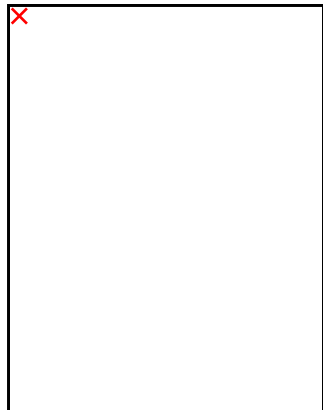


Theater of War schedules 2 performances Nov 23

Theater of War: two presentations in Bliss Hall on Monday, Nov 23 at 1 - 3 pm and 6 - 8 pm



Special CDC hourly childcare available for both presentations, Reservations required

TV and movie star Charles Dutton stars in the Theater of War tonight at 6 p.m.

"Mental health issues are as old as humanity. We don't need to find shame. We don't need to find blame It's a normal consequence of war." -- Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Hopkins, USUHS medical st

"The Theater of War team performed for us tonight – phenomenal ... [for] leaders at all levels and spouses of the recently returned 2BCT leaders. It reached the whole audience on some level without fail." -- COL Kevin Brown, Ft Riley GC

For the past year, Theater of War has presented readings of Sophocles' Ajax and Philoctetes to military communities across America. These ancient plays timelessly and universally depict the psychological and physical wounds inflicted upon warriors by war. By presenting these plays to military audiences, our hope is to demystify and de-stigmatize psychological injury and to facilitate open dialogue about the challenges faced by Service members, Veterans, and their families today, said Theater of War director Brian Dorries.

Both the [USA Today](#) and [The New York Times](#) have covered the phenomenon called, Theater of War.

The readings will be followed by a panel discussion with Carlisle Barracks Chap. Jim Carter and, from Fort Riley: Maj Jeffrey Hall, veteran of 2 OIF tours, and his wife, Sheri Hall.

"... that's exactly how I feel. that's exactly how I acted, and it dawned on me that this has been something, an issue, that's been going on for 2500 years and the Greeks -- this is the way they dealt with it through these plays. And they would bring in their regiments to watch" -- Maj. Jeffrey Hall, 1st Infantry Division

It has been suggested that ancient Greek drama was a form of storytelling, communal therapy, and ritual reintegration for combat Veterans by combat Veterans. The audiences for whom these plays were performed were undoubtedly comprised of citizen-soldiers. Also, the performers themselves were most likely Veterans or cadets. Seen through this lens, ancient Greek drama appears to have been an elaborate ritual aimed at helping combat Veterans return to civilian life after deployments, during a century that saw 80 years of war.

"We're calling it PTSD now ... but it's timeless ... Ajax's ego drove him to his 'divine madness.' ... I know a hell of a lot of Ajaxes out there." -- Brig. Gen. Kevin Mangum to commanders and spouses at Fort Drum presentation

Ajax tells the story of a fierce Warrior who slips into a depression near the end of The Trojan War, attempts to murder his commanding officers, fails, and takes his own life. It is also the story of how his wife and troops attempt to intervene before it's too late. Philoctetes is a psychologically complex tragedy about a famous Greek Warrior who is marooned on a deserted island by his Army after contracting a horrifying and debilitating illness. Plays like Sophocles' Ajax and Philoctetes read like classic descriptions of wounded Warriors, working under the weight of psychological and physical injuries to maintain their dignity, identity, and honor. Thus, it seems natural that military audiences today might have something to teach us about the messages behind these ancient stories, and that these ancient stories have something important and relevant to say to military audiences.

"We can no longer equate silence with strength. We need to deal with the mental scars of war just as we do the physical. 'Theater of War' offers a way for those who have served in combat to see their own experiences played out in dramatic works, and come to terms with feelings they have been unable to address." -- Brig Gen. Loree Sutton, Director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury

Rated PG-13

Special hourly care will be available at Moore CDC during both Theater of War presentations. RESERVATIONS are required so as to plan for adequate childcare support. Call 245-3701. Cost is \$3.50 per hour – payable by check to CDC.

-
-

For afternoon show, hourly care open by reservation only: 12:45 to 4 pm
For evening show, care available by reservation only from 5:45 pm to 9 pm

Theater of War has played at Fort Drum and Fort Riley and for DoD and VA audiences. "The key to the military's difficulty overcoming the stigma of mental illness may lie in 2,000-year-old plays and a modern interpretation," said Col. Charles Engel, a senior Medical Corps scientist at the Center for the study of Traumatic Stress at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda.

Sophocles was both general and playwright, according to director Brian Dorries who first presented a reading for several hundred servicemembers at a Navy combat stress conference. "We were scheduled for 90 minutes with 30 minutes of follow-up discussion. Fifty officers, chaplains, enlisted personnel and generals' wives lined up to speak ... quoting from the plays and relating them to their lives," he said.

THE CAST

Bill Camp plays Odysseus, the director of Greek intelligence, in 'Ajax.' Broadway credits include Saint Joan, The Seagull, and Jackie: An American Life. His television and film credits include The Dying Gaul, Rounders, In and Out, Reversal of Fortune, Law and Order, Joan of Arcadia, and Great Gatsby.

Adam Driver plays Neoptolemus, an untested officer and the son of Achilles, in 'Philoctetes.' Driver is a former Marine lance corporal, First Battalion, First Marine Regiment, Weapons Company, 81st Platoon. He is also an acting student at Juilliard. Recently, he was seen off-Broadway in The Retributionists at Playwrights Horizons and in Slipping at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater.

Elizabeth Marvel plays both Athena, goddess of war, and Tecmessa, the battle-worn wife of Ajax. Broadway credits; Top Girls, Seascape, An American Daughter, Taking Sides, Saint Joan, and the Seagull. Television/Film: Burn After Reading, The Dying Gaul, A Will of Their Own, The District, and 30 Rock.

Director Bryan Doerries is a New York based writer, translator, director, and educator. He is the founder of Theater of War, a project that presents readings of ancient Greek plays to Service members, Veterans, caregivers and families as a catalyst for town hall discussions about the challenges faced by combat Veterans today. Over the past year, Bryan has directed film and stage actors such as Paul Giamatti, David Strathairn, Lili Taylor, Michael Ealy, and Jesse Eisenberg in readings of his translations of Sophocles' *Ajax* and *Philoctetes* for the U.S. Marine Corps, West Point cadets, homeless Veterans, the Department of Defense, and many other military communities. In addition to his work in the theater, Bryan serves as program adviser for the nonprofit Alliance for Young Artists & Writers and lectures on his work at colleges and universities.