

OUR CASE FOR SUPPORT



*'Given time and support, **aod** could restore the classics to their proper place in the theatre repertoire, which would be something like a National Classical Theatre'*
Times Educational Supplement

OUR CASE FOR SUPPORT

Actors of Dionysus (**aod**) is a National and International touring company that specialises in performing new adaptations of ancient Greek Drama and new writing inspired by myth.

We are unique in Britain in that we are the only company solely dedicated to exploring Classical Greek theatre in this way and offer a rigorous approach that marries academic understanding with artistic vision.

aod is a registered charity that receives no regular public subsidy. We need to raise a minimum of £80k a year for the next 3-5 years to provide a base rate for all of our projects.

Donors will have the opportunity to engage actively with the cast and creative team on specific projects that they wish to support.



Ephesus Turkey 2002

1993
Hekabe & Hippolytus

This young cast skilfully utilise the power of the word and ritual with spellbinding effect. A must for any true lover of the theatre.
Edinburgh Evening News

1994
Antigone and Electra

Stunningly good.
Sir Kenneth Dover

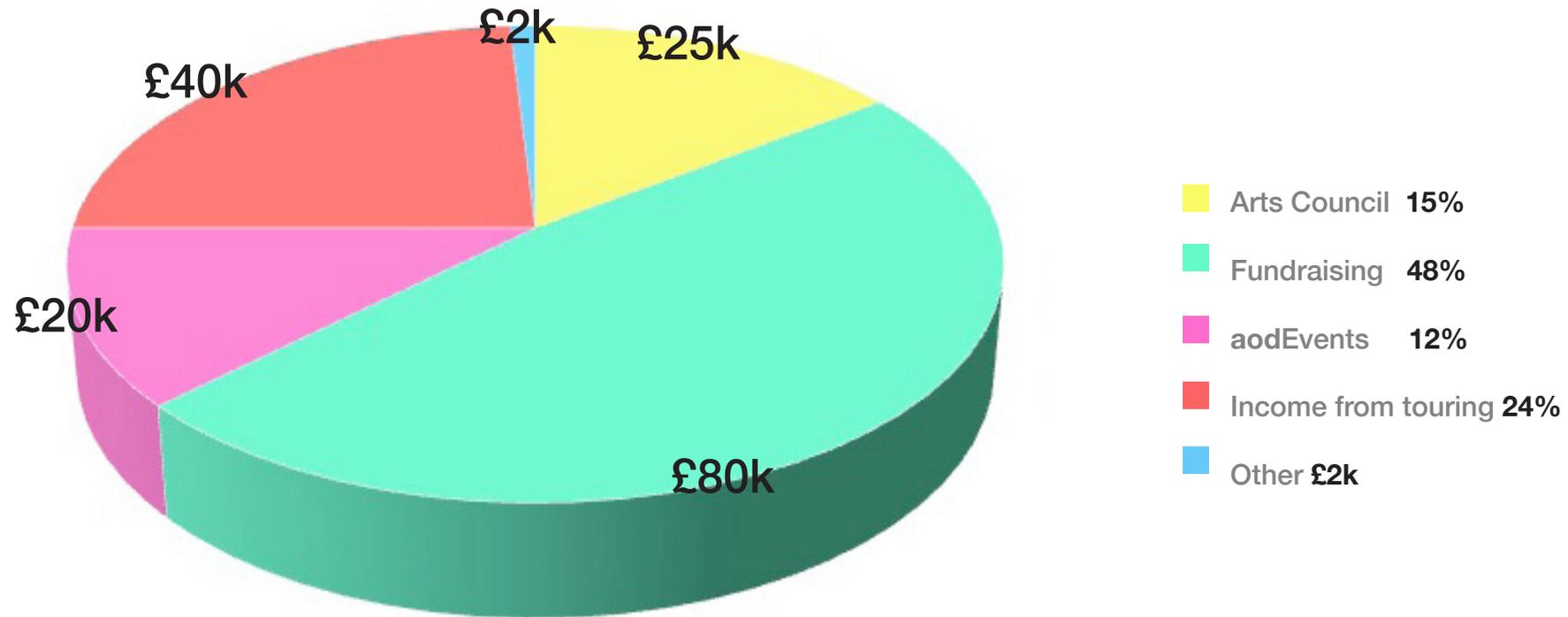
MAKING MAGIC FROM MYTH



.....putting flesh on the bones of ancient Greek drama

OUR FUNDING

Our turnover is budgeted at £167,000 for 2015/16. The chart below shows how our work is funded.



1995
Oedipus the King & Blow Your Mind, Aristophanes!

1996
Medea & Trojan Women

*They bring tears to the eyes and make the hair
at the back of the neck bristle. The Times*

1997
Ajax & Electra

OUR HISTORY

1993 Actors of Dionysus was founded in St Andrews Fife by David Stuttard with the first production *Hekabe*.

'Simply stunning. One of the 2 best productions of a Greek tragedy I've ever seen' **Sir Kenneth Dover**

Tamsin Shasha joins as Joint Artistic Director and the company becomes a limited company with charitable status and performs in repertory with *Hippolytus* at the Edinburgh Festival.

1995 - 2002 The company relocates to York and during this time collaborates with Channel 4 and the BFI on *Blow your mind* Aristophanes, BBC Radio 3, Penguin Audiobooks on *Medea* and conducts over 20 National tours.

2003 - 2015 relocates to Brighton where it remains. Tamsin Shasha becomes sole Artistic Director, retrains as an aerialist and introduces a new writing arm to **aod**'s work taking *Bacchic* to the Edinburgh Festival in 2007.

aod has performed over 45 productions of ancient Greek drama, performing to over 500,000 people and becoming the UK's leading interpreters in this field.

"Good performances all round, especially from Tamsin Shasha in the title role, make it clear why the Greeks were so excited by this play more than a millennium ago"

Financial Times (Penguin audiobook – Medea)

1997
Matricide Without Tears (BBC)

1998
Oedipus & Antigone

*Sharp as steel and wholly
accessible ...superb. The Stage*

1999
Agamemnon & Hippolytus

*This mesmerising theatrical coup held
the audience enthralled. The Spectator*

OUR PEOPLE

Tamsin Shasha, Artistic Director is the engine behind aod and has produced and managed all 45 touring productions. Trained at Oxford School of Drama, Ecole Philippe Gaulier and National Centre of Circus Arts she is an experienced Classical actress, physical performer and aerialist

Mill Goble, Mill is a freelance producer and general manager, and has been running her own company, Atomic Force Productions, since 2011. During this time she has provided general management and marketing support to various companies

Mark Katz, Outreach Officer trained at ALRA and is a freelance actor and has worked extensively for aod as a performer and workshop leader

Inner Circle includes

The Chairman. Sir Stuart Etherington as CEO of NCVO brings considerable expertise in the leadership of voluntary organisations

James Albrecht is Creative Director at St James Theatre, Victoria with an extensive background in theatre and performance

Lady Lucy French is the Development Director of St James Theatre and Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Never Such Innocence

David Stuttard is a prolific author of books on classical history and literature

Board of Trustees includes

The Chairman. Steve Pavey was Finance & Business Director of University of Sussex

Andrew Copson, CEO of the British Humanist Association

2000
Bacchae & Grave Gifts

2001
Antigone & Medea

2002
Trojan Women & Electra

Superb ... a Greek classic!
The Daily Mirror

2003
Oedipus

2003
Agamemnon

WHAT WE DO & HOW YOU CAN HELP

Support for **aodProductions**, **aodEducation** and **aodEvents** can be at several levels, and there are many ways to help.

aodProductions



aod offer a significant repertoire of classical Greek drama and have built up an extensive track record of producing high quality and compelling productions. Last year we piloted a new play called *Helen* inspired by the myth of Helen of Troy and in 2013 at Rose Theatre Kingston we piloted a new aerial version of *Medea*.

We have performed to over 500,000 audience members including students over the last 22 years and have engaged actively with over 50,000 students who have participated in our thriving outreach programme of workshops, publications, DVDS and audiobooks.

The cost to mount a National tour of *Helen* for next May/June 2016 is £27,000 and we are looking to raise £10,000, the cost to mount a National tour of our ambitious aerial version of *Medea* for next Autumn 2016 is £135,000. We are looking to raise £45k from donors/commissioners to support an Arts Council bid

aodEducation



We have an enviable reputation for and commitment to keeping the classics alive and we regularly receive acknowledgement and praise from schools and exam boards regarding the quality, relevance and importance of our work. In Spring 2016 we toured a newly revised version of *Lysistrata* to 23 venues nationally, thus providing a vital resource for the play which is on both the Edexcel and OCR GCE school syllabus.

“It was impressive how much information and practical work was covered in a 2 hour workshop. The students were able to produce exciting and thought-provoking work in a very short space of time” **Paul Webster, Performing Arts & Drama Subject Advisor, Edexcel.**

Admirably direct and accessible ... a beautifully acted production. The Guardian

2004
Hippolytus & Trojan Women

2005
Trojan Women

2006
Oedipus

2008
Bacchic

Thoughtful and intelligent ... a most unusual and rewarding hour. The Times

OUR EVENTS

aodEvents

We offer a bespoke package of private and exclusive performances and events in lavish locations. Previous events have included Allington Castle, House of Saint Barnabas, The Reform Club, London's Living Room at City Hall and in the wonderful outdoor theatre at Spruce Wood.

We are actively seeking partners to support this fundraising arm of our work either by donations or by providing a venue or both.

An event can be tailor-made to suit your requirements and costs vary depending on the nature and scale.

"Allington Castle was lucky enough to host Paris-Alexandros on a Sunday night in Kent. Everyone, without exception, of over 100 guests, had said the performance was exceptional"

Sir Robert Worcester



Allington Castle Sep 2015

2011
Lysistrata & Economus Wrecked

2012
Dionysia & Alexandros

2013
Savage Beauty & Medea

2011
Helen, Sappho CD & Medea DVD

2015
Helen & Alexandros

2016
Lysistrata, Helen & Bacchae

“Over the past 22 years aod has earned an enviable reputation for being ‘arguably the UK’s best interpreters of Greek drama’ (arts scene) and for ‘making Greek tragedy seriously sexy’ (The Guardian). We have built up a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the genre both in terms of its staging and also in the delivery of a high quality public engagement programme of workshops and educational material and also bespoke events. We are well placed to expand and develop our repertoire and our profile both at home and abroad and with your help we can do just that.”

Tamsin Shasha, Artistic Director, Actors of Dionysus

We are actively seeking individual and corporate sponsorship. In addition, you could become a member either as a Friend, Patron or Benefactor.

If you are interested in supporting our work, please contact us at : info@actorsofdionysus.com

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THE SCOTSMAN
SATURDAY 11 AUGUST 2007
FESTIVAL REVIEW & GUIDE
6 REVIEWS 18 HOUR-BY-HOUR GUIDE 22 VENUE MAP 24 FREE TICKETS

THE BACCHAE TRANSFORMED
(And no, it's not the one with Alan Cumming in it)

11 MARTHA MCBRIER - ME AND MY TUMOUR 6 A LESS THAN HEROIC SHOW FROM PHIL NICHOL

Bacchic at Edinburgh Festival 2007