

# RANSACKING TROY

## RANSACKING TROY

By **Erin Shields**

Directed by **Jackie Maxwell**

Choreographed by **Esie Mensah**

## GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Grade 11+

## CONTENT ADVISORY

This production explores the effects of war, including death and sexual violence, but does not include graphic depictions. The play includes coarse language.

[Please see the show page for more information.](#)

## SYNOPSIS

Everyone knows the story of the Trojan War: Trojan boy elopes with married Greek girl; angry husband tracks the lovers to the boy's hometown; 10 years of siege warfare later, the angry husband and his posse reduce Troy to rubble. But did it have to end that way? In *Ransacking Troy*, playwright Erin Shields imagines a less testosterone-fuelled conclusion, in which the women of Greece—tired of waiting for their husbands to return from war—stage an intervention of historical proportions.

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

### GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Innovation and Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Global Citizenship and Sustainability

### GRADES 11-12

- The Arts
- Canadian and World Studies
- Classical Studies and International Languages
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Social Sciences and Humanities

### POST-SECONDARY

- Suitable for courses in disciplines such as Arts, Cultural Studies, Classics and Classical Studies, Creative Writing, Drama and Theatre, English, Fine Arts, Gender Studies, Global Studies, History, Human Rights, Peace Studies, Social Justice, Teacher Education

## THEMES

- The Cost of War
- Duty and Obligation
- Fate, Fortune and the Gods
- Feminism and Female Community
- Gender Roles and Performance
- Generational Dis/Connections
- The Heroine's Journey
- Hope and Despair
- Peacemaking
- Sacrifice
- Social Status and Power
- Storytelling and Narrative Re-Envisioning
- Violence, Trauma and Resilience
- Women's Experiences of War

## DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why might an author choose to re-tell or re-envision a story that already exists, particularly a classic that is hundreds of years old?
- *Ransacking Troy* is an adaptation of the Trojan War narrative, re-imagining Homer's the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* through the lens of its female players. Are you familiar with either of these works? In what ways does familiarity with an original narrative enhance an audience's experience of an adaptation? Are there ways it might detract from it?
- Can the actions of a small group of people impact meaningful societal change? Explain your thinking, sharing examples.
- Though fiction, the play focuses on the cost and horrors of war. Do you think witnessing "war stories" like *Ransacking Troy* can shift people's beliefs and actions about violence and armed conflict? Why or why not?

## STUDY GUIDES

[View](#) all 2025 Shorts and Study Guides for selected 2025 plays along with those from previous seasons free of charge.



[Stratford Public Library's 2025 Season Reading Lists](#)

## BOOKING INFORMATION: TICKETS, WORKSHOPS AND CHATS

### STUDENT MATINÉES

You may book any available date, but selected student matinée performances for this show are at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, September 3
- Thursday, September 18
- Friday, September 19
- Thursday, September 25

### WORKSHOPS & CHATS

Workshops and Chats (virtual, onsite or at your school/centre) can be booked by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600 or by emailing [educate@stratfordfestival.ca](mailto:educate@stratfordfestival.ca)

## SOCIAL MEDIA



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### PROUD SEASON PARTNERS



### TOOLS FOR TEACHERS SPONSORED BY



Tools for Teachers includes InterACTIVE Preshows, Study Guides and Stratford Shorts.

Support for the 2025 season of the Tom Patterson Theatre is generously provided by



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