

**The seventh production of A Noise Within's 2018-2019 Season: LET ME IN
Presented by the S. Mark Taper Foundation**

Argonautika
By Mary Zimmerman

**Adapted from *The Voyage of Jason and the Argonauts*
Gaius Valerius Flaccus -Translated by David R. Slavitt
Apollonius Rhodius -Translated by Peter Green**

Directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott

March 20 - May 5, 2019

Pasadena, Calif. (March 6, 2019) - A Noise Within (ANW), California's acclaimed classic repertory theatre, is proud to present *Argonautika*, an epic theatrical journey full of human emotion by Tony® Award-winning director and playwright **Mary Zimmerman**. ANW Producing Artistic Director **Julia Rodriguez-Elliott** will direct Zimmerman's work for the first time. *Argonautika*, which made its world premiere in 2006 at Chicago's Lookingglass Theatre that Zimmerman is a member of, runs from March 20 through May 5. Previews begin March 20 and **press opening night is March 23**.

Argonautika is a fresh retelling of the classic Greek myth, *The Voyage of Jason and the Argonauts*. Jason and his quest for the Golden Fleece has been reframed for our time. Audiences will join the fantastic voyage and encounter Athena, Hercules, Hera, sirens, and more—familiar mythological figures imbued with unexpected character and depth. This contemporary piece of theatre encompasses humor, love, and the unimaginable as Zimmerman reveals the humanity in the most monstrous of creatures in an unforgettable adventure for the ages.

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“I am a longtime fan of Zimmerman’s work,” said ANW Producing Artistic Director Julia Rodriguez-Elliott. “Zimmerman is an expert at taking these ancient tales and making them accessible to a modern audience. In *Argonautika*, she brings humor and philosophical perspective to the plight of humanity. I love voyages and the possibilities they present, so that is always an attraction, and this voyage is filled with adventures, tight scrapes, giants, harpies, and gods flying. As a director, I find all this thrilling and terrifying.”

The story of Jason and his Argonauts will soar to new heights in ANW’s production of *Argonautika* featuring aerial silks, rope-swinging, heroic battles, humor, and song all within a 324-seat space.

“A Noise Within excels in creating epic experiences in an intimate setting. Our thrust stage will make the audience feel like they are part of the action (and there is lots of it!),” explained Rodriguez-Elliott.

She continued, “Zimmerman has provided me with a very strong roadmap, but she also leaves it open to each director in finding their own way of theatricalizing the series of events that make up Jason’s journey. There will be a uniquely ANW approach to the story that will surprise audiences. We have an exciting design team working on this production and a terrific cast bringing the story to life.”

The poetic stage design conceived by Scenic Designer **Frederica Nascimento** will be elaborated by elements such as an immense ocean, a ship, black cloud, hard lines of rope, expansive fabric, and great heights from which actors will leap, climb, and jump – which all creates a wonderful playground for the play.

The costumes of *Argonautika* will breathe life into the story and represent the development of the characters as they progress on their journey. Costume Designer **Jenny Foldenauer** and Costume Associate **Dayna L. Lucas** were interested in going beyond the traditional Greek aesthetic and focused their attention on the earthiness of the tale with dip-dyed fabrics, feathers, gold, and flowers for the gods and a distressed, gritty look for the Argonauts.

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“*Argonautika* is an adult fairytale for all ages. Anyone who enjoys a great adventure will be taken on a glorious ride this spring,” concluded Rodriguez-Elliott.

Tickets for *Argonautika* start at \$25 and are available at anoisewithin.org, by phone at 626-356-3121, and at the box office located at 3352 East Foothill Blvd. in Pasadena, Calif.

Calendar Listing

Argonautika

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Apollonius Rhodius –Translated by Peter Green

Directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott

at A Noise Within, 3352 E. Foothill Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91107

Running Time

Two hours plus one 15-minute intermission

The Cast and Creative Team

The cast includes (*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States)

Jason: Ty Mayberry*

Athena: Trisha Miller*

Hera / Woman of Lemnos: Veralyn Jones*

Aphrodite / Atalanta / Meleager's Mother /

Woman of Lemnos: Cassandra Marie

Murphy*

Pelias / Tiphys: Alan Blumenfeld*

Hercules / Aeëtes: Frederick Stuart*

Meleager / Boreas (March 20-April 27):

Michael Uribes*

Meleager / Boreas (May 2-5): Adrian

Gonzalez

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Hylas / Dymas: Richy Storrs*

Idmon: Evan Lewis Smith*

Pelias' Son: Sam Christian

Andromeda / Woman of Lemnos: Helen

Jane Planchet

Phineus / Argonaut: Justin Lawrence Barnes

Dance Captain: Cassandra Marie Murphy*

Fight Captain: Collin Bressie

:

Jason (u/s): Drew Parker*

Athena (u/s): Sally Hughes*

Hera / Woman of Lemnos (u/s): Tania

Verafield*

Medea / Dryope / Woman of Lemnos:

Angela Gulner*

Apsyrtos / Argonaut: Collin Bressie

Eros / Styryus / Argonaut: Marc Leclerc

Argonaut: Lorena Ruiz

Argonaut: Bradley Alan Turner

Pelias / Tiphys / Idmon (u/s): Nic Arnzen*

Hercules / Aeëtes (u/s): Wayne T. Carr*

Meleager / Boreas (u/s): Adrian Gonzalez

Medea / Dryope / Woman of Lemnos (u/s):

Katie Rodriguez

Ensemble (u/s): Kenneth R. Merckx, Jr*

Julia Rodriguez-Elliott will direct. The scenic design is by **Frederica Nascimento**[†]; costume design by **Jenny Foldenauer**; lighting design by **Ken Booth**; original music composition / sound design by **Robert Oriol**; music direction by **Dr. Melissa Sky-Eagle**; fight choreography by **Kenneth R. Merckx, Jr.**; movement direction by **Stephanie Shroyer**; dramaturg is **Dr. Miranda Johnson-Haddad**, associate costume designer is **Dayna L. Lucas**; wig/make-up design by **Shannon Hutchins**; props master is **Erin Walley**; associate puppet designer is **Dillon Nelson**.

[†]Designer is represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

Sponsors

ANW's 2018-19 Season is presented by the **S. Mark Taper Foundation**.

Lead Production Sponsor: **Richard & Sally Roberts**

Co-Sponsor: **Kathleen & James Drummy**

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Co-Sponsor: **Anni Frandsen Low, Ph.D.**

Media Sponsor: **KCET Media**

Performances

Wednesday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview and Symposium)

Thursday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview and Pay What You Can)

Friday, March 22 at 8 p.m. (Preview)

Saturday, March 23 at 8 p.m. (Opening)

Sunday, March 24 at 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 31 at 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 31 at 7 p.m. (Sunday Rush)

Saturday, April 6 at 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 6 at 8 p.m.

Thursday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 12 at 8 p.m. (Post-Show Conversation)

Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. (Post-Show Conversation)

Sunday, April 21 at 7 p.m. (Sunday Rush)

Saturday, April 27 at 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 27 at 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 3 at 8 p.m. (Post-Show Conversation)

Saturday, May 4 at 2 p.m.

Saturday, May 4 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 5 at 2 p.m.

Ticket and Price Information

Buy Online: www.anoisewithin.org **Buy Via Phone:** 626-356-3121

Purchase at Box Office: 3352 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107

Regular Prices: Single tickets from \$25, Student Rush with ID an hour before performance \$20.

Sunday Rush: March 31 and April 21 at 7 p.m. – all tickets remaining are \$25, available online after 12 a.m. day of performance with the code **SUNDAYRUSH** or at the box office, cash or credit, after 2 p.m. day of performance.

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Groups (10 or more): Adults from \$25 to \$50 a ticket, up to 35% off; Students from \$18/tickets. Call 626-356-3121 for more information and ask for Subscriber Services Manager Deborah Strang.

Symposium and Post-Show Conversations

This run of *Argonautika* includes a symposium with University of California Irvine Associate Professor of Classics, **Dr. Zina Giannopoulou**, at 6:45 p.m. on March 20, 2019 and post-show conversations on April 12, April 21 (after the 2 p.m. performance), and May 3, 2019.

ANW's 2018-2019 Season - Let Me In

“All of our 2018-19 offerings feature characters who are outliers – people who have blazed their own trail but nevertheless struggle for acknowledgement and acceptance,” says Geoff Elliott. “**Let Me In** isn’t about a physical space, it’s about the deeply human passion to be understood for who we are.”

Mary Zimmerman’s fresh retelling of the classic Greek myth, *The Voyage of Jason and the Argonauts*, in *Argonautika* (directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott; March 20 – May 5, 2019) will run in rotating repertory with William Shakespeare’s story of love and betrayal, *Othello* (directed by Jessica Kubzansky; now through April 28, 2019), and Tennessee Williams’ haunting memory play, *The Glass Menagerie* (directed by Geoff Elliott; now through April 26, 2019). Following the spring 2019 repertory season, the popular and acclaimed ANW production of *Noises Off* (directed by Julia Rodriguez-Elliott & Geoff Elliott; May 21 – June 9, 2019) returns. **KCET** is a media sponsor for A Noise Within’s 2018-19 Season. A Noise Within’s repertory theatre season is presented by the **S. Mark Taper Foundation**.

Julia Rodriguez-Elliott says, “Whether they’re in self-exile (*The Glass Menagerie*), or shunned (*Othello*), or led astray by hedonistic desires (*A Picture of Dorian Gray*), or thrust there by the

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fickle cruelty of fate (*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*) or the gods (*Argonautika*), all of these characters on the margins of society are fascinating and deeply resonant with anyone who has ever felt left out.”

About the Play

Argonautika was adapted by Tony® Award-winning director and playwright Mary Zimmerman from a third century B.C. Greek epic poem written by Apollonius Rhodius of the same title with slightly different spelling. The ancient myth tells the story of the voyage of Jason and the Argonauts to retrieve the Golden Fleece from the distant land of Colchis.

Greek stories were well known before poets and playwrights wrote their own versions. As a result, many stories are told slightly differently depending on what the author wanted to communicate. Homer’s *Odyssey* does not include every story of the character Odysseus, and different plays and poems of the Trojan War or the Argonauts include different scenes or emphasize different characters. Some versions are radically different: the character of Iphigenia, who was the daughter Agamemnon sacrificed so that the Greek fleet could sail to Troy, is either sacrificed, saved at the last second by the gods, or is replaced by a deer and lives to meet her brother after the war.

Mary Zimmerman’s adaptation of *Argonautika* continues this tradition of carefully selecting which pieces of a Greek tale to emphasize, where to begin and end the story, and which characters to feature and develop more fully. Her version focuses on Jason and Medea and begins with an invocation by the chorus that summarizes the story of Helle and Phrixus. The action starts as Jason returns to Iolcos to claim the throne from his uncle, Pelias, who is celebrating his birthday. The goddess Hera, disguised as an old woman, asks Jason to carry her across the river, and in the crossing he loses a sandal. Hera and Athena bless Jason on his quest to restore the throne for his family.

Meanwhile, King Pelias has dreamt that a man with one bare foot will come to kill him. Recognizing it is a prophecy, Pelias is afraid when the one-sandaled man arrives and turns out to

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be an heir to the throne. Although Pelias' servants plot to kill Jason, Pelias spares his nephew only to send him on an impossible quest. Pelias tells Jason of the story of the Golden Fleece and orders him to recover it to prove himself worthy of the crown. Jason and his crew of Argonauts head aboard the Argo for the journey of a lifetime.

In 2006, *Argonautika* made its world premiere at the Lookingglass Theatre in Chicago where Mary Zimmerman has been an ensemble member for more than 25 years. A year later, *Argonautika* made its West Coast premiere at Berkeley Repertory Theatre to critical acclaim.

About the Playwright

Mary Zimmerman is a Tony® Award-winning director and playwright known for her theatrical adaptations of classical works of literature. She was born on August 23, 1960 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Both of Zimmerman's parents were professors and she spent a significant time overseas as a child while her parents pursued their academic work. While in London at the age of five, she stumbled across an outdoor rehearsal for a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. As Zimmerman watched a run of a scene, she was struck by the rehearsal's joyous and fun atmosphere. This experience seeing actors and theatre artists at work first sparked her interest in theatre.

Zimmerman attended Northwestern University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in theatre, as well as a Master of Arts and a Ph.D. in performance studies. She is now a professor in Northwestern's Performance Studies department.

In the early 1990s, Zimmerman began adapting classical tales and works of literature for the stage. Her work has included theatrical adaptations of source material such as *The Thousand and One Nights*, *The Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci*, *The Odyssey*, and *The Jungle Book*. In 1998, she was named a recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship for her work.

Zimmerman is also prolific director—she often directs her own adaptations, and to much acclaim.

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She is a member of the Lookingglass Theatre Company and a resident director at the Goodman Theatre. In 2002, Zimmerman won a Tony for Best Direction of a Play for her adaptation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Zimmerman adapted and directed Apollonius of Rhodes' epic poem, *Argonautika*, in 2006.

In 2015, Zimmerman discussed her process for staging an adaptation with the *Los Angeles Times*. When she is working on a new adaptation, Zimmerman often begins rehearsals without a script—she is interested in shaping the text along with the actors and other theatre artists involved in the project.

About A Noise Within

A Noise Within has been called “an oasis for those who love classic stories” by *Los Angeles Times* and is a leading regional producer based in Pasadena, Calif. ANW's award-winning resident company practices a rotating repertory model at their state-of-the-art, 324-seat performance space. This venue, established in 2011, has allowed ANW to expand its audience, surpassing its previous box office, subscription, and attendance records year after year.

In addition to producing world-class performances of classic theatre, the organization runs robust education programs committed to inspiring diverse audiences of all ages. Helmed by Producing Artistic Directors **Geoff Elliott** and **Julia Rodriguez-Elliott**, who hold MFAs from San Francisco's renowned American Conservatory Theatre (A.C.T.), A Noise Within truly delivers **CLASSIC THEATRE, MODERN MAGIC**. <http://www.anoisewithin.org>

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