



Theater of WAR

Ten Thousand Things Joins with Theater of War for Readings of Sophocles' AJAX

"I think what Sophocles was trying to say to his audience was that for many of us the actual wounds of war never manifest on the battlefield itself, but when we go home. And that's part of the exponential pain, twice the pain, twice the sorrow."
—Service Member attending a reading

Minneapolis (Nov 1, 2011) — **Ten Thousand Things** is partnering with **Theater of War Productions**, a social impact company that presents readings of ancient Greek plays to military communities as a catalyst for town hall discussions, to present **two free public readings of Sophocles' Ajax**. The readings will be followed by **panel discussions** with active-duty military service members and veterans, their family members, and mental health professionals, concluding with **town hall discussions with the audience, moderated by Dr. Jon Hallberg**. The readings, intended for mixed audiences comprised of the local military community and civilians, are scheduled for:

November 28, 7:00 p.m.

Rosemount Armory and Community Center
13865 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount

December 5, 7:00 p.m.

Minneapolis Community & Technical College, Whitney Fine Arts Center
1424 Yale Place, Minneapolis
Co-sponsored by MCTC's Veterans Upward Bound

Admission is free but seating is limited. Visit www.tenthousandthings.org/tow.

Theater of War Productions, supported by a generous grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation in collaboration with the USO, is partnering with prominent theaters across the United States to present readings as a catalyst for town hall discussions about the challenges faced by service men and women, veterans, their families, caregivers and communities. Using Sophocles' play to forge a common vocabulary for openly discussing the impact of war on individuals, families, and communities, these readings are aimed at generating compassion and understanding between diverse audiences.

The readings, featuring **Bob Davis, Shawn Hamilton, Sonja Parks, Luverne Seifert** and **Sally Wingert**, are followed by comments from a diverse panel of military community members and a

town hall-style audience discussion moderated by Dr. Jon Hallberg. AJAX is directed by **Michelle Hensley**, translated by **Bryan Doerries** and produced by **Phyllis Kaufman**.

About Theater of War Productions

Theater of War (TOW) presents readings of Sophocles to military and civilian communities across the U.S. and Europe. These ancient plays timelessly and universally depict the psychological and physical wounds inflicted upon warriors by war. By presenting these plays to military and civilian audiences, TOW seeks to de-stigmatize psychological injury, increase awareness of post-deployment psychological health issues, disseminate information regarding available resources, and foster greater family, community, and troop resilience. Theater of War Productions has delivered 175 performances for military and civilian communities in the U.S., Europe and Japan. More than 35,000 service members, veterans, and their families have participated in Theater of War's performances and discussions to date. For more information about Theater of War, visit:

www.outsidethewirellc.com or www.facebook.com/TheaterofWar

About Ten Thousand Things

Ten Thousand Things productions bring high-quality, intelligent theater to people with little access to the wealth of the arts. The award-winning company invigorates ancient tales, classic stories, and contemporary plays through its search for honest, open interactions between actors and audience. With minimal sets and costumes, the finest quality actors in the region fully engage the audience by distilling the story to its essence. Up close, with no distractions, audience members can observe facial expressions and body gestures in startling detail, lending an immediacy, authenticity and intimacy that no other theater in the nation provides.

About Stavros Niarchos Foundation

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (www.SNF.org) is one of the world's leading international philanthropic organizations, making grants in the areas of arts and culture, education, health and medicine, and social welfare. While prominent in its support of Greek-related initiatives, the Foundation's activities are worldwide in scope. To date, the Foundation has provided total grant commitments of €895 million/US \$1.2 billion through more than 1,900 grants to nonprofit organizations in 90 nations around the world.

About the USO

The United Service Organizations (www.uso.org) lifts the spirits of America's troops and their families millions of times each year at hundreds of places worldwide. The USO provides a touch of home through centers at airports and military bases, top quality entertainment and innovative programs and services. The organization also provides critical support to forward-deployed troops and their families, wounded warriors and their families and the families of the fallen. The USO is a private, non-profit organization, not a government agency.

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"[I think Sophocles wrote this play] to let people in the community know that they were not alone." —Audience member