kylee Bates
Aniya Mostley
Logan Dixon

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Shakespeare's THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

November 15-17 & 21-23
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Center for the Arts / 6300 Ocean Dr. / 2nd Stoplight
Tickets available online: tamucc.tix.com
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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Margaret Atwood is an award-winning Canadian novelist, essayist, short-story writer, and poet. Long interested in topics as varied as gender and identity, religion, language, ecology, and politics, Atwood has written in many genres, including speculative fiction and historical fiction. Her work has frequently been adapted for film, television, and the stage.

Atwood's first published work in the early 1960s was poetry, but she soon started writing novels as well. By the mid-70s, she had gained fame throughout much of her native Canada, but her reputation exploded on an international level with the publication of her novel *The Handmaid's Tale* in 1985. After winning the prestigious Arthur C. Clarke Award for science fiction, Atwood has said that the book might more properly be labeled speculative fiction, because there is precedent in real life for everything contained in it. *The Handmaid's Tale* has been adapted into a movie, several plays, a ballet, an opera, and, most famously, an Emmy Award-winning television series.



After the success of *The Handmaid's Tale*, Atwood published many well-received and award-winning novels including *Cat's Eye*, *The Robber Bride*, *Alias Grace*, *The Blind Assassin*, and *Oryx and Crake*. In 2005, she wrote the novella *The Penelopiad*, which she adapted for the stage in 2007. In 2019, she published a sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale* entitled *The Testaments*.

Because of her probing engagement with vital issues, Atwood's novels are among the most challenged and banned books in the United States today.

THE PENELOPIAD

THE CAST

Penelope-Ericca Mahaffey

The Maids/Ensemble

Brooklin Alexander

Kennedy Renee Alexander

Megan Barbara Bain

Niaria Brager

Izzy Cantu

Madeline Clark

Kaeya Brooke Garcia

Summer Laich

Gabriella Lopez

Jay Munselle Woods

Sarah Jean Roller

Aurora Stefania Usai

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FEB. 28-MAR. 2 &
MAR. 6-8

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STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S INTO THE WOODS

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by James Lapine

Directed by Kelly Nassif

Music Directed by Alex Mason

Choreographed by Jilissa Cotton



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Stephen Sondheim's INTO THE WOODS

Feb. 28-Mar. 2 & Mar. 6-8

Tues-Sat 7:30 @ \$10-12 / Sun 2:00 @ \$8

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Meredith Melville
Stage Manager	Elyzette (Eel) Moncada
Asst. Stage Manager	Kailey Smith
Scenic Designer	Kevin Loeffler
Costume Designer	Jamie Grime
Lighting Designer	Alex Mason
Projections Designer	Kevin Loeffler
Assistant Projections Designer	Ren Christensen
Sound Designer	Alex Mason
Assistant Sound Designer	Ren Christensen
Movement / Fight Coordinator	Megan Barbara Bain
Properties Lead	J Satterwhite
Hair & Makeup Designer	Alina DeJesus
Dramaturg	Thomas A. Oldham
Technical Director/Scene Shop Supervisor	Jordan Bohl
Costume Shop Supervisor	Alexandra Shaw
Scenic Run Crew	Emma Syrdal, Jude Rangel
Properties Run Crew	Morgan Busanet
Wardrobe Run Crew Head	Zee Jones
Wardrobe Run Crew	Hayvn Bennett, Angel Purl, Nex Richard, Tara Young, Ava Zabel
Hair & Makeup Run Crew Head	Aniya Mosley
Hair & Makeup Crew	Kye Bates, Lenny Compton, Abby Corbett, Kim Coss
Head Electrician	Izzy Guillot
Lighting Programmer	Gabriel Almager
Electrics Crew	Bella Gonzales, Jaxon Mabry, Ryan Perez-Castañeda
Light Board Operator	Jaxon Mabry
Sound / Projections Board Operator	Ren Christensen

PRODUCTION STAFF (CONTINUED)

Scenic Construction Crew Doris Agard, Kye Bates, Noah Bryant, Morgan Busanet, Madeline Clark, Andrew Cloe, Lenny Compton, Nick Duve, Michael Flores, Stephanie Garate, Rafe Hernandez, Salem Herrera-Vela, Gabriella Lopez, Meaghan Morrissey, Chloe Paulson, Finn Pool, Angel Purl, Jude Rangel, Kylie Spencer, Haley Sturgeon, Emma Syrdal, Aiden Tarango, Mark Trevino, Keith Tubbs, Aurora Usai, Dalilah Velasquez, Ava Zabel

Scenic Paint Crew Sully Blanco, Robert Garza, Rozlin Haynie, Noah Smith, Justin Taylor

Lead Stitchers Lucas Collins, Abby Corbett, Alina De Jesus, Jamie Grime

Stitchers Sophia Alvarado-Ruiz, Alexis Aguilar, Anisha Ali, MJ Blencoe, Alma Caballero, Diego Calderon, Bella Carrillo, Nick Duve, Kaeya Garcia, Summer Laich, Beau Laviolette, EM Miller, Jay Munselle-Woods, Arturo Pena, Angela Presser, Maddy Rocha, Jacob Roller, Ilias Rodriguez, Keoni Saadt, Jo Szatkowski

Marketing / Graphics Designer Alison Frost

Box Office Meredith Melville, Christina Maher, Megan Bain, Aniya Mosley

House Manager Meredith Melville

Front of House Abby Corbett, Ben Domingue, Bennie Hernandez, Brooklin Alexander, Cloey Hollar, Frank Villalvazo, Gabriella Gonzalez, Jalen Wheaton, Michael Mondejar, Sai Nicholson, Zaniel Watts

The pre-show announcement was recorded by Deandre Washington, member of Raising Voices, TAMU-CC's voiceover club.

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OUR LADY OF 121st ST. by Stephen Adly Guirgis

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A NOTE FROM THE DRAMATURG

Homer's *Odyssey* is maybe the most famous story ever. Full of adventure, monsters, death-defying cleverness by our hero Odysseus, clashes with gods, and a happy ending in the arms of his beautiful wife Penelope, it is a fantastic tale. Its impact on culture over the last 3000 years is immeasurable.



People have been borrowing/stealing from *The Odyssey* since ancient Greek tragedies like *Oedipus*, *Agamemnon*, and *Medea*. Even Shakespeare re-worked aspects of it. This has continued in our own time: the most celebrated novel of the 20th Century, James Joyce's *Ulysses*, is a direct adaptation, as is the Coen Brothers' movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

And yet, what story is really being told?

Odysseus struggles to return home to his faithful, patient wife, using his cunning to survive. Penelope waits alone for twenty years, but Odysseus has affairs with Circe and Calypso. Upon his reunion with Penelope, Odysseus kills all the men who were vying for her attention while he was away. He also executes twelve of Penelope's maids for their relations with those suitors. Odysseus holds everyone to a standard that he himself cannot meet.

This double standard is examined in Margaret Atwood's *Penelopiad*, a re-telling of *The Odyssey* from Penelope's perspective. In our play, she has a rich life, full of conflict, cunning, and moral ambivalence. She is a fully rounded character and not the symbol of chaste patience that she has been for millennia. The maids, too, get their say. Dispatched with very few lines in Homer's original, here they provide the story's conscience, which we in the 21st Century cannot ignore.

All this time, who have we been listening to?

-Thomas A. Oldham, Ph.D.

Image: Odysseus Blinding the Cyclops Polyphemus.
Unknown Ancient Greek vase painter, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

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Kevin Loeffler, Director of Theatre

Jilissa Cotten, Director of Dance

Rosa M. Lazaro, Professor of Theatre

Kelly Russell, Professor of Theatre

Meredith Melville, Associate Professor of Theatre

Thomas A. Oldham, Associate Professor of Theatre

Sarah Gonzalez, Assistant Professor of Dance

Alex Mason, Assistant Professor of Theatre

Marco Muñoz, Assistant Professor of Theatre

Jason Tate, Adjunct Professor of Fight Direction

J. Don Luna, Professor Emeritus of Theatre

Jordan Bohl, Technical Director

Alexandra Shaw, Costume Shop Supervisor

Megan Bain, Student Office Assistant

Aniya Mosley, Student Office Assistant

Gabriel Almager, Student Shop Assistant

Ren Christensen, Student Shop Assistant

Shameka Cobb, Student Shop Assistant

Lucas Collins, Student Shop Assistant

Abby Corbett, Student Shop Assistant

Alina DeJesus, Student Shop Assistant

Michael Mondejar, Student Shop Assistant

Zaniel Watts, Student Shop Assistant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. Kelly Miller, President and CEO of TAMUCC

Dr. Catherine Rudowsky, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Diana Sipes, Director of SAMC

Dr. David Gurney, Associate Director of SAMC

The Marketing and Communications Department of TAMUCC

Jeff Janko, Photographer

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Website: <http://theatre.tamucc.edu>

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Mark Bernhardt

Dr. Diana Ivy

Dr. Deborah Sibila

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SCANN ME



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