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*Before this play begins I would like to apologize
to both Dr. Seuss and Homer.*

Cast of Characters

NARRATOR 1

NARRATOR 2

PENELOPE

SUITOR 1

SUITOR 2

SUITOR 3

TELLY

ATHENA

ODYSSEUS

AJAX

CREW MEMBER 1

CREW MEMBER 2

POSIEDON

CYCLOPS

CREW MEMBER 3

CREW MEMBER 4

CREW MEMBER 5

AEOLUS

WIND 1

WIND 2

CIRCE

CREW MEMBER 6

CREW MEMBER 7

SIRENS

SCYLLA

CHARYBDIS

CREW MEMBER 8

CREW MEMBER 9

CREW MEMBER 10

CREW MEMBER 11

CREW MEMBER 12

REGINALD

Character Notes

The SeussOdyssey is meant to be performed with two narrators and several additional actors playing multiple roles. Please be very creative with this play. There should be no stoppage of action in between scenes, costume changes ought to appear mostly in full view of the audience, and gender-switching is a must.

If you wish, you may have different actors play different roles in this play, yielding a much, much larger cast.

A Note on Pronunciation

I have included a guide in the back of this play for the pronunciation of all of the Greek names (and there are a lot). All of the names have to be pronounced correctly in order to maintain the rhythm and meter of the line. That's a fancy way of saying if you don't say the name right, the line won't sound right. I'm not a Greek expert, and I might even be wrong with a few of these (it's happened before), but if I'm wrong, then I've set up the line to be pronounced with the wrong pronunciation, and everyone needs to pronounce it wrong.

By the way, it's don ZO-lie-dis. Rhymes with tonsillitis.

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THE SEUSS ODYSSEY

(ONE-ACT VERSION)

by Don Zolidis

(The set. The set can truly be anything. Brightly-colored, with islands here and there, perhaps a space for Odysseus' house. Everything should double as something else, and it ought to look like it came from an illustrated Dr. Seuss book. Swirly lines, bright colors. Be imaginative. The two NARRATORS enter. One holds an intimidating, thickly bound book, "The Odyssey.")

NARRATOR 1. Welcome my friends to the show of all shows

NARRATOR 2. A story that mostly everyone knows—

NARRATOR 1. It's forced on us all at a bright early age

NARRATOR 2. Children condemned to read page after page

NARRATOR 1. I'm speaking of course of the great Od-is-see

NARRATOR 2. The tale of Odysseus, master of sea—

NARRATOR 1. His travels, his struggles,
his fantastical snuggles

NARRATOR 2. With nymphs and goddesses and non-magical
muggles

NARRATOR 1. Stop it you dunce that's not the right story
This one is seventy-six times more gory

NARRATOR 2. Oh you're right, my bad—
It comes from all that bad schooling I've had

NARRATOR 1. You're not alone my friend and that's why we're
here

To make this Odyssey story more clear
Because if you're like me you had a terrible time
Sludging through this in grade eight or grade nine

NARRATOR 2. I didn't read the whole thing, I have to confess
We had a teacher who was wasn't the best

We read two books I think, the ones in the middle
 The rest of the time our thumbs we did twiddle
 There was a movie in there with Armand Assante
 I fell asleep, I drooled, I dreamed of a latte

NARRATOR 1. Well drooling is history, by goose and by Zeus
 Cause we're telling this epic in the style of Seuss

NARRATOR 2. And even better is the cheer in my heart of the
 hearts
 We're going to leave out the dull boring parts

NARRATOR 1. So without further to do here's the Seuss-Od-I-see

NARRATOR 1. And then when we're done you can go back to T.V.

NARRATOR 1. So the story begins in a most unruly place

NARRATOR 2. Odysseus' estate in the mountains of Thrace

NARRATOR 1. Hey that's a lie it takes place in Ithaca

NARRATOR 2. (*Breaking the rhythm.*) Why don't you try and find a
 rhyme for Ithaca you big jerk.

NARRATOR 1. Anyway. There at his home lived his marvelous
 wife

Whom Odysseus loved with all of his life.

(*PENELOPE enters.*)

NARRATOR 2. Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay

PENELOPE. I am the queen of all I survey.

NARRATOR 1. But things were not good, they were awfully poor
 Cause her husband had not come home from the war

NARRATOR 2. And she had a son, we'll call him young Telly

(*TELLY enters, looking like a nerd.*)

Without a Dad he'd grown up all skinny and smelly

(*TELLY sniffs his armpits.*)

NARRATOR 1. And her husband's long absence was causing her fears

He'd been gone, after all, for twenty long years.

NARRATOR 2. And up to the house came a number of guys
Who weren't very smart and they weren't very wise

(The SUITORS enter.)

SUITOR 1. Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay
Come out, come out, come wed me today

PENELOPE. I'm not coming out you ugly old toad
I'm still married you jerk, so hit the road

SUITOR 2. Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay
Marry me instead and with you'll I'll stay

PENELOPE. Are you deaf, are you dumb, perhaps you don't hear
I'm still married to my man, he's awfully dear

SUITOR 3. Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay
I love you so much I can't really say

PENELOPE. When my husband comes home he'll smash in your head

Get out of here fast if you don't you'll be dead

SUITOR 1. Oh come on you're kidding, your husband's long gone

SUITOR 2. If he isn't dead then he's surely moved on

TELLY. Shut up you guys, you can't win her heart
My name is Telly, I know mixed martial arts

(TELLY attacks. They laugh, surround him, and give him a wedgie.)

SUITOR 1. What's this, a young pup defending the place?

SUITOR 2. Get out of here boy or we'll mess up your face

SUITOR 3. On second thought, I have an idea so fine
Go down to the cellar and bring us some wine
We're staying my lady until you make a choice
To make a husband of one of us here with your voice

NARRATOR 2. So they drank and they drank and they partied till dawn

They made a mess of the house with their partying on.

And the word went out far and farther than that.

That Odysseus' party was where it was at.

(Music plays. The SUITORS party. During the following speech, SUITORS can appear, or they can remain off-stage. A director might choose to give some of the following lines to other actors.)

SUITOR 1. We welcome to the place a whole awesome host

A group of guys that you'll love the most

There's Billy the Bully of Billigan Bay

And Mortimer Andrew O'Gilligan Shea

There's Chippy the Snip, a wonderful dude

If you love burping and slurping and anything crude

(A horrific belch.)

And Stubby and Grubby the stupendous twin clowns

With their big bigger biggest incredulous frowns

And Oogrek that mountainous son of a gun

He's eaten two cows and weighs nearly a ton

As you can see the greatest men in the land

Have all gathered here to ask for your hand

So I ask you again and we're all waiting to hear

Which of these men will become your sweet dear?

ALL SUITORS. Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay

Pick one of us here to marry today!

PENELOPE. All right, all right, I can see that you've won

TELLY. *(Underneath:)* Mom, no!

PENELOPE. But I'm weaving a shroud and I'll choose when I'm done

SUITOR 2. That's fine with us, we'll sit and we'll wait

SUITOR 3. And while we are waiting we'll throw a party so great

NARRATOR 2. So the men settled down, they drank and they
drank

They drank until the hall quite literally stank

SUITOR 2. Oh man I have to go bad and I can't find the door

SUITOR 3. Don't worry my friend just use that section of floor

(SUITOR 2 stumbles off.)

NARRATOR 2. And the prince of the place, young Telly was sad
He sat down and cried and thought of his dad

(TELLY sits and cries. The SUITORS laugh.)

NARRATOR 2. But then who should appear in that mungiferous
night?

The goddess Athena in her magnificent might

(ATHENA enters.)

TELLY. Oh my gosh it's you I knew it was true
I had a fairy godmother and her eyes are so blue

(He swoons.)

ATHENA. Listen you twit they're not blue they are grey

Be quiet and nod and hear what I say

I am no fairy, A goddess instead

Years ago I sprang from my father's head

TELLY. That's weird —

ATHENA. I said to be silent, just sit there and nod

Because I have no patience even though I'm a god

I'm a friend to your father, we go all the way back

And he'll be here soon to lead the attack

For the moment don't die and just keep sitting tight

Odysseus will return to set this all right

NARRATOR 1. And she turned into a hawk without waiting for
him

And flew off into the night where the stars were all dim

(Lights change. The two NARRATORS approach.)

NARRATOR 2. So the question remains from on low and on high

NARRATOR 1. Just whatever happened to that Odysseus guy?

NARRATOR 2. Let's take it back ten years to the end of the war
The war with the Trojans if you're keeping score

(ODYSSEUS and his crew enter with a boat. Odysseus' crew can consist of as few as three people. If there are a larger number in the cast, they may be present as well.)

ODYSSEUS. All right men gather up and let's get in the ship
And finally go home after this triumphalist trip

NARRATOR 1. So they got all their stuff and piled into the boat
And shoved off for home without leaving a note

(Everyone gets in the boat.)

Now one of his crew, his name was Ajax
He was strong as an ox but had a brain full of tacks

AJAX. This is so great we'll be home before lunch
I've got sweet sailing skills and I have a hunch
There's nothing in quarellous land or in quarellous sea
There is nothing round here quite as awesome as me

NARRATOR 2. For those of you sitting in school taking a rest
That is called hubris, it'll be on the test

NARRATOR 1. It means that you're proud, prouder than most
And if you're going to have hubris, you're going to be toast
So up from the water came a mighty loud roar
And there appeared in the ocean quite far from the shore
A guy, a little quizzical guy with a trident in hand
And he spoke with a voice both majestic and grand

(POSEIDON enters with a trident.)

POSEIDON. I am Poseidon, I speak for the seas
And believe me you've never seen seas such as these

AJAX. Hey buddy get out of the water cause we're sailing through
We just won a war and we're tougher than you

POSEIDON. I am Poseidon, I speak for the seas
And your disrespect will land you on your knees

AJAX. I don't care what you say you weird little man
I'm the baddest big slasher on sea or on land

ODYSSEUS. Hey Ajax, maybe you ought to just shut it
Cause I don't think –

POSEIDON. SILENCE!

ODYSSEUS. Oh now you've done it.

POSEIDON. I was about to let you and your friends on your way
But not now, now you're going to pay today

CREW MEMBER 1. Can I make a quick point? It was Ajax that
spoke

CREW MEMBER 2. How bout punish him and let the rest of us go?

POSEIDON. Nope, for the sins of the one I'll punish you all
He wrecked it for everyone and now all will fall
Because once one person's done wrong and broken the rule
I'll make everyone suffer just like middle school.
Once again, I will tell you my name
I am Poseidon, and I run this game
I'm god of the sea, the ocean, and quakes
I'll give you the willies and I'll give you the shakes
Oh the places you'll go and the places I'll send you
To islands with monsters where you're on the menu
And sometimes it may look like you're going to win
You'll find beautiful ladies with beautiful grins
They'll smile and dance and run up to greet you –

CREW MEMBER 1. That's doesn't sound bad –

POSEIDON. Then they will eat you.

CREW MEMBER 2. (*Underneath:*) Dang it!

POSIEDON. Oh the places you'll go you ridiculous fools
You've ticked off a god and that is not cool
So off now you go to wander the sea
And I promise you haven't heard the last of me

NARRATOR 1. And he huffed and he huffed a garuffulous huff
And he puffed and he puffed a ginormulous puff
And all of the men heard a thunderous thoom
As into the sea their ship zoomy zoomed

(The men shake and fall down as POSIEDON disappears.)

AJAX. My bad.

(The men sit on the edge of the boat and look around.)

NARRATOR 1. Their mast had been snapped, they had nothing to do

NARRATOR 2. So they sat around sadly and gazed into the blue

NARRATOR 1. And every so often a guy got a thought

(CREW MEMBER 1 gets up slowly, walks over to AJAX, kicks him, then sits back down.)

So their chances of going home were sadly all shot

NARRATOR 2. But at last they drifted to a land with a shore

AJAX. Hey look an island! Guys an island! Maybe there's more!

CREW MEMBER 1. We hate you.

(A sheep enters.)

CREW MEMBER 1. Hey look a sheep! Sheep are awfully neat!

CREW MEMBER 2. And they're awfully good to cook and to eat!

(CREW MEMBERS 1 and 2 get out of the boat. Ominous music plays.)

ODYSSEUS. Hold on you guys I just heard an evilish sound
As if something quite evil lived here on this ground

CREW MEMBER 1. Oh come on we're warriors we are not afraid

CREW MEMBER 2. Let's follow that sheep down into the shade

(The sheep enters a cave. Everyone follows.)

NARRATOR 1.

So they all followed the sheep into a deep darky cave
And they thanked all the gods for the blessings they gave

(More ominous music plays. Louder this time.)

ODYSSEUS. That's it, I heard music, I don't like this one bit.
I'll see you guys later, I'm going out to sit.

(The CYCLOPS rolls a boulder in front of the cave entrance.)

NARRATOR 1. But it was far too late to get out of that place
cause in a moment they came face to face
Or rather face to knee because the monster was awfully tall
He roared awfully loud and they felt awfully small
They couldn't run away or call the Greek cops
For they faced the monstrous, one-eyed, bigtastic Cyclops

CYCLOPS. You're doomed you little grubulous men
And I have an appetite to eat three or ten

NARRATOR 1. For you see though the Cyclops was awfully tall
His heart was twenty two sizes too small

(CREW MEMBER 1 and CREW MEMBER 2 run for it.)

And with that the brave men broke into a run
But the Cyclops was quick, he was having great fun

(The CYCLOPS laughs.)

And with one snatch he snatched them

CREW MEMBER 1. I think we're done!

NARRATOR 1. And with one gulp he ate Crew Member Two and
Crew Member One

*(The CYCLOPS eats CREW MEMBER 1 and CREW MEMBER 2.
They run off-stage, switch hats and return moments later as CREW
MEMBER 3 and CREW MEMBER 4 [they may be played by differ-
ent actors].)*

AJAX. All right you big monster you've picked on the weak
But I am called Ajax and I am not meek

ODYSSEUS. Quiet you dunce or you'll end up as brunch
For this gigantic one-eyed mean monster to munch
But I've got a plan for this titan in store

NARRATOR 1. And in popped Crew Member Three and Crew
Member Four

(CREW MEMBER 3 *and* CREW MEMBER 4 *enter.*)

AJAX. Hey where were you guys when all of us were attacked?

CREW MEMBER 3. We don't say a whole lot

CREW MEMBER 4. We sit in the back.

ODYSSEUS. Excuse me dear Cyclops, I don't mean to be rude
But I can't help but notice you think we are food
Please let us leave and spare the lives of these men
And we will never, I mean never, bug you again.
And if I may, can I ask you one question?
How do you see without depth perception?

CYCLOPS. Oh the sights I can spy with only one eye
If I try I can spy a small fly flying by
I can spy with my eye the zoom-a-boom bats
Who are flipping and flapping in zoom-a-boom hats
Oh you really don't know what it's like to be me
To see these amazing spectacular sights that I see.
So your request to leave is hereby denied
And don't try to leave, cause I've got you all spied.

ODYSSEUS. You're right, mighty creature, how could I possibly
think
That a poor man like me could outthink your great think?
As a gesture of peace take this jug of red wine
Drink all that you want, have a fabulous time.

CYCLOPS. Thanks. I gotta say you Greeks sure are nice
I think I'll eat that one on a bed of fried rice.

(CREW MEMBER 3 *cringes.*)

NARRATOR 1. So the Cyclops he drank, and he wasn't quite done
He had to wash down Crew Member Two and Crew Member One

Luckily for him Odysseus had a lot more
So he drank and he drank and he drank till he swore
But then the whole cave seemed like a spin-spinner spun
He passed out on the floor, Odysseus had won.

(The CYCLOPS burps, then passes out.)

AJAX. Great let's go and get back to the shore

ODYSSEUS. You forget that big boulder is blocking the door

AJAX. Good thing I'm the strongest man you ever will see
Stand back my dear man and leave it to me.

(AJAX tries to move the boulder, but can't.)

NARRATOR 1. So Ajax he huffed and he puffed and he swore
But he couldn't quite remove the rock from the door

AJAX. This rockiest lock seems beyond mortal men
I guess we'll all starve to death in here then

ODYSSEUS. We're not going to starve, you rock-headed man
Because I am a planner and I have a plan
First we grind down the giant's onliest eye
Then beneath those fat sheep ourselves we will tie

AJAX. What?

ODYSSEUS. Trust me.

(ODYSSEUS takes a spear and approaches the passed out CYCLOPS.)

NARRATOR 1. So he took a big spear which was a mighty nice
find

And he gave that eye socket a mighty fierce grind

(The CYCLOPS screams in pain. The Crew Members each find sheep and hold them on top of themselves.)

CYCLOPS. Oh my eye! My eye! My only I-spying eye!
You mean horrible Greeks you're going to die!

NARRATOR 1.

But he found that without his eye he was really quite blind
And he groped and he groped but he couldn't quite find

Still he felt with his hands and he only felt sheep
And the crew members made not one lonely eep peep

CYCLOPS. Somehow they got out, they got past my big rock
How did they do it? Did they whistle or knock?

(He rolls away the boulder.)

I will find them these men from the nation of Greece
I will grab them and eat them one piece by one piece

NARRATOR 1. And as he opened the door under sheep they did
creep
And escaped into the day without saying one peep

(The crew creep out the door with the sheep above their heads.)

But one of the men was allergic to wool—

CREW MEMBER 3. Ah Sneel!

NARRATOR 1. So the giant reached down and ate crew member
three

*(The CYCLOPS eats CREW MEMBER 3. CREW MEMBER 3
scurries off-stage and switches hats, returning momentarily as
CREW MEMBER 5.)*

Odysseus got all of his men right back to his ship
And they were already ready to get on with this trip
When who should appear much to their surprise
Was a man who'd been waiting, Crew Member Five.

(CREW MEMBER 5 enters.)

AJAX. Wait how did you make it? How are you still alive?

CREW MEMBER 5. There's no one as crafty or cool as Crew Mem-
ber Five.

AJAX. *(To ODYSSEUS:)* For a guy named for a number he's got a
mighty big head

ODYSSEUS. Don't worry about him, let's sail forth instead.

NARRATOR 2. So on they did sail and met a new god

(AELOUS enters, dressed as a large bag of wind.)

Who we're skipping because he's not important or odd

(AELOUS leaves, angry and depressed.)

But he did give one thing to Odysseus and crew

A bag full of wind, the right thing to do

(The men sit apart as ODYSSEUS opens the bag.)

NARRATOR 2. And slowly he opened that miraculous pouch

And wind poured forth, the ship roared from a slouch

(The ship speeds through the water like it has an outboard motor.)

And in just a few days they were right at the coast

They were going to make it home faster than most

ODYSSEUS. I've been holding this bag for nine nights and nine days

I'm really quite tired, let's rest for a ways.

(ODYSSEUS falls asleep. CREW MEMBER 5, CREW MEMBER 4, and AJAX look at the bag in his hands.)

CREW MEMBER 4. Just what do you think is in that amazingest bag?

AJAX. It might be a weasel or chicken or squirrel in drag.

CREW MEMBER 4. I bet it's some treasure he's hiding from us

AJAX. It could be the bark of a dog named Scuffildi-puss

CREW MEMBER 4. I don't think it would hurt to take a quick peek

CREW MEMBER 5. No way I'm not looking, Number Five is no sneak!

(CREW MEMBER 5 exits.)

NARRATOR 2. But Crew Number Four was a far different sort

He was the sort whom assistant principals often report

So he looked up at the bag as Odysseus slept

And with a sniggling snortiling up to it he crept

AJAX. I bet there's some gigantic mushroom inside

Or a pick-peffer bird with wings on three sides

NARRATOR 2. But it was no bird, no mushroom or frilly haired
froo

As out from the bag leapt Wind One and Wind Two

(WIND 1 and WIND 2 enter crazily.)

WIND 1. Woo! Woo! Woo!

WIND 2. Wind Two! Wind Two! Wind Two!

*(WIND 1 and WIND 2 keep shouting and running around, messing
stuff out.)*

AJAX. Put them back, put them back, put them back in that bag!

CREW MEMBER 4. Oh shoot I can't catch them, we're going to
snag!

NARRATOR 2.

And the winds blew and they blew and they carried that ship

Far outter to sea than their previous trip.

And with a crash and a smash on land they did land

But where they landed no man could have planned.

(The ship crashes. WIND 1 and WIND 2 escape.)

CREW MEMBER 4. Um...my bad.

CREW MEMBER 5. Well, no use in sitting here right on the beach

Let's go and see if there's some food within reach

ODYSSEUS. You guys are bad luck I'm not going this time

I'm going to sit here and cry over spilt wine.

(CREW MEMBER 5 and AJAX wander off.)

CREW MEMBER 4. Hey there's one thing my chief I just wanted to
add

It was Crew Member Five who opened that bag.

(CREW MEMBER 4 goes after the men.)

NARRATOR 1. So Odysseus sat and he sat and he sat on his duff

And he tried to find ways to repair all his stuff.

(ODYSSEUS puts things back in the boat.)

But after a while it became increasingly clear

ODYSSEUS. Why haven't my men made it back here?

(ODYSSEUS gets up. High energy pop music plays.)

That's an awful strange sound to hear on this land

(CIRCE enters, dressed for a party. Odysseus' men are nearby, transformed into pigs. They can only make oinking and snorting noises.)

Who's there, what gives, announce yourself, man!

CIRCE. Don't call me like that, I'm no holla-back girl
They call me all Circe, and I rule this world

ODYSSEUS.

I'm looking for friends who are lost somewhere out there
And to be perfectly honest and perfectly fair
They aren't all that bright, if you know what I mean
They're actually more dim than a dum-dum machine.

CIRCE. Who cares about friends? I've got a party that rocks
Come back with me now and I'll knock off your socks
Cause I've got this like pit and it's really way big
And I'm going to roast us the juiciest pig.

(The pigs freak out and squeal and run about.)

CUT IT OUT!

(They stop.)

ODYSSEUS. About these here swine there's something not right
When you mentioned their death they were filled with the fright

CIRCE. Okay, fine, you got me, these pigs are your men

ODYSSEUS. How is it possible? You have magic, then?

CIRCE. I've got magic and magic and magic to spare
And these guys were all gross and all covered with hair
And they were like hey baby, hey baby, hitting on me
And I'm like, eww, no, so I changed them, you see

ODYSSEUS. Circe, it's hard but you must understand
That these sailors had all been far from the land
They'd seen nothing at sea except men and more men
You were a dream, it's understandable then
That they'd behave as they did, quite boorish and rude
But please change them back, they really aren't food.

CIRCE. Oh they are, they are, they're the most exquisite dish
They're better than squirrels, they're better than fish
And I'm planning on dining right here and right now
And you're going to help me eat them somehow.
Will you eat your men as ham?

ODYSSEUS. I will not eat my men as ham.

CIRCE. Will you eat them in a pot? Will you eat them on a cot?
Will you eat your men as ham?

(One pig produces a pot. A second pig sits on a cot.)

ODYSSEUS. I will not eat them in a pot. I will not eat them on a
cot.

I will not eat them not a shot.

I cannot, could not, do not want to eat my men as ham.

I will not eat them, no way, ma'am.

(The pigs continue to bring out various objects as CIRCE describes them.)

CIRCE. Will you eat them with a cat? Will you eat them wearing
hats?

Will you, would you, could you please, eat this ham in leafy trees?

ODYSSEUS. I will not eat them with a cat. I will not eat them
wearing hats.

I will not, cannot, do not plan to eat my men as ham.

I will not eat them in the trees, I will not eat them with a sneeze

There is no hope for you here ma'am, I will not eat my men as ham.

CIRCE. Fine. Be that way.

ODYSSEUS. Now please if you are goddess or woman or witch
Turn my men back, make them all switch

CIRCE. I prefer them as swine, I really must say
And I've had this huge craving for bacon today

(The pigs freak out.)

But I'll do what you say with one small request
I'll turn them all back if you stay on as my guest.

NARRATOR 1. So it worked out as she said and they all came right
back

AJAX. I feel dirty.

CREW MEMBER 4. I feel burned.

CREW MEMBER 5. I've got glaze on my back.

CIRCE. Okay, so like that was pretty seriously mean.
But you can stay as long as you like since I am the queen

CREW MEMBER 5. Hey baby hey baby hey baby girl

CIRCE. Don't.

CREW MEMBER 5. Okay.

NARRATOR 1. So they stayed and they partied for over a year
Just what they were doing's not entirely clear

AJAX. Odysseus, I was wondering just when we will go.
It seems like we've been here too long, don't you know.

NARRATOR 1. And just then came a whoop from Crew Member
Four

Who was sleeping up on the roof, up over the door
He slipped and he slopped and he fell down instead
He cracked open his head and he ended up dead.

(CREW MEMBER 4 dies.)

(CREW MEMBER 5 rushes to his side.)

CREW MEMBER 5. *(On his knees:)* Noooooooooooooooooooo! Why
Gods why?

Why have you taken this amazing cool guy?
There was no one earth like Crew Member Four
And he's gone, all gone, right here on the shore!

(CREW MEMBER 5 *weeps piteously.*)

AJAX. Did you see that, we're dying, this is a bad sign
I think we need to get moving and this is the time

ODYSSEUS. You're right, of course, you think out of the box
But did I mention that Circe is quite a hot fox?

AJAX. Your wife, sir, your wife, you remember her, yes?

ODYSSEUS. Oh my wife yes of course she is really the best

NARRATOR 1. So they charted a course on the beach with some
sticks

And who was there to help them? Crew Member Six!

(CREW MEMBER 6 *enters.*)

CIRCE. Before you all leave, there's something you know
You're going to go places, oh the places you'll go
You're going to sail through the most treacherous spot
And if you do it just right, you'll get home in a shot.
But if you don't do it right you really will fry
You're going to die, yes, you're all going to die.

(CIRCE *leaves.*)

NARRATOR 1. But no sooner had they crested the very next wave
Before washing or rinsing or even a shave
They entered the most dangerous part of the sea
The part that would easily kill you or even kill me.

ODYSSEUS. First up my friends are a pack of gorgeous sweet girls

AJAX. Yay!

ODYSSEUS. Who are trying to kill us with their watery whirls!

AJAX. (*Underneath:*) Dang it!

ODYSSEUS. Sirens they're called, they'll kill you Ajax
So stick in your ears a ball of hot wax.
That way you won't hear their mellifluous song
I'll keep my ears open, I'm stupendously strong

(*The men stick wax into their ears as the SIRENS appear.*)

NARRATOR 1. So they did as he said without saying a word
And then what a song, what a song the man heard

(The SIRENS enter. [The SIRENS may be played by one actor, or many, if there are multiple actors, you may assign their lines to different people or have them said as a chorus. Note: the SIRENS may be played by male actors. It might be funnier that way.])

SIRENS. Oh we are the sirens, we're the best of the best
We're incredibly gorgeous and scantily dressed

(ODYSSEUS perks up but doesn't jump out of the boat.)

It's so lonely here in the sea so deep and so blue
And we've been waiting for a guy, a guy just like you

ODYSSEUS. I've been waiting so long, I've been waiting here too
To be that cool guy, that guy just for you!

(The Crew Members hold onto him.)

AJAX. Fight it, Odysseus, They're not who they say
They're evil, remember, they'll kill you today!

SIRENS. We're the most beautiful girls you ever did see,
And what's more, we're endowed with personali-tee
We like to have fun, we enjoy watching sports
Football's our favorite, although we'll take any sort
And we'll bake cookies and muffins from here and from there
So you can eat them while seated on a reclining chair

ODYSSEUS. They sound great, they sound awesome I love you I
do!

CREW MEMBER 6. Stay strong my good man they're too good to
be true!

SIRENS. We're better than Tuesdays, we're better than Mondays
We're better than super fantastic ice creamery sundaes!
We've got what you want, we've got all you need
Just swim on right over and on you we'll feed!

(Short pause.)

Wait. Ignore that last part.

ODYSSEUS. Oh my cool sirens I'll hop in with a start!
Odysseus is coming to be your sweetheart!

(AJAX slaps him.)

No good I still love

(CREW MEMBER 6 slaps him.)

them they're really the best

(CREW MEMBER 5 slaps him.)

Okay, all right, enough, give it a rest!

(The SIRENS exit.)

NARRATOR 1. So they sailed past the sirens and now faced their
doom

Because out in the distance they heard a horrenderous thoom!

ODYSSEUS. Okay hold tight this is going to be incredibly tough.

AJAX. What?

CREW MEMBER 6. What did you say?

CREW MEMBER 7. Something about buttery stuff?

ODYSSEUS. Enough with your questions, control your dark fears
It would help if you took the wax out of your ears

(The men take the wax out of their ears.)

On the left is a monster that fills me with dread
Her true name is Scylla, and she has six ugly heads
With six ugly stomachs and six ugly spleens
She's a gigantic murderous killing machine.

AJAX. Six heads she may have but I'll kick her six butts
I'll slash open those stomachs with my super cool cuts

ODYSSEUS. On the right is the danger far scarier than that

AJAX. Well I'll stomp that thing too like skinning a cat!

ODYSSEUS. It's Charybdis, who lives under the water instead
The body of a vulture, with a hippopotamus head

With huge snakes for fingers and chipmunks for feet
It's so dangerous that we might be forced to retreat
For deep in the water in its guzzling guzz
It sucks in the ocean in a whirlypool fuzz
And shoots it all out like a thooming cascade
That could send our poor ship to a watery grave.

(Enter SCYLLA on one side and CHARYBDIS on the other.)

NARRATOR 1. So they sailed their small ship into the dangerous
place

They put on a brave front and put up a brave face
They were men to the core, men with pride held high

CREW MEMBER 6. We're all gonna die!

NARRATOR 1. Except for that guy.
Well deep in her cave Scylla sat on an egg
An egg that had been left by a bird who had begged
She had left her in charge and had wandered away
And now Scylla was stuck egg-sitting today!
And boy was she peeved, she was riled and annoyed
All six stomachs were growling and not nearly employed

(Growling from off-stage.)

ODYSSEUS. Come on let's sail through, not too low or too high!

CREW MEMBER 6. We're not gonna make it, we're all gonna die!

ODYSSEUS. Stop being a pansy, I've got plenty of tricks!

NARRATOR 1. And just then came Scylla who ate Crew Member
Six.

(SCYLLA eats CREW MEMBER 6.)

CREW MEMBER 5. Well that was unfortunate I really must state

NARRATOR 1. And then just for kicks she ate Five, Seven and
Eight.

*(CREW MEMBERS 7 and 8 run in to replace 6 and 5 and are
eaten.)*

AJAX. Oh come on you foul creature, just give them a chance
 They didn't have any lines or dance one quick dance
 It looks bad captain we're running low on new men
 But here come Crew Member Nine and Crew Member Ten!

(CREW MEMBER 9 and CREW MEMBER 10 don't want to come out. They sit at the edge of the boat.)

What are you waiting for, an invitation for two?
 Let's hoist the mainsail and sail away from that goo!

CREW MEMBER 9. Well it's just that we—

NARRATOR 1. And out roared Scylla and she ate Nine and ate Ten

(SCYLLA devours CREW MEMBER 9 and CREW MEMBER 10 and leaves.)

ODYSSEUS. Oh stop it stop it stop it, stop eating my men!

NARRATOR 1. So they steered hard to the right and avoided her
 bite

And avoided fool Ajax who was itching to fight
 But next came a sight which filled them with fright
 And tortured their sleep for many a night

(CHARYBDIS, a weird fat thing, enters. It seems to be playing a drum of some kind.)

CHARYBDIS. Boom Shakka Lakka Lakka Boom Shakka Boom

NARRATOR 1. It was Charybdis the Koom and it spelled out their
 doom

With a thoom and a boom and a watery plume

CHARYBDIS. *(Repeating:)*

Boom Shakka Boom Shakka Lakka Boom Boom
 Bugga Boom Bugga Boom in my Boom Boom Room
 Booga Dooga Boom Dooga Boom Boom Shakka Boom

NARRATOR 1. And with its thrashing and splashing and banging
 away

It formed a whirlypool big as a whirly ma-shay

(The ship gets caught in the whirlpool and begins to circle CHARYBDIS. CHARYBDIS continues banging and repeating the lines above through the next part.)

ODYSSEUS. Hold on everybody we're caught in its grip
That whirlypool's whirls got a hold of this ship!

KHARBYDIS. *(Continuous:)*

Boom Shakka Lakka Lakka Boom Shakka Boom
Boom Shakka Boom Shakka Lakka Boom Boom

NARRATOR 1. The whirlypool spirled, it whirled them right down
It turned them and squirmed them and spun them around
And the next thing they knew those unfortunate men
They had come back to the cliff to face Scylla again.

(SCYLLA emerges. Everyone screams. CREW MEMBERS 11 and 12 get into the boat cautiously.)

She came with her sharp claws, she came with her sharp teeth
She came with six heads, six stomachs and six spleens beneath

(The men scatter.)

AJAX. I've had enough of this thing, I've had enough of this beast!
It's time for Ajax to save us from getting deceased!

NARRATOR 1. So he leapt to his feet with a great battle cry

AJAX. You horrible mean creature you're going to die!

NARRATOR 1. And he drew his sharp sword and swung for its
eyes

And he was eaten up quick by head number five.

(SCYLLA eats AJAX. CREW MEMBERS 11 and 12 look on in horror.)

CREW MEMBER 12. I'm outta here man, that guy had a name
I'm Crew Member Twelve, though it fills me with shame
I'm doomed oh so doomed to fly up to heaven

NARRATOR 1. And then just for fun, Scylla ate Crew Member
Eleven.

CREW MEMBER 11. *(As he is dying:)* I wasn't even doing anything!

(SCYLLA *eats* CREW MEMBER 11 *and leaves*. CREW MEMBER 12 *is terrified*.)

ODYSSEUS. Let's get out of here, back the way that we came!

CREW MEMBER 12. Are you kidding me, man, we're going on with this game?

NARRATOR 1. And just then their boat turned around one more time

In time to face Charybdis and its boom so sublime.

CHARYBDIS. (*Underneath:*)

Boom Shakka Lakka Lakka Boom Shakka Boom

Boom Shakka Boom Shakka Lakka Boom Boom

CREW MEMBER 12. Wait just one minute, wait just here and see
Where is the next guy, it's just you and me!

ODYSSEUS. Crew Member Thirteen is not getting aboard
He's unlucky I tell you he fell on his sword

CHARYBDIS. Sluurrrrrrrrrrrpy slurrpy slurpy slurp!

CREW MEMBER 12. Uh-oh, what happened to the boom and the thoom?

That monster in there has changed his whole tune!

NARRATOR 1. Old Twelve was right and it was worse than he knew

For Charybdis was in-sucking all the water so blue

And just when it seemed not to have any room

CHARYBDIS. BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

(*The ship is destroyed. ODYSSEUS and CREW MEMBER 12 fall to the ground. Maybe a little splash of water from the wings.*)

NARRATOR 2. Well then my friends that could be the end of our tale

NARRATOR 1. But it's not, cause Odysseus was saved by a whale

(*A friendly-looking whale appears.*)

A whale with terrible breath and razor-sharp teeth

Who clawed him and bit him and tore him beneath

(The whale savagely attacks ODYSSEUS.)

NARRATOR 2. So then he drifted apart, and drifted alone
He drifted quite nearly as far as Ma-mone
And as he lay on the sea and wished he was dead
There came a weird image to his wiggeldy head

(ATHENA enters.)

ATHENA. Odysseus, it is I, your friend from above
I'm the goddess Athena, and you I do love
You've had a bad spell, but count yourself lucky
It could have been worse, it's not all that sucky

ODYSSEUS. What are you talking about, I'm alone and near death
I've just about breathed my lastest small breath

ATHENA. Oh but surely come on, that's really not bad
There are people worse off than this trip that you've had
Imagine Terry the toweler of Turrigan Ty
He's in charge of toweling that Hercules guy
And believe me that god sweats like a pig
You've never seen pit stains nearly that big
Or think of the girl who styles Medusa's fine hair
Trust me, my friend, you don't want to go there
But I'm feeling pity, It's funny I know
Because I know that you've had a really rough go
So here is a boat with an oar and a sail
To help you get home and end this travail

(ATHENA gives him a new boat.)

NARRATOR 1. So in a matter of minutes he was sailing alone
And after ten years of his journey Odysseus was home

NARRATOR 2. But our story's not over, not on your sweet life
There was the matter of those guys who were after his wife

(The scene switches to the house.)

SUITOR 1. Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay
It's finally time for your choice today
We've seen through this business with sewing that shroud
Choose one of us now, no delay is allowed.

(PENELOPE *emerges.*)

PENELOPE. Okay, fine, I admit, you're the finest men left
The rest all died in the war and I am bereft.
So here's what I'm going to do with you all
We'll have a contest tomorrow, and I'll make the call
We'll film it of course with a producer I know
And sell rights to the Fox for a reality show.

TELLY. Mom! No! You can't do it, Dad's coming back!

PENELOPE. Telly, I'm afraid your father has brains that you lack
Now go on and play, do something outside
I've tried to stay single, Lord, how I've tried.
But there comes a time when you've got to give up
And marry some stranger, without a pre-nup.

NARRATOR 2. So young Telly ran from that nefarious report
And he cried as he stumbled up to his tree fort
And who should be there, just making a plan?
It was his father, in disguise as an old scary man.

(*ODYSSEUS enters with a fake beard.*)

TELLY. Ah! What are you doing here you homeless old fool
Get out of here fast or I'll take you to school.

ODYSSEUS. You must be young Telly, the boy of the place
I'm not going anywhere, wipe that look off your face

TELLY. Okay, you asked for it, you scumulous dude
I'm going to beat you up good and give you no food.

(*TELLY takes a swing at ODYSSEUS, who easily dodges the blow
and twists TELLY's arm.*)

ODYSSEUS. You're the warrior's son and that's the best you can
do?

You ridiculous, silly, pathetic boy you.

TELLY. Stop it, oh stop it, you're hurting my arm
I'm not very strong, you'll cause permanent harm

ODYSSEUS. Hold still you small wimp, I'm not what I seem
I'm the man from the past, the man from your dream.

TELLY. The man from my dream I'm sure you are not
He was a hero, a king, not some creep with skin rot

ODYSSEUS. Listen you dolt, I'm up here in disguise
I've disguised my face and I've disguised my eyes
To sum it up clear, I'm the best that's ever been had
I'm your father, your old man, your papa, your Dad.

TELLY. Nooooo! That's impossible!!!!

(TELLY sinks to his knees and wails.)

ODYSSEUS. Stop it, come on, what is wrong with you now?
I said I'm your Dad there's no need to howl

TELLY. Oh sorry I just figured you'd be bigger than big
Bigger than elephants, whales or a mighty big pig

ODYSSEUS. I've said it before and I guess I'll say it once more
This is a disguise, did you check your brains at the door?
Believe me I'm stronger than the strongest man there
I've got muscles on muscles with muscles to spare
I've fought in the wars and slain many a man
And believe me there's no one as tough as I am.

(Thunder.)

Except for the gods, who are really really cool
I don't have hubris, I'm not that big of a fool.
But I've got one more thing not seen in these parts
And that is my brain, my smarty smart smarts

NARRATOR 2. So Odysseus and son conceived of a plan
To seek revenge on those suitors to the very last man
And while they were scheming that miraculous scheme
They started father-son bonding to make a great team.

ODYSSEUS. So tell me my boy, how are the girls in this place?
Have they responded to your voice and beautiful face?

TELLY. Um, to tell you the truth, girls don't like me too much
They laugh in small groups or recoil at my touch
I've taken to collecting small action figurines

They don't laugh at me much and aren't quite so mean
The girls make fun of me often and call me a stork

ODYSSEUS. By Hera and by Zeus, my only son is a dork.

NARRATOR 1. The next day was the contest for Penelope's hand
A contest of miracles, a contest so grand

(The SUITORS gather near PENELOPE, who has a bow.)

PENELOPE. This belonged to my husband, it's his mighty bow
The bow is so tough, this bow I now show
This bow is tougher than you possibly know
The task is simple, one arrow's all you require
Just fit it in here and first aim then fire.

SUITOR 1. I'll take the first shot since I'm stronger than strong
I'm stronger than sumo champion Mong Pong.

SUITOR 2. *(Not in rhythm:)* I don't know who that is

SUITOR 1. *(Not in rhythm:)* He's very strong. Like a wall of meat.
Hand it on over and I'll string that there bow
Because these mighty big guns are not just for show

(SUITOR 1 strains really hard, but can't string the bow.)

Mama.

SUITOR 2. I'll go next you buffoon, I've got muscles you lack

(SUITOR 2 tries to string the bow but can't. He hurts himself.)

Ow, ow jeez, that hurts, I think I threw out my back.

(SUITOR 3 takes the bow.)

SUITOR 3. All right, I'll try out this bow, I'll take the next shot
Because I am a man, the rest of you clearly are not.

(SUITOR 3 tries to pull back the bow, but can't.)

Dang it.

(ODYSSEUS and TELLY enter.)

PENELOPE. So no one's man enough here to be my new man
I guess I'll stay single and do what I can

SUITOR 2. No way! I don't care if we all failed that test!
You'll marry one of us here or you never will rest!

ODYSSEUS. Excuse me, my lady, I can't help but say this:
Do you mind if I try the bow of Odysseus?

SUITOR 2. Are you kidding me, look at that ugly old grump
He's a geezer, a goozer, a mud-guzzling lump
Get out of here grandpa, go on back to your home
Get out of here fast or we'll smash you with stones.

PENELOPE. I'm sorry the contest is open to all on the stage
I don't judge based on race, gender or even old age

ODYSSEUS. All right then I'll try it, I'll give it a go
But first let me mention that your husband I know
He was brave, intelligent, dashing, and buff
He had the greatest hair ever, incredible stuff

SUITOR 2. All right, we got it, he was cooler than cool

ODYSSEUS. More than that, my friend, he seriously ruled.

SUITOR 3. Come on grandfather, just try out the bow
Stop trying to impress us with this guy that you know
If Odysseus was here he'd break and he'd bend
I'd bash him and smash him and kick his rear end

ODYSSEUS. All right then, what's your name, guy number three?
Just making sure I know it for later, you see.

NARRATOR 1. So Odysseus pulled on the string of that bow

ODYSSEUS. Hey look I can do it, well what do you know?

NARRATOR 1. With a ka-zip and a shlip the arrow did fly
And it hit Number Three right through the left eye.

(SUITOR 3 goes down. NARRATOR 2 emerges.)

NARRATOR 2. Hold on, pause!

(Everyone pauses.)

NARRATOR 1. What?

NARRATOR 2. This part's kinda violent.

NARRATOR 1. What do you mean, violent?

NARRATOR 2. Well, I mean, there are kids in the audience.

NARRATOR 1. So it wasn't violent before when they were being eaten by monsters –

NARRATOR 2. Yeah, well, those were monsters and they were funny-looking. Can't we do this without the violence?

SUITOR 3. It's okay, I didn't really get hit in the eye.

NARRATOR 1. Well what do you want him to do then?

NARRATOR 2. Well we're not ending this story with a bloodbath, I can tell you that much. It's highly inappropriate.

NARRATOR 1. All right, all right, I have an idea, cause we have to end this thing.

NARRATOR 2. No blood.

NARRATOR 1. No blood.

NARRATOR 2. No violence.

NARRATOR 1. Some violence.

NARRATOR 2. No violence.

NARRATOR 1. No violence directed at humans.

NARRATOR 2. Fine.

(All of the actors exit.)

NARRATOR 1. Well then my friends, we need to finish our story
And for some reason beyond me it can't be all gory
So we're going to portray this as clean as we can
Without blood or dismemberment of even one man
Our actors are ready to go in case anyone cares
We're going to act this all out with our own teddy bears

(Everyone returns carrying a teddy bear representing their character. If there is a limited number of actors, the actors playing the suitor teddy bears may carry as many teddy bears as they wish. During the next part, while speaking, actors should hold their stuffed animals up and move their arms. Ham this up.)

**THIS PLAY IS
NOT OVER!**

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