
Argonautika

Dramaturgy Overview

Mary Zimmerman

- Based *Argonautika* off of Apollonius of Rhodes's epic poem
- Known for adapting and directing classical works, such as *Metamorphoses* (2002 Tony Award for Best Direction of a Play), *The Odyssey*, *The Arabian Nights*, *Treasure Island*, mostly with Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago
- Currently works as a professor of Performance Studies at Northwestern University





(some original
production
photos of
Argonautika)



Notice entrance area for
gods, similar to the
"heavens" at Shakespeare's
Globe

The Argo

- Most likely a Trireme ("three-rower", named for number of oar rows)
- Primary Mediterranean warship from 7th-4th century BCE (used in Persian and Peloponnesian Wars and to build the Athenian Empire)
- Replaced by later quadriremes and quinqueremes



Magic in Greece

- Subtypes include: spells and prayers (epoidai), curse tablets (katadesmoi), drugs and poisons (pharmaka), amulets (periapta), love potions (philtera)

- In Greek society, there was little distinction between magic, superstition, religion, science (mainly math and chemistry), and astrology
 - Magic considered “white” or “black” - black magic a crime punishable by death
 - Governed by Hecate (more associated with demigods) and Circe
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Sources

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"Trireme." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 1 Oct. 2020, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trireme.

"MARY ZIMMERMAN - ENSEMBLE MEMBER." *Lookingglass Theatre Company*, 2017, lookingglasstheatre.org/people/mary-zimmerman/.

<https://lookingglasstheatre.org/event/argonautika/>

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