



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF AOD OUR CASE FOR SUPPORT

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1993

2003

2013

2018 and beyond

WHO WE ARE

Actors of Dionysus (**aod**) was founded in 1993 to put flesh on the bones of ancient Greek drama and to provide innovative and accessible versions of this rich canon of work. Since then we have toured over 50 radical and highly visual productions of classic Greek plays and new writing inspired by myth, performing to over 750,000 people nationally and internationally and becoming the UK's leading interpreters in this field.

We tour extensively throughout the UK and Eire, performing regularly at venues including York Theatre Royal, The Lowry, Theatre Royal Winchester, Theatre Royal Bury St Edmund's, Brighton Dome, The Rose Theatre Kingston, Greenwich Theatre and The Other Palace. We also perform at international festivals including The Edinburgh Festival and High Fest in Armenia, as well as in Greece, Turkey, Croatia and Albania.

We have worked with many talented ensembles and with many distinguished actors including Jane Asher, Simon Russell Beale, Tom Conti and Fenella Fielding. Theatre collaborations include: Marcello Magni (Complicité), Thea Barnes (Phoenix Dance), John Nicholson (Peepolykus) and Toby Park (Spymonkey).

“Let nothing stop you from seeing them.”
The Times

Rehearsing for Medea, 2013

WHAT WE DO

AOD IS DIVIDED INTO 3 STRANDS:

aodProductions - Touring new theatrical adaptations of ancient Greek drama and new writing inspired by classical mythology.

aodEducation - Touring high quality productions and producing a rich and varied outreach programme for schools, colleges and young people.

aodEvents - Producing ambitious and high-end one-off performances in distinctive venues with some of the UK's leading performers, to enhance our profile and attract funding for our education and production programme.

“A fantastic adaptation of a story millennia old.”
Salford Online

Helen, Spring 2016

1993 Hekabe & Hippolytus

“This young cast skilfully utilise the power of the word and ritual with spellbinding effect. A must for any true lover of the theatre.” **Edinburgh Evening News**

1994 Antigone & Electra

“**aod** should be required viewing.” **Harlow Star**

1995 Oedipus the King & Blow Your Mind, Aristophanes!

OUR HISTORY

1993 Actors of Dionysus was founded in St Andrews Fife by David Stuttard with the first production of Hekabe.

Tamsin Shasha joins as Joint Artistic Director and the company becomes a limited company with charitable status.

1995 - 2002 The company relocates to York and during this time collaborates with Channel 4, the BFI, BBC Radio 3 and Penguin Audiobooks, and conducts over 20 national tours.

2003 - 2018 The company relocates to Brighton where it remains today. Tamsin Shasha becomes sole Artistic Director, retrain as an aerialist and introduces new writing and events arms to **aod's** work, and conducts over 20 national tours.

“Rapid, smooth and satisfyingly poetic.”
TimeOut

Bacchae at The National Trust's
Osterley Park

1996 Medea & Trojan Women

“Powerfully moving...stunningly original production.”
Portsmouth News

1997 Ajax & Electra

MAKING MAGIC FROM MYTH



“Superb...a Greek classic!” **The Daily Mirror**

A selection of posters
from aod's repertoire

1998 Oedipus & Antigone

“Emotionally compelling and subtle in its modernity.”
The Argus

1999 Agamemnon & Hippolytus

AOD PRODUCTIONS

aodProductions performs in leading mid-scale venues. This is the core of our work.

By 2020, we aim to have built on our existing reputation to ensure that we are regular visitors not only to the UK's most prestigious venues but to leading international festivals as well.

We aim to:

- consolidate relationships with the very best writers, directors and makers in the field of performance and production
- strengthen co-producing opportunities with creative UK touring venues
- develop further links with international festivals, establishing new audiences abroad

“Greek at school was never as naughty and so much fun as this.” **WhatsOnStage**

Lysistrata at Rose Theatre Kingston, Winter 2011

2000 Bacchae & Grave Gifts

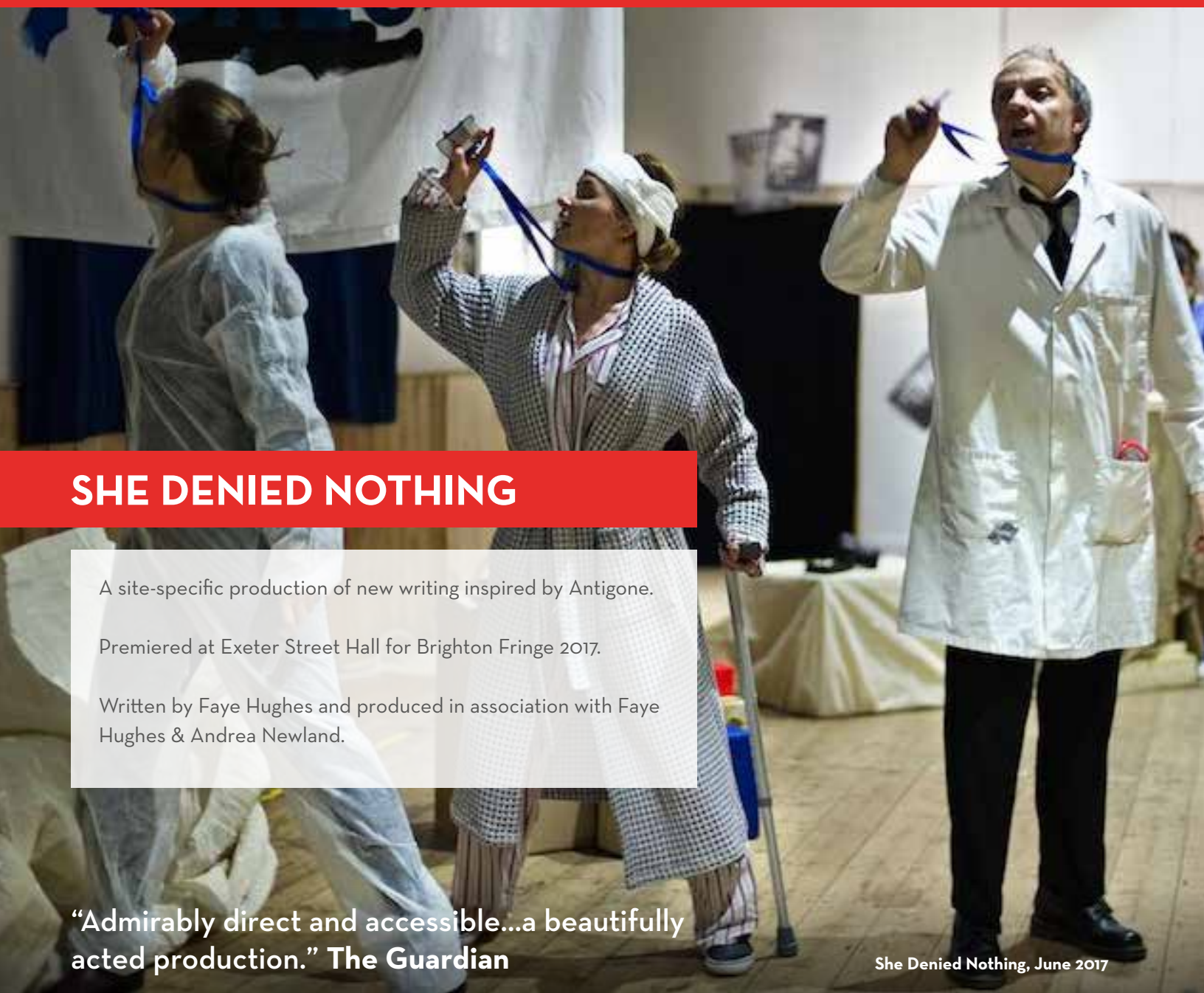
“This mesmerising theatrical coup held the audience enthralled.” **The Spectator**

2001 Antigone & Medea

2002 Trojan Women & Electra

“Stunning...Increasingly the company is developing its own voice and style.” **Classical Association**

2003 Oedipus & Agamemnon



SHE DENIED NOTHING

A site-specific production of new writing inspired by Antigone.

Premiered at Exeter Street Hall for Brighton Fringe 2017.

Written by Faye Hughes and produced in association with Faye Hughes & Andrea Newland.

“Admirably direct and accessible...a beautifully acted production.” **The Guardian**

She Denied Nothing, June 2017

2004 Hippolytus & Trojan Women

“A truly immersive and thought-provoking production. Simply fabulous!” **Brighton Fringe review**

2005 Trojan Women



ANTIGONE

National tour of Antigone, a new, dystopian version for Autumn 2017.

Adapted by Christopher Adams and directed by Tamsin Shasha.

A physical, visceral and emotional take on an age-old classic.

“Thoughtful and intelligent...a most unusual and rewarding hour.” **The Times**

Antigone national tour, Autumn 2017

2006 Oedipus

“Visually stunning...a haunting production.” **Sheffield Telegraph**

2007 Bacchic

AOD EDUCATION

aod Education informs, instructs and inspires audiences of the future.

Our productions and outreach programme of workshops, talkbacks and seminars deliver key resources to students and young people across the country in schools, colleges and universities.

The AQA examination body has listed **aod** as a company whose work should be seen by students and the Open University recommend our publications as resource material.

“It was impressive how much information and practical work was covered in a two hour workshop...exciting and thought-provoking performance work.” **Paul Webster, Edexcel**

Workshop led by Tamsin Shasha

2008 Bacchic

2009 Helen

“Sharp as steel and wholly accessible...superb.”
The Stage

We offer teachers and students a fantastic range of DVDs of many of our productions, audio books and CD's, essays, books and the Dionysus lecture series, written by a variety of distinguished academics including David Stuttard, Edith Hall and Bettany Hughes.

In 2018 we kindly received funding from the Jowett Copyright Trust and the Classical Association to create two brand new education packs, exploring our productions of Antigone and Medea. These will add tremendous value to our developing outreach programme.

We aim to:

- work closely with examination boards to ensure that our outreach programme fulfills the needs of teachers and students alike
- continue to produce interactive educational tools, embracing new media and technologies
- further increase our catalogue of publications and publish our work internationally

“The tailoring of the content with fantastic communication in advance is especially reassuring when deciding whether to spend precious budget.”
Rhianna Elsdon, Queen Elizabeth's School

Workshop led by Mark Katz

2010 Lysistrata

2011 Lysistrata & Economus Wrecked

“A theatrical gem not to be missed.” Total Theatre

KEEPING THE CLASSICS ALIVE

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
IN LONDON



In December 2017, we took part in **The Big Give Christmas Challenge**, the UK's biggest online match funding campaign, and with generous support from our champion, Four Acre Trust and our supporters, we exceeded our target to raise funds for our Antigone Educational Engagement Programme.

This has allowed us to run 20 free Classics and drama workshops in state schools and colleges in London, targeting groups that normally would not have access to external facilities and material to support their learning.

The project has received a fantastic response and we aim to roll it out across the country in 2019, alongside our production of Medea.



Free workshops led by Will Bridges
at Alexandra Park School
St Marylebone School and
Bishop Thomas Grant School

“We loved the new approaches to the text - students are still using them.”
Rowenna Mortimer, Working Men’s College

AOD EVENTS



“A passionate and intense piece of physical theatre.” **British Theatre Guide**

Bacchae at Spruce Wood,
Summer 2016

2012 Dionysia & Alexandros

“This is an athletic, sensual, ritualistic staging.”
Glasgow Herald

2013 Savage Beauty & Medea

2014 Helen

“An incredibly sexy performance.” **The Stage**

2015 Helen & Medea



AOD EVENTS

aodEvents hold a profound artistic integrity at their core.

We aim to:

- work with renowned performers who add prestige to aod and become ambassadors for our work
- engage influential guests who help drive our development
- win the support of corporate and private supporters, consolidating relationships for the future

Rehearsed reading with Fenella Fielding, Simon Russell-Beale, Tamsin Shasha, Tom Conti and Jane Asher at the Reform Club, May 2012

“A slick, hilariously funny show.” **The Stage**

2018 MARKS AOD'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

OUR WORK IN 2017 CONSISTED OF

- a successful research and development period for Antigone
- Savage Beauty, an evening of poetry, performance, music and aerial acrobatics
- Sweetness of Honey, a poetry recital at Spruce Wood
- She Denied Nothing at Brighton Fringe
- our fifth annual site specific event at Spruce Wood, featuring a performance of Antigone
- a national tour of Antigone
- employing a General Manager to assist the Artistic Director in administrative aspects of the company
- our free workshops for schools and colleges campaign



“Wonderfully complex...and compelling.”
The Public Reviews

Tamsin Shasha speaking at aod's charity fundraiser, Summer 2016

2016 Trojan Trilogy & Bacchae

“Charismatic, sensuous, sublime.” **Bettany Hughes**

2017 She Denied Nothing & Antigone

2018 Educational and charity focus

“The UK's finest exponents of this form of theatre.”
Halifax Evening Courier

2019 Medea & more...

2018 FOR AOD

OUR WORK IN 2018 INCLUDES

- continuing our free workshops for schools and colleges campaign
- a freelance aerial commission co-created by Tamsin Shasha for the Lowry's Week 53 Festival called Everything I See I Swallow
- creating two new education packs for schools, colleges and universities, focussing on Antigone and Medea
- hosting our sixth annual fundraiser at Spruce Wood
- securing commissioning support for a national tour of Medea in 2019
- hosting a fabulous high profile public event in late 2018
- working on a strategic business plan for 2019 - 2022

"A gripping adaptation by acclaimed theatre company Actors of Dionysus." Fulham Chronicle

Helen, Spring 2016

AOD FINANCE

To take **aod** in to another 25 successful years, and to realise our ambitious plans, we aim to:

- develop our artistic programmes, creating bolder and more ambitious pieces of theatre
- expand our educational programme, reaching more schools, colleges and universities across the country with our work
- strengthen our administrative infrastructure, creating at least one full time position within the company alongside our Artistic Director
- create a concise and methodical strategic business plan from 2019 - 2022

To achieve this we need to attract significant funding. Our turnover for 2017 was £144,575. Historically, **aod** has been funded 50% by income from touring and support from Arts Council England and similar sources and 50% by individual donations/contributions from events, crowdfunding projects and membership.

"A fantastic aesthetic quality to the piece... haunting...gripping." A Younger Theatre

Lysistrata, national tour
Spring 2016

HOW YOUR DONATIONS HELP

The following is a guide to our expenditure for 2017

aodProductions

Antigone (Research & Development, February 2017) - £15,000
She Denied Nothing (Research & Development, May 2017) - £10,000
Antigone (Autumn 2017) - £65,000

aodEducation

Educational DVD - £5,500
Workshops (x20) - £6,000
Seminars (x4) - £1,000
Talks (x5 pre or post performance talks) - £500

aodEvents

One off special fundraising event - £10,000
Annual sponsorship of **aod**Events to hold 1 large, high profile fundraising event and 2 smaller fundraising events - £20,000

“Actors of Dionysus leave behind in their audiences an experience of deep intensity.”
St Andrews Citizen

Bacchae at the ancient theatre at Ephesus in Turkey, 2002

SUPPORTING AOD

In ancient Athens as today, successful productions of the drama relied on the support of benefactors, citizens known as choregoi.

Support for **aod**Productions, **aod**Education and **aod**Events can be on a number of levels, and there are many ways to become involved with **aod** and our work.

We are actively seeking individual and corporate sponsorship. In addition, you can join our membership group and become a friend, patron or benefactor of **aod**.

If you are interested in supporting our work, please contact Tamsin Shasha at:

tamsin@actorsofdionysus.com

07957 471949

aod, 25 St Luke's Road, Brighton, BN2 9ZD

www.actorsofdionysus.com

“Thoughtful and intelligent.” **The Times**

Helen, Spring 2016

OUR CASE FOR SUPPORT

We are unique in Britain in that we are one of the few theatre companies who are solely dedicated to exploring Classical Greek theatre, offering a rigorous approach that marries academic understanding with artistic vision.

aod is a registered charity that receives no regular public subsidy or funding. We need to raise a minimum of £80,000 a year to provide a base rate for all of our projects.

Our work is ambitious, exciting and accessible, and we greatly value the support of our donors and benefactors, who help us to make the work happen. Individual support is so important to **aod** and our longevity and without this we couldn't make the work that we do.

Benefits to you as a donor include:

- visibility – your name and logo on all related publicity
- support of the important causes which are explored within our work
- access to special events, workshops and productions
- community engagement – an opportunity for you to actively engage with the artistic and educational community
- engaging actively with **aod** on specific projects that you wish to support
- helping to sustain **aod's** work and have a key role in our future

“Given time and support, aod could restore the Classics to their proper place in the theatre repertoire, which would be something like a National Classical Theatre.”
Times Educational Supplement

Rehearsals for Helen, 2009

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: MEDEA 2019

aodProductions

- £1,000 will go toward marketing of Medea on socials, in theatres and in local communities
- £2,000 will go toward a research and development period for Medea, re-developing the show with a completely new cast and creative team
- £5,000 will go toward sponsoring a national tour of Medea, taking it to large scale regional theatre venues new to **aod**, such as West Yorkshire Playhouse, Nuffield Southampton Theatres and Guildford's Yvonne Arnold Theatre and into London's West End, at venues such as Leicester Square Theatre or Ambassadors Theatre

“An inspired piece of theatre, meticulously presented.” **The Argus**

Tamsin Shasha
developing aerial work

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: MEDEA 2019

aodEducation

- £1,500 will sponsor 5 completely free Classics and drama workshops in schools, colleges and universities
- £2,000 will sponsor 20 talkback sessions with cast, crew and audience members after a performance of Medea
- £5,500 will sponsor a DVD of Medea, including additional educational interviews with the cast and creative team

aodEvents

- £1,300 will sponsor fine wine and canapés for a one-off benefit event
- £3,500 will sponsor luxurious catering for an **aod** fundraising event
- £5,500 will sponsor a large scale, high profile special event, such as a gala at the Reform Club in London, complete with celebrity engagement, fine dining, exclusive wine and an exciting performance from **aod**

“A truly classic night out.” **Stirling Observer**

Bacchae at The National Trust's
Osterley Park

MEDEA

National tour of Medea, a breathtaking aerial version for Autumn 2019.

An exhilarating, emboldened and ambitious production, featuring wall running, aerial arts and choral singing.

We are looking for commissioning and programming partners to support this production. To commission or programme the show, contact Megan Rogers at:

megan@actorsofdionysus.com

07817 859428

aod, 25 St Luke's Road, Brighton, BN2 9ZD

www.actorsofdionysus.com

“Astonishing and unforgettable...a highly, highly recommended production.” **Fringe Review**

Medea pilot performance at Rose
Theatre Kingston, Autumn 2013


A photograph of an aerial silk performance in a grand, domed hall. A man in a dark patterned shirt is perched on a metal frame, adjusting a horizontal bar. Below him, a woman in a light-colored dress is suspended horizontally by several long, flowing white silks. The hall features high ceilings with a blue dome decorated with stars, and large classical columns. Stage lights are visible on the floor.

aod
actors of dionysus

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