

# Heroes of Troy

by Neil Richards

BBC

Music Workshop

## Heroes Of Troy Cast List

# BBC

### Cast – Not In Order Of Appearance

OLD SOLDIER	The Narrator
YOUNG SOLDIER	A Greek Soldier

### Greeks

KING MENELAUS	A Greek King
HELEN	Wife To Menelaus
AGAMEMNON	Brother Of Menelaus, Commander Of The Greek Army
ACHILLES	Hero
ODYSSEUS	Hero
PENELOPE	Wife Of Odysseus
PALAMEDES	Greek Officer
MESSENGER	
OFFICER 1	
OFFICER 2	
BOY	
BRISIUS	A Servant Girl
AJAX	Hero
VARIOUS	Soldiers, Courtiers, Guards, Ladies-In-Waiting, Food-Tasters, Dancers, Soldiers' Families

### Trojans

KING PRIAM	Trojan King
НЕСИВА	Trojan Queen
PARIS	Son Of Priam And Hecuba
CASSANDRA	Paris's Sister
HECTOR	Hero (Paris's Brother)
TROJAN SOLDIER 1	
<b>TROJAN SOLDIER 2</b>	
VARIOUS	Soldiers, Courtiers, Servants, Soldiers' Families

## ACT 1

### Scene 1: The Fields of Troy

Darkness. A lone figure centre stage – the Old Soldier – lit by a single spot.

OLD SOLDIER The Trojan War. You've all heard of it, of course. The famous Heroes – Achilles, Odysseus, Hector. The woman everyone was fighting over – the beautiful Helen. The canny trick that won it in the end – the Trojan Horse. But what was the war really about? And what was it really like? Well, let me tell you. Because I should know. I was there on the fields of Troy, all those years ago...

The Old Soldier's light out. Darkness, but now the sound of marching drums and feet...

### SONG 1: DESTRUCTION

Lights up as from every part of the space, the whole cast as Greeks, Trojans and Heroes converge on the centre. Brandishing spears and swords, jeering, singing, fierce, warlike they wheel around each other, every soldier sizing up his/her opponent. Finally, climactically, as the song reaches its last line the two sides lock horns in slowmo, blades thrust in attack, bodies twisted in combat as they **FREEZE** on the line –

### SONG: ALL THE TROOPS IN THE HOUSE GO - FREEZE!

In the frozen tableau, all the key cast can clearly be seen. Only one figure is moving – the Old Soldier – who steps out of the centre of the action and walks around it inspecting the frozen fighters. Each time he mentions a character or a group, they wave, smile, bow, swagger of joke as appropriate to the audience.

**OLD SOLDIER** *(Carrying a clipboard which he ticks off.)* Welcome to the first second of the first minute of the first battle of a war

which went on for ten years! Right now - everybody's still alive. Not a drop of blood has been spilt. So who do we have here? On my left – the Greeks. Key players - King Menelaus, their leader. Here - Agamemnon, his brother and top general. Getting stuck in down there - Palamedes, an important officer. On my right - The Trojans. Their king - Priam. His wife Hecuba. Their daughter - Cassandra...and son Paris. He's the fella that started all this. And here - Paris's girlfriend Helen. Who's Greek. And actually married to old Menelaus over there. You getting a sense of what might be the big problem here? Hmm, I hope so. What about these fellas in the special outfits? Well they're the Heroes. Half man, half God. Top dogs in the ancient world. For the Greeks - Achilles. And Odysseus. For the Trojans - Priam's other son Hector. And that's the lot. Oh, I nearly forgot.

He reaches into the heart of the frozen tableau and drags a young soldier out by the ear.

YOUNG SOLDIER Owwww!!!!

**OLD SOLDIER** Meet me – forty years ago. Still wet behind the ears. A boy soldier in the court of King Menelaus. And ready for adventure.

Old Soldier kicks Young Soldier back into his battle position.

OLD SOLDIER (Continued) Bit of discipline – never harmed me. So how did this all begin then? Well, like all wars it started over something small – that got out of hand. This one started over breakfast...

The battle unwinds in slo-mo, cast exiting, revealing...

## Scene 2: The Court of King Menelaus

A table centre, piled with breakfast. Various guards, ladies in waiting, servants, food-tasters. A servant holds cards – GREECE. COURT OF KING MENELAUS. TWO YEARS EARLIER. (Old Soldier sits stage right watching throughout the play.) At the table, old King Menelaus reads the Ancient Greek Times. Young Helen, bored, plays with her food...

KING MENELAUS	I see olives are going up.
HELEN	That's good.
KING MENELAUS	But Taramasalata's down.
HELEN	That's a shame.
KING MENELAUS	Weather forecast's looking better.
HELEN	Sunny?
IIEEEN	Sumry.
KING MENELAUS	
KING MENELAUS	Hope so. Got anything planned for today?
KING MENELAUS HELEN	Hope so. Got anything planned for today? Don't know. Bit of shopping perhaps. My pretty queen must look her best!

- **YOUNG SOLDIER** Your majesty! A Trojan ship has landed. Their prince seeks an audience.
- **KING MENELAUS** But of course! Send him in! (To Helen) Don't want to get on the wrong side of the Trojans. Do a lot of business with the Trojans.

Young Soldier exits, and returns with Paris and his Bodyguards.

YOUNG SOLDIER Your majesty... I present Paris, Prince of Troy!

Paris sinks to his knees, kisses Menelaus's ring.

KING MENELAUS Yes, yes...

PARIS	<i>(to King Menelaus)</i> My ship was blown off course. I thank you for giving us shelter.
KING MENELAUS	Greece and Troy are old friends, my boy. You are welcome here. Now – let me introduce my wife, Helen
	n and Paris see each other. Time stops. They stare open- ezes and Paris speaks to the audience:
PARIS	It's her! The woman of my dreams! When I was young the gods told me I would marry the most beautiful woman in the world. And here she is. Trouble is – she's already married! What shall I do?!
The room unfreezes, an her ring.	d Paris plays nonchalant. He kneels to Helen and kisses
PARIS (Continued)	Your majesty.
The king, oblivious to a	anything going on between them, puts his arm round Paris.
KING MENELAUS	Don't often get royal visitors you know. Stay as long as you like, Paris. We'll have fun!
PARIS	Brilliant! Fun's my middle name!
The King leads Paris of steps forward.	f, followed by Young Soldier and Bodyguards. Old Soldier
OLD SOLDIER	Well fun is what they had.
laughing, joking, carry, snorkel and towels etc e	Paris, Young Soldier and Bodyguards criss cross the stage, ing tennis rackets, then golf clubs, then a football, goggles and tc Helen watches longingly – and when Menelaus isn't ingers on Helen: it's clear they're in love.
OLD SOLDIER (Continued)	They got on like a house on fire. Days went by. Weeks. A whole month. Paris and Menelaus were like old friends. Until

A Messenger enters, bows to the King.

MESSENGER	Your highness.
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### He hands Menelaus a note.

**KING MENELAUS** Dear oh dear. A crisis, in Athens. I shall have to go, can't avoid it.

**PARIS** That is a shame.

Paris looks at Helen – and Helen looks at Paris. Menelaus doesn't notice.

PARIS (Continued)	How long will you be gone?
KING MENELAUS	Two weeks. Three at the most. Helen will look after you – won't you my dear?
HELEN	Yes my king, I shall.
KING MENELAUS	Won't be as much fun as being with me, eh – Paris?
PARIS	(Looking at Helen.) Oh no. Won't be the same at all.
Helen and Paris watch	the King exit with his courtiers. And now they stare at each

Helen and Paris watch the King exit with his courtiers. And now they stare at each other... Paris's bodyguards exit, Helen's ladies exit, Young Soldier exits – but then sneaks back to watch from behind a pillar.

PARIS (Continued) Helen.

HELEN Paris.

- PARIS There's something I need to say to you...
- HELEN Oh!

**PARIS** Something that can't be said just in words...

As the guitar intro starts, the backing vocalists/band/dancers slip onto stage and suddenly there's a mike in Paris's hand...

### SONG 2: IS IT LOVE?

Paris and Helen sing the ballad to each other, sharing with chorus. When it finishes they're staring dreamily into each other's eyes.

PARIS (Continued)	I think it is, isn't it?	
HELEN	Yes. It is.	
PARIS	Come with me to Troy. Live with me there. Be my wife.	
HELEN	What about King Menelaus?	
PARIS	It's me you really love – isn't it?	
He takes her hand and the two exit dreamily, watched by Young Soldier and Old Soldier.		
OLD SOLDIER	They headed straight for the Trojan boat and sailed away to Troy. And that was the last we – I – me – us – you know what I mean – saw of them. For quite some	

Lights up. King Menelaus returns to a full court – mime under the narration:

time...

**OLD SOLDIER**<br/>(Continued)The King returned with bags of presents from Athens.<br/>I got the job of telling him the news. At first he was<br/>stunned. Then he got angry. Then he got violent. Then<br/>he thought for a while. Then he came up with<br/>a solution...

The King addresses his court:

**KING MENELAUS** I know what I'm going to do. I'm going to raise an army, sail to Troy and get Helen back. Paris is going to pay for this. The whole of Troy is going to pay for this. Because this means WAR!!! YES! WAR!!! WAR!!!

The whole court joins in the chant:

ALL WAR! WAR! WAR! WAR!

Still chanting and shouting, they exit.

**OLD SOLDIER** So that's how it started. A boy and a girl making eyes at each other. Let that be a warning to you!!!

## Scene 3: The Camp at Aulis

Tents, soldiers training, marching, drilling – excited and busy preparations for war. Young Soldier is part of the drills. As he marches he holds up a card: THE GREEK ARMY CAMP, THREE MONTHS LATER. Agamemnon is with other OFFICERS looking at maps and plans over lunch.

<b>OLD SOLDIER</b> Enter Menelaus.	King Menelaus didn't hang about. Luckily his brother Agamemnon was a top general and he soon had a massive Greek army all sorted and ready to go.
KING MENELAUS	Ready for war, Agamemnon?
AGAMEMNON	Fighting fit and hungry for action, brother. Only one problem
KING MENELAUS	Problem?
<b>OFFICER 1</b>	With respect, your majesty, there's something missing.
KING MENELAUS	Missing?!
<b>OFFICER 2</b>	Yes, sir. Missing.
<b>OFFICER 1</b>	We don't have any
<b>OFFICER 2</b>	We're a bit light on

We're a bit light on...

KING MENELAUS Come on! Spit it out!

Palamedes, their superior officer joins the group.

KING MENELAUS (Continued)	Palamedes – your men complain there's something missing in our preparation.
PALAMEDES	There is sir. Heroes.
KING MENELAUS	What?!

OFFICER 1 & 2 We don't have any heroes sir!

<b>OFFICER 1</b>	In the army.
<b>OFFICER 2</b>	On our side.
KING MENELAUS	Ah. I see.
AGAMEMNON	Can't go to war without heroes, brother.
KING MENELAUS	No, of course.
AGAMEMNON	Can't win a battle without heroes.
KING MENELAUS	Very true. So why don't we have any?
PALAMEDES	A very good question, sir.
<b>OFFICER 1</b>	We sent a message to Odysseus.
KING MENELAUS	Oh, good choice. Odysseus – he's a top hero.
PALAMEDES	But he hasn't turned up.
KING MENELAUS	No? That's odd.
<b>OFFICER 2</b>	And we went looking for Achilles
KING MENELAUS	Oh, Achilles. Very good choice. One of the best heroes, without a doubt.
PALAMEDES	But it seems he's gone missing.
KING MENELAUS	Missing? That's even odder.
AGAMEMNON	I don't understand it. Here we are, army all hot to trot – and the two most famous heroes in Greece just upped and disappeared.
KING MENELAUS	Not for long! Get some men together Agamemnon – and find me my heroes! We've got a war to win!
AGAMEMNON	You heard him Palamedes! Get me some heroes!
All action, Palamedes a Agamemnon exit right	nd his officers hurry off left to do their duty The King and

Agamemnon exit right.

## Scene 4: Odysseus's Farm

Queen Penelope with her baby and various COURTIERS. Old Soldier narrates.

OLD SOLDIER A word about heroes. I've seen my share of heroes. I'm an old man. But back then I was starry-eyed. I couldn't wait to meet one. And I got my chance when we all went looking for Odysseus and Achilles... First stop – the Odysseus household.

Enter Palamedes and his two men, with Young Soldier.

PALAMEDES	Queen Penelope! We come from King Menelaus, seeking Odysseus.
PENELOPE	Oh really? Well we're all seeking Odysseus.
PALAMEDES	Is he lost, ma'am?
PENELOPE	Lost to the world. Look!

In the distance (in and out of the audience?) Odysseus is behind an ox ploughing his fields, scattering salt.

PALAMEDES	Odysseus – the hero – ploughing!
PENELOPE	Oh, that's the least of it. Do you see what he's planting?
<b>OFFICER 1</b>	It looks like
<b>OFFICER 2</b>	Salt!
PALAMEDES	Is he…ill, ma'am?
<b>OFFICER 1</b>	Not the word I'd use
PALAMEDES	Quiet soldier!
PENELOPE	Well, let's just say he's felt better.
As Odysseus approaches Palamedes steps towards him.	

PALAMEDES	Sir! Odysseus! I come from King Menelaus, requesting you to join his army to fight for justice against the Trojans.	
ODYSSEUS	Dum dee dum. Dum dee dum dee dum. Dum diddly do.	
Steering nonchalantly, Odysseus heads round again.		
PENELOPE	See? He's lost it. Certainly not fit enough to go off fighting a war.	
<b>OFFICER 1</b>	Certainly looks like it.	
<b>OFFICER 2</b>	It's not easy being a hero, I suppose.	
PALAMEDES	Hmm.	
PENELOPE	Why don't you head back to King Menelaus. And if Odysseus gets better, I'll let you know.	
PALAMEDES	Hmm.	
Odysseus passes by again.		
ODYSSEUS	Dum dee dum. Dum dee dum dee dum. Dum diddly do.	
Palamedes scratches hi	Palamedes scratches his head. Then has an idea.	
PALAMEDES	Your majesty – pass me the baby, please.	

She does – uncertain... Palamedes takes the baby – and places it in the path of Odysseus's plough.

PENELOPE	<b>ENELOPE</b> What are you doing?! My baby!		
PALAMEDES Soldiers			
He nods to the two officers who hold back Penelope. Odysseus and his plough get closer and closer to the baby. Surely it's going to be run over!			
ODYSSEUS	Dum dee dum. Dum dee dum dee dum. Dum diddly do.		
PENELOPE	Odysseus! You must stop!! Stop!!		

Odysseus gets closer...and closer...and then at the last minute pulls the ox away. Penelope rushes to get the baby.

ODYSSEUS	<i>(to PALAMEDES)</i> Now that was a mean trick. Not fair at all.
PALAMEDES	One trick deserves another sir.
ODYSSEUS	Hmmph.
PALAMEDES	I take it you're quite fit to go to war?
ODYSSEUS	Completely. Just bad timing. New baby. Didn't feel like charging off being heroic.
PALAMEDES	It's part of the job, sir.
ODYSSEUS	Thanks for reminding me.

He puts his arm around Penelope.

PENELOPE	We nearly got away with it, didn't we?
ODYSSEUS	Nearly. <i>(To PALAMEDES)</i> I'll get my armour and we'd best be on our way

They exit. Enter Old Soldier.

**OLD SOLDIER** Even heroes try to get out of fighting. Next stop was Skyros where Achilles the hero had been sighted.

## Scene 5: The Island of Skyros

Lights up to reveal Achilles and his girl cousins dancing at a party. Achilles has a rather bad disguise over his armour – and he looks mightily unhappy.

**OLD SOLDIER** Achilles' mother knew the legend that Achilles would be killed in battle. When he was a baby she dipped him in the river Styx to make him immortal. But you can never be too careful. So she'd hidden him away with his girl cousins. Palamedes and the lads tracked him down...

Palamedes talks with a servant girl, then he and the officers and Young Soldier force their way into the party. Palamedes finds the music player – and turns it off. Silence. Slowly he circles the girls (and Achilles who's in a dress with long hair disguise), suspicious... Achilles tries his best to look girlish.

**OLD SOLDIER** He knew that Achilles was a born warrior. And that he would never ignore a drawn sword. The rest was easy...

Palamedes suddenly draws his sword – and Achilles reacts like lightning, throwing off his 'dress' and pulling his own sword out and launching himself at Palamedes.

ACHILLES Dog! You draw your sword on girls?!!

He hurls Palamedes to the ground and scares off the other officers with a wild stroke.

**PALAMEDES** Achilles! Sir! Please!! I am here from King Menelaus requesting your presence in our great army bound to fight the Trojans...

ACHILLES Aha! I see! The old sword trick! Very clever, very neat!

He pulls Palamedes up and brushes him off.

ACHILLESWhat took you so long? I am soooo bored with<br/>dancing. Bring me my armour and let's get out of here!<br/>They say there's a war coming and I don't want to miss it!

Palamedes and the girls help Achilles into his armour, and as he breaks into song, they act as chorus:

### SONG 3: THE WONDER OF WAR

Arm in arm Achilles and Palamedes leave the party.

**OLD SOLDIER** And so we had our army – and our heroes. We were ready. But what of Paris and Helen – and the people of Troy? Were they ready? We didn't know, of course. But that doesn't stop you being a fly on the wall, does it?

## Scene 6: The Trojan Palace

A card: THE TROJAN PALACE. King Priam and Queen Hecuba lounge on cushions. Around them a relaxed court chats, gossips, nibbles, in small groups. Hector shows off some fighting moves to some adoring Trojan ladies. Helen and Paris play chess – still a couple in love. The calm before the storm...

PARIS	Check!
HELEN	Hmm No not quite
PARIS	You're too clever for me Helen!
QUEEN HECUBA	I do wish Hector would put that sword away. He's going to hurt somebody.
PRIAM	The boy's convinced there's going to be a war.
QUEEN HECUBA	Silly rumours.
PRIAM	Forgive and forget. That's what Menelaus should do. Helen made her choice.
QUEEN HECUBA	And the right choice it was. Who wouldn't want to be married to our darling Paris?
PRIAM	Exactly. Anyway, Menelaus would be a fool to try and attack Troy.
Hector joins them.	
HECTOR	Just let him try.
PRIAM	That's the spirit Hector.
HECTOR	The walls are twenty foot thick. We've got food and water to last for years.
QUEEN HECUBA	The bravest army in the world.
PRIAM	And the bravest sons a father could wish for. Isn't that right Paris?

Hmm, sorry father? Oh yes. Me and Hector – unstoppable.

Enter Cassandra. As she speaks the whole court quietens to listen to her terrifying words...

CASSANDRA	Unstoppable? No. You shall be stopped. You shall die, as all here shall die in the Fields of Troy. All but me. The Greeks will come – and lay waste to us in their search for revenge.
QUEEN HECUBA	Cassandra, my dear daughter. This talk is so depressing!
CASSANDRA	Hear my prophecy. The walls of Troy will fall.
Silence.	
PARIS	Well maybe they will. But please – I implore the Gods – let me beat Helen at this game just once!!!
PRIAM	That's the spirit Paris! Away with you Cassandra – we all know there's not going to be a war!

Cassandra exits slowly left, all eyes on her, Priam's court anxious in spite of Priam's confidence.

## Scene 7: The Camp at Aulis

Stage right, lights up on the Greek generals and Heroes – it's a cold night in Aulis and they wear blankets over. Enter Agamemnon, Achilles, Odysseus, Old Soldier and Young Soldier quietly to sit by a campfire.

OLD SOLDIER	Back at the camp we were all ready to go. Boats trimmed, weapons loaded, soldiers fit and strong.
AGAMEMNON	This time tomorrow we shall be on our way.
ACHILLES	Look at that.
AGAMEMNON	A hundred thousand men. A thousand ships.
ACHILLES	The Trojans won't know what hit them.
ODYSSEUS	I wonder what they're doing right now
AGAMEMNON	Do you think they know?
ODYSSEUS	The whole of civilisation knows – that war is coming.
ACHILLES	A war the Trojans asked for.
AGAMEMNON	Will you sleep?
ODYSSEUS	Nobody will sleep tonight.
ACHILLES	I shall sleep. I shall dream of glory.
ODYSSEUS	There is no harm in glory. But I shall pray too that the war is soon over.
A management of the second	

Agamemnon rises to go.

**AGAMEMNON** Well good night to you both. We rise at dawn.

Dream-like the Trojan court and the Heroes and soldiers of Camp Aulis now join together to sing:

### SONG 4: THE FOOLISH AND THE BRAVE

As the song finishes, the stage empties, each side shuffling sadly off to sleep before the nightmare of war begins...

### END ACT 1

## ACT 2

### Scene 1: The Fields of Troy

Reprise of Act 1 Scene 1: Darkness, but now the sound of marching drums and feet...

**OLD SOLDIER** Two days and two nights the Greek army sailed towards the City of Troy. We knew our cause was right. We believed the war would be over quickly. We thought we'd surprise the Trojans. We hit the beach at dawn – and the enemy was waiting...

### SONG 5: DESTRUCTION

Lights up as from every part of the space, the whole cast as Greeks, Trojans, Heroes, converge on the centre. Brandishing spears and swords, jeering, singing, fierce, warlike they wheel around each other, every soldier sizing up his/her opponent. Finally, climactically, as the song reaches its last line the two sides lock horns in slowmo, blades thrust in attack, bodies twisted in combat as they FREEZE on the line –

### SONG: ALL THE TROOPS IN THE HOUSE GO - FREEZE!

But now they freeze only for a split second – then issue war-cries and hurl themselves upon each other. The stage is filled with battling soldiers. From the high walls of Troy, Helen, Hecuba, Cassandra, Priam and the Trojan court look down upon the fury.

The battle rages on, splitting into cameos, night and day, ebbing and flowing...

**OLD SOLDIER** The battle raged for a day and a night. Then a week... and a month...until the Trojans retreated to Troy, pulled up the drawbridge and left us powerless outside the great walls. All we could do was lay siege to the city.

Further tableaux illustrate:

OLD SOLDIER (Continued)	We did what any sensible army does. We made ourselve at home and dug in for the long haul.
Carpenters, builders,	criss-cross with timber and tools, hammering, measuring
OLD SOLDIER (Continued)	Built barracks. Defences. Weapons. Docks. Walls. A year went by. Then two.
A wave of Trojans at	tacks, withdraws.
OLD SOLDIER (Continued)	The Trojans came out every now and then and we fought them. Then they went back. Another year or two went by. We went off and attacked the nearest city – and
	destroyed it.
A blur of groups fight prisoners, soldiers ma	ting, attacking, throwing spears, pushing a siege engine, lines og

The battle flows back and forth silently in the background...

winning.

**OLD SOLDIER**In the end, the fighting lasted for ten years. Ten years!(Continued)It's not surprising that people began to get a bit fed up with the whole thing.

Stretchers appear with sick soldiers.

OLD SOLDIER	First the plague broke out.	ACHILLES	You can't do that!
(Continued)	1 . 0.	AGAMEMNON	I just did.
Then scuffles break out between the Greek soldiers.		ACHILLES	That's not fair!
OLD SOLDIER	And then the arguments started. The worst one was	AGAMEMNON	Nothing's fair in love or war.
(Continued)	between Agamemnon and Achilles.	ACHILLES	Well, you can fight your war on your own. Because
Enter Achilles, his servant Brisius and Agamemnon.		ACHILLES	I'm off.
	A1 A 1 11	AGAMEMNON	Hmph. See if I care. We're doing fine without you.
AGAMEMNON	Ah, Achilles.	Achilles exits, sulking	. Agamemnon exits gleefully with his stolen servant.
ACHILLES	Yes?		0 0 9 9
AGAMEMNON	I've got a favour to ask you.	OLD SOLDIER	Isn't it funny how little arguments can have big effects?
ACHILLES	Oh yes?		No sooner had we lost one of our Heroes back to his tent, than the whole war took a different turn.
AGAMEMNON	Your servant here – Brisius.		You'll have to pay attention now because it gets a bit complicated
ACHILLES	She's very good. I stole her from a prince who lives up the coast.	Enter Hector.	compleated
AGAMEMNON	Really? Well we could do with her help at our place.	OLD SOLDIER	First Hector comes out.
ACHILLES	What?	(Continued)	
AGAMEMNON	So hand her over, would you?	HECTOR	<i>(PROCLAIMING)</i> We the people of Troy challenge the Greek army. One soldier from each side in mortal
ACHILLES	What?!		combat. Let us end this war for good. The winner
AGAMEMNON	I had to get rid of my best servant to please the gods so they'd stop this plague.	takes all! Enter on one side the key Greeks – on the other the key Trojans.	
ACHILLES	But surely you have plenty of servants.	AGAMEMNON	We accept your challenge! Who fights for Troy?!
AGAMEMNON	They're good. But not as good as Brisius.	Enter Paris.	we accept your chanenge: who lights for moy:
ACHILLES	Well, you can't have her.	Enter Furts.	
AGAMEMNON	Oh yes I can! I'm in charge round here and what I say goes. Guards!	OLD SOLDIER HELEN	Then Paris swaggers onto the field of battle <i>(CALLING)</i> Go Paris!
Two guards step forwa	ard and take Brisius.	PARIS	Who will fight me? Man to man?

### The Greek soldiers mutter and argue.

- **GREEK SOLDIERS** Where's our heroes? Who's the best fighter? Who wants to do it? Where's Achilles? What about Odysseus? Agamemnon must choose!
- **OLD SOLDIER** Then who should step forward – but King Menelaus himself!

King Menelaus enters.

KING MENELAUS I, Menelaus, shall fight you, Paris - you snivelling traitor!

The Trojans laugh. But Helen is dismayed.

- **HELEN** (CALLING) No! Please, Menelaus! Paris will kill you!
- Should have thought of that before you ran off **KING MENELAUS** with him...
- **HELEN** I didn't mean to cause trouble. I was bewitched by the gods!
- **GREEK SOLDIERS** Oh yes! Likely story! Pull the other one!

PARIS Come on Menelaus – let battle decide!

As the crowds on either side roar them on, the duel commences – spear to spear, sword on sword.

Old Soldier steps forward as the action slow-mo's behind. Characters step up to play out the narration in slow-mo. As the body count rises they lie down in order on the stage...

**OLD SOLDIER** Paris is strong – but Menelaus is wily. The fight goes this way and that. One minute it seems Paris must win. The next it's surely Menelaus who will survive. Helen doesn't know who to support. Finally Paris makes a mistake his sword goes flying. Menelaus closes for the kill - his

### sword flies down... And Paris just disappears! Into thin air!

KING MENELAUS	What happened?!! Where is he?!!
AGAMEMNON	He disappeared!
<b>GREEK SOLDIERS</b>	That's not fair! That's cheating!
TROJAN SOLDIERS	Oh no it isn't!
PRIAM	The gods have decided. This is their doing. Victory is ours.
KING MENELAUS	No – victory is ours!
OLD SOLDIER	The crowd goes crazy. The Greeks are sure they've won. The Trojans think they have. Course, there's no proper rules for a fight like this. Menelaus raises his arms high – and then a sneaky Trojan fires an arrow straight at him. The king goes down, wounded. His guards carry him from the field. Behind him the two armies go mad. The truce is well and truly over.
The armies clash again.	

the armies clash again.

**OLD SOLDIER** (Continued)

Now Agamemnon and Odysseus hurl themselves into battle. Ajax - another Greek hero we had in reserve joins them. Paris pops up from nowhere - turns out the gods were responsible for the disappearing trick - and Hector leaps in to protect him from the Greeks. Pretty much everybody on our side gets wounded and we all retreat. It looks like we're beaten – but out of nowhere Achilles bursts onto the field. His mate Petroclus has been killed - so now it's personal. The Trojans retreat into the city – but Hector stays outside and goes head to head with Achilles. It's an awesome fight. But eventually Hector stumbles, makes a mistake – and pays the price. Achilles is the victor.

Hector falls to the ground. The Greek army carries Achilles around on their shoulders -a true hero. He poses charmingly as if for photos in front of his cheering fans, then grabs a mike and launches into:

### SONG 3: THE WONDER OF WAR REPRISE

As he sings he moves amongst the crowd, acknowledging their praise like a rock icon...

MUSIC DOWN

Old Soldier steps forward, as Achilles continues to sing and pose.

OLD SOLDIER	To us, Achilles was a star at the top of his game. But the
(Continued)	joy doesn't last for longParis fires an arrow which hits
	our Hero on the heel

Achilles stops mid-song. MUSIC ENDS abruptly.

ACHILLES	Paris, you fool. Don't you realise I'm protected by the
	waters of the sacred River Styx? You can't kill me.

He struts on:

ACHILLESI'm the champion of the Greeks, I'm the one they'll(Continued)never beat...

*He falters – stumbles – then falls down dead.* 

Oh!

ACHILLES (Continued)

**OLD SOLDIER** Turns out when Achilles got dipped in the river by his mum she didn't let go of his heel, so the special water didn't do the full job. His heel was his weak spot. Paris celebrates – but again, not for long – an arrow hits him and he goes down too.

By now the stage must be lined with the bodies of Heroes and soldiers alike. Young Soldier walks among them...

### OLD SOLDIER (Continued)

By now we're running out of top guys – and so are the Trojans. Somebody calls another truce and the battle ends. Everyone looks around – then we see what we have done. And what a terrible sight it is. One that none of us will ever forget. Thousands of soldiers slain. Heroes gone for ever. It's an awful, awful thing, I can tell you. All we can do – is sink to our knees and weep...

The families of the soldiers move among the battlefield tending to the dead and the wounded. As they do they sing...

### SONG 6: LAMENT

## Scene 2: The Fields of Troy

Young Soldier holds a placard – ONE YEAR LATER. A set of deck-chairs by the shoreline. Agamemnon, King Menelaus, Odysseus and Palamedes all sit watching assorted kids playing on the beach. Old Soldier steps forward.

OLD SOLDIER	There's nothing like a Greek holiday. And this was nothing like a Greek holiday. King Menelaus here was getting fed up. And the heroes – Agamemnon and Odysseus – they weren't happy. Palamedes too.
AGAMEMNON	This war's gone on too long.
ODYSSEUS	Look at these kids. Some of them were born here!
KING MENELAUS	Some of them will probably die here.
ODYSSEUS	Well, that's a bit gloomy!
KING MENELAUS	I can't see it ending. We'll never get into Troy. The walls are too high.
AGAMEMNON	The gates are too strong.
ODYSSEUS	There must be a way
PALAMEDES	Oh, there is. Sneak in when they're all asleep and open the gates.
KING MENELAUS	Ha! Easy.
AGAMEMNON	If only.
ODYSSEUS	If only
Odysseus looks at a group of kids playing with some toy animals.	

**ODYSSEUS** You! Boy! Come here. (Continued)

One of the boys runs over to him, clutching a little wooden horse.

#### **ODYSSEUS** Let me see... (Continued)

The boy hands it over.

ODYSSEUS (Continued)	What's this?
BOY	It's a horse sir. A wooden horse.
ODYSSEUS	Where did you get it?
BOY	The carpenter sir. He made it. He makes all the toys.
ODYSSEUS	Does he Do you mind if I borrow this?
BOY	'Spose not.
ODYSSEUS	Don't worry, you'll get it back.
Odysseus takes the horse and gets up.	

PALAMEDES You going to play horses Odysseus? He turns before he goes...

**ODYSSEUS** Hmm...I do believe I am...

## Scene 3: The Trojan Palace

The war has had its effect. Everyone huddled, in ragged cloaks, tired, listless. King Priam, Hecuba together. Helen now sits alone at a window watching. Cassandra mutters in a corner. Old Soldier enters, addresses the audience:

OLD SOLDIER	Strictly speaking of course, we didn't know what was
	going on up in the palace. But you lot can see

He slips off stage.

QUEEN HECUBA	How long will this go on?
PRIAM	Until the Greeks pack up and go home, my dear.
CASSANDRA	And that will never happen. It is foretold!
HELEN	What will happen to us Cassandra?
CASSANDRA	Troy will fall. But you will live.
PRIAM	Nonsense. The Greek army will never break down these walls.
QUEEN HECUBA	And our soldiers are just as brave as dear Hector and Paris
She snuffles	
PRIAM	There, there
CASSANDRA	You are right – for once. The Greek army will never break down these walls.
QUEEN HECUBA	Are you sure?
CASSANDRA	Oh yes. I know it.
PRIAM	Keep watch every day at the window, Helen. One day they will be gone. And we shall be free.

## Scene 4: The Fields of Troy

Young Soldier holds a placard - 6 WEEKS IATER. The Greek army is lined up to attention. Enter Agamemnon, King Menelaus and Odysseus. Agamemnon addresses them all.

AGAMEMNON	Soldiers of Greece! You have fought valiantly to save the honour of the great King Menelaus.
They cheer.	

AGAMEMNON (Continued)	In a few days time, we shall be packing away everything here and returning to Greece.	
GREEK SOLDIERS	WHAT?!! Surrendering?! We want to go home – but not without winning! We can beat the Trojans!	
KING MENELAUS	Soldiers! I'm glad to hear that. We will go home, but we will beat the Trojans first.	
Now the Greek soldiers cheer.		
KING MENELAUS (Continued)	Odysseus has been working on a plan. A very clever plan	
The soldiers mutter, uncertain		
KING MENELAUS	And he's going to explain it to you.	
Odysseus steps forward and holds up the toy horse.		
ODYSSEUS	Some time ago, a small boy gave me this horse. It is the key which is going to unlock the City of Troy.	
More muttering from the soldiers.		

**ODYSSEUS** (Continued) Let me explain. The walls of Troy are too high for us to scale. The gates are too strong for us to beat down. Only if we can open the gates from the inside can we break the defences. So here's what we are going to do. Tonight we start loading the boats to go home. All week we will break down our buildings here and pack everything away.

**GREEK SOLDIERS** No! We won't surrender!!

**ODYSSEUS** No, you're right. We won't surrender. It's a trick – to fool the Trojans. We are going to pretend to leave. We are going to climb in the boats and go. And we are going to leave behind...this!

*He calls off stage:* 

ODYSSEUS Bring out the secret weapon!!! (Continued)

And now, pulled by ropes, comes the Trojan Horse. (Cardboard or wood, it only needs to be big enough for 2-3 people.) The Greek soldiers are baffled.

**GREEK SOLDIERS** That's not a secret weapon! It's a horse! How're we going to beat the Trojans with that?!

**ODYSSEUS**Have faith soldiers of Greece! This is the plan. Tonight,<br/>the Greek army heads for home. All of us. We abandon<br/>the camp, get in the boats and sail away. We leave<br/>nothing – except the horse. Tomorrow morning, the<br/>Trojans will come down to the shore, see we've gone<br/>and they'll say – how about that, we won! War's over!<br/>Then they'll look at the horse, think it's a leaving present<br/>from yours truly and they'll wheel it back into Troy and<br/>slam the gates shut after it. Then like any normal army<br/>they'll start to celebrate. And celebrate.<br/>Probably all day long. And all night too.

**GREEK SOLDIERS** I don't get it. But how does it work?! It doesn't make sense!

### **ODYSSEUS** Oh. I forgot to tell you...

He taps on the side of the horse, and a trapdoor pops open. Two soldiers drop out, armed to the teeth.

ODYSSEUS	While the Trojans are partying, we'll pop out of the
(Continued)	horse, slip over to the gates, open them up – and let in
	you lot who've crept up to the city walls in the night.
	Easy. So what do you think?

For a second, the Greek soldiers are open-mouthed. Then they realise it's going to work and they go crazy!

**GREEK SOLDIERS** Brilliant!! Amazing!! Hooray for Odysseus!!! Genius!! Awesome!!!

They mob him – and from somewhere he gets a mike and sings...

### SONG 7: WOODEN HORSE

The Greek Soldiers supply the chorus and the dance moves. They all exit, singing and celebrating... Old Soldier steps forward. Odysseus and Young Soldier act out the narration in silence:

OLD SOLDIER

Just a few nights later, we put the plan into operation. We all drew straws to see who would go inside the horse. Muggins here was one of the winners. So me and Odysseus (and X others) climbed up into the horse and they shut the trapdoor tight. Then the whole army hopped into the boats and away they rowed – all ready to come back a day later and take the city. Everything depended on the Trojans – would they fall for the trick? If they didn't...we were done for...

## Scene 5: The Fields of Troy

Bright sunlight. The Horse stands alone on the empty stage. Old Soldier enters, walks around it, addresses the audience:

OLD SOLDIER Believe me – it was one of the scariest things I ever did in my life. That morning, from where I was sitting inside the horse, I could see everything, hear everything. I could even smell the sweat on that first Trojan soldier that turned up to find out what was going on...

A lone Trojan soldier now creeps up to the horse...inspects it...sniffs it...prods it with his sword...shrugs. Then another joins him, still suspicious. Then more soldiers. The horse is no threat – they lean against it, prop their spears on it. They look into the distance – no sign of the Greeks or their fleet. Curious... (If Young Soldier and Odysseus are visible to the audience they will react, suppressing giggles, shushing each other, holding their breath etc.)

Finally King Priam arrives impatiently with his guards.

PRIAM	Yes, yes. What's all the alarm about?
TROJAN SOLDIER 1	The Greeks sir.
TROJAN SOLDIER 2	They've gone!
PRIAM	Gone? What do you mean – gone?
TROJAN SOLDIER 1	Scarpered.
TROJAN SOLDIER 2	Retreated.
TROJAN SOLDIER 1	Left.
TROJAN SOLDIER 2	Disappeared.
PRIAM	But that's impossible. That means –
TROJAN SOLDIER 1	I think it means we've won, sir!
Priam is too taken aback to	o celebrate.

PRIAM

Won? Won? You're right. I do believe you're right. After all these years. We've won. The siege is over.

**TROJAN SOLDIER 1** Yes, sir. And the Greeks have left us some kind of gift.

TROJAN SOLDIER 2 A horse. A wooden horse.

Priam inspects the wooden horse. He ponders:

te – to Athena. st take it to the	
he main square. g to do?	
eatest party that	
The soldiers go crazy, cheering and hollering. Some of them throw ropes around the horse and start to tow it away. Exit all in victorious mood	
hey'd fallen for one bit. The and all we had to	
g to do? eatest party that <i>ropes around the</i> hey'd fallen for one bit. The	

## Scene 6: The City of Troy

Night. The horse stands centre stage. All around it the people of Troy are partying. Music, dancing, laughter, cheering, led by Priam and Queen Hecuba. To one side, the Gates of Troy. Helen is with the crowd, but not partying. Cassandra joins her. As the scene progresses, the crowd disappears to leave them alone on stage, apart from sleeping guards and soldiers.

CASSANDRA	Helen. You do not party?
HELEN	I cannot. I can only think of all the brave soldiers who have died in this war.
CASSANDRA	You must not feel guilty. You followed your heart.
HELEN	The gods bewitched me. But at least the war is over now.
CASSANDRA	Look. It is nearly dawn.
HELEN	A new day. A day without bloodshed.
CASSANDRA	What will you do?
HELEN	I don't know. Perhaps I will go back to Greece If Menelaus will have me.
CASSANDRA	We will not meet again, Helen.
HELEN	But why not?
CASSANDRA	Farewell Helen. You will live long and be happy.
HELEN	Cassandra?
But Cassandra has gone	2

Helen waits, looks at the horse – and exits.

Silence.

**YOUNG SOLDIER** Sir. It's nearly dawn.

ODYSSEUS(YAWNING) What? Hmm? Oh right.YOUNG SOLDIERIs it time to start the war again, sir?ODYSSEUSTime to finish the war, soldier.On the other side of the Gates of Troy, the Greek army tiptoes into position...

YOUNG SOLDIER Shall I open the door?

**ODYSSEUS** Why not?

The trapdoor opens and Young Soldier and Odysseus drop out. Cautious, silent, they creep past all the sleeping partygoers toward the Gates. On the other side, the Greek army is ready for battle. Young Soldier and Odysseus carefully pull open the gates – and with a terrifying, screaming roar the Greeks flood across the stage on their merciless attack. Once they have passed through into the depths of the city, Old Soldier steps forward:

Now I'll be honest with you. This last bit of my story is **OLD SOLDIER** not one I'm proud of. It's not exactly...heroic. I'm not making excuses - well I am, aren't I - but to be honest there's only a handful of Trojans walk out of this city alive. You have to remember we've been fighting this war for more than ten years and there's a lot of our guys have bought it and there's been a lot of dirty dealing and treachery on both sides. Anyhow, let's not dwell on the dark side. Suffice to say we burn the city of Troy and we leave the place in ruins - job done - and we get back in our boats and we head home. And as soon as Troy slips over the horizon and a nice breeze picks up and we have ourselves a drink or two then things don't seem half as bad as we thought. I've got one last memory to share with you. I'm sitting in the warm sun on that crowded boat, with my back against the side and the water all

> foamy and blue and I'm looking up at the deck where the top guys stand. And I'm thinking about all the people who survived – and the ones who didn't.

As he lists the people – they arrive on stage, filling the space for the finale, in a mirror of their first introduction at the beginning of the play...

OLD SOLDIER<br/>(Continued)The soldiers, my old pals. The Trojans – a decent enemy.<br/>Agamemnon. Achilles. Ajax. Hector. Paris. King Priam.<br/>Queen Hecuba. King Menelaus. Cassandra. Helen<br/>herself. Odysseus. And I'm thinking – what was that<br/>all about then? Why did we spend ten years fighting?<br/>And to this day, I don't know. All I know is – this tale of<br/>Heroes will outlast me. It'll live for ever...

The whole cast now sings the final song, arms waving like a concert crowd.

### SONG 8: FINALE

THE END



# BBC

Music Workshop