

The ^Lesser Known Greek Myths or; An Ode To Hermes

Written by

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Logline: You've all heard the story of the great and tragic heroes like Hercules and Orpheus, now it's time you hear one of the lesser known Greek myths.

CHARACTERS:

Zeus - M, King of The Gods, an omnipotent voice who appears at the beginning and end. (Voice only role)

Hermes - M, Messenger of The Gods, the very important but sort of forgotten child of the Olympians, looking to expand his role.

The Players (Player One, Two, and Three) - M/F, The actors in Zeus's original show who play all of the characters throughout the show. Player Two and Three portray both male and female characters throughout while Player One portrays the same character the whole time.

Setting: A theater.

PROPS & FURNITURE:

Caduceus Staff
Crown
Shoes with Wings
Sword
Helmet
Mirror
Medusa Snake Headband
Decapitated Medusa Head
Frisbee

No Furniture

SOUNDS:

Zeus Speaking Lines
Monster Roar
Wilhelm Scream

THE ^LESSER KNOWN GREEK MYTHS, OR
AN ODE TO HERMES

ZEUS

(all of Zeus's lines
are voiceover.)

Ancient Greece. A land of myths, heroes and legends. The Greeks are a legendary people, whose stories are still widespread to this day. I am Zeus, king of the gods.

(PLAYER ONE enters
dressed as Hercules.
They strike a pose
center stage.)

And today I am going to tell you all the story of Her-

HERMES barrels onstage. He wears
shoes and a hat with wings on them
and carries his caduceus staff.

HERMES

Wait, wait, wait, wait! Just give me a minute to catch my breath.

(one deep breath)

Okay--okay, I'm ready.

Hermes strikes a triumphant pose
blocking Player One.

ZEUS

Hermes? What are you doing?

HERMES

I wasn't late, just keep going.

ZEUS

Today I am going to tell you the story of...*Hercules*.

HERMES

What?!

Player One taps Hermes on the
shoulder.

PLAYER ONE

You're in my light.

HERMES

Woah, woah, woah-- *Hercules*? Seriously? You're gonna tell them about Hercules?

ZEUS

Of course, he is Greece's greatest hero.

HERMES

Well, that's debatable...

ZEUS

What was that?

HERMES

I'm just saying, maybe *one* of Greece's greatest but not *the* greatest.

PLAYER ONE

I'm right here you know,

HERMES

You're not even really Hercules.

Player One exits.

ZEUS

Look Hermes now you've scared my actor off, are you happy now?

HERMES

Whatever, his story is overplayed anyways. Everyone already knows it front to back!

ZEUS

No they don't!

HERMES

Excuse me,

(to an audience
member)

Have you seen the movie Hercules?

(beat)

Exactly!

ZEUS

Well that's just one member of the audience! How about the rest of you?

HERMES

See my point?

ZEUS

But what other story is there to tell? I already had all of the set pieces made for the Hercules story.

HERMES

Oh, I dunno. Maybe one of the myths including a certain winged god?

ZEUS

Oh! Eros of course! We should tell them the story of Eros and Psyche.

HERMES

No! No, he's great but, I'm talking about me!

ZEUS

You?

HERMES

Yes! I've got plenty of stories, there's so many myths I'm apart of.

ZEUS

Name one.

HERMES

Well there's...uh...oh! I invented the lyre using a tortoise shell!

ZEUS

An entertaining story, like one with a hero.

HERMES

Uhm...Perseus! The story of how Perseus slayed Medusa!

ZEUS

I don't really know that one,

HERMES

See it's perfect! Just sit back and let me do the talking.

ZEUS

Oh wait! Is that the one where I-

HERMES

Shhh shh shh! Don't spoil it! Alright everyone, sit back, relax, and enjoy the story of the great hero Perseus!

Player One enters again.

PLAYER ONE

Wait what?

HERMES

Perseus now! Get with the program!

Player One exits.

HERMES

The story begins before the birth Perseus. With the King of Argos and an oracle.

Hermes exits. Enter Player Two in a robe, Player Three in a crown.

PLAYER THREE

I, Acrisius, King of Argos have finally reached the oracle of Delphi to see what my future may hold.

PLAYER TWO

Ooooooo, oooooo, King of Argos I see in your future that your grandson shall kill you.

PLAYER THREE

What?!

Hermes enters.

HERMES

And so, Acrisius returned home and locked his only daughter in the deepest chamber of their castle. But Zeus took a liking to Danae,

Enter Player Two, sans robe. They sit dramatically.

PLAYER TWO

This is horrible!

Enter Player Three, as golden rain.

PLAYER THREE

(imitating rain)

Shhh, shhh, shhh,

PLAYER TWO

Golden rain! Why, this must be Zeus!

HERMES

Zeus visited poor Danae, and...did what he does best...

Player Three and Player Two poorly fake make out. As they do Player One enters from behind. The two separate, revealing Player One as Perseus.

HERMES

And boom! Perseus was born!

Player Three exits.

HERMES

Yeah, Acrisius wasn't happy about that.

Player Three enters again with a crown.

PLAYER THREE

What? No! How has this happened? I cast you away into the wild waters of the sea, there to be lost forever!

PLAYER TWO & PLAYER ONE

Nooo!

They all exit.

HERMES

Spoiler alert they don't die. Cause when do they ever? Perseus and Danae ended up on a small island. And Perseus was raised by a kind fisherman and grew into a fine young man.

Enter the players again.

HERMES

But someone new had taken a liking to Danae,

PLAYER THREE

Oo la la, who is this fine lady. I am King Polydectes and I want this young woman for my wife. Excuse me miss, will you marry me?

PLAYER TWO

Uh, no?

PLAYER THREE

But why not?

PLAYER TWO

There's so many reasons, I just met you, I don't know you, I have a son-

PLAYER THREE

A son you say!

PLAYER TWO

Yeah? He's right over there, his name is Perseus.

PLAYER THREE

Oh Perseus!

Player Two exits.

PLAYER ONE

Yes?

PLAYER THREE

I am the king of this land and I have a quest for you to undertake.

PLAYER ONE

A quest?

PLAYER THREE

Yes! It is a deadly deadly quest that requires great bravery.

PLAYER ONE

I'm in!

PLAYER THREE

But I haven't even-

PLAYER ONE

I don't care I'm in!

PLAYER THREE

Okay...well, the quest is to slay the great gorgon Medusa!

PLAYER ONE

Cool! Bye!

Player One exits.

PLAYER THREE

Now, once the gorgon slays her son she will be mine!

Player Three exits.

HERMES

Little did Polydectes know that Perseus was highly favored by the gods. Perseus set off on his quest!

Hermes exits. Player One enters, he marches in place center stage.

PLAYER ONE

Gosh, it's taking a long time to get to this Medusa lady. I wish there were an easier way to travel.

Hermes enters.

HERMES

Did someone say travel?

PLAYER ONE

Hermes? Messenger of the gods? What are you doing here?

HERMES

Well kid, you're kind of doomed. You didn't even bring a sword, and did you think you were gonna walk all the way there?

PLAYER ONE

Well I-

HERMES

Don't worry, I got your back. I have some gifts for you!

PLAYER ONE

Ooo! Gifts!

HERMES

Here I bestow on you, a pair of winged shoes to aid you on your travels and a sword to slay Medusa with.

Hermes hands over winged shoes and a sword.

PLAYER ONE

Shoes with wings! Awesome!

HERMES

Yeah, yeah, I'm great. Oh, and Athena is waiting just up the road she has some gifts for you too. But they aren't half as good as mine.

PLAYER ONE

Thanks Hermes!

HERMES

Anytime!

Hermes exits. Player One resumes marching.

Player Two enters.

PLAYER ONE

Athena! Goddess of wisdom?!

PLAYER TWO

Yes, Perseus I have come to bestow on you two gifts.

PLAYER ONE

Alright, hit me.

PLAYER TWO

First, the helm of Hades that makes it's wearer invisible. And a mirror of polished bronze.

PLAYER ONE

Woahhhh, awesome.

PLAYER TWO

Use them wisely hero.

Player Three exits.

PLAYER ONE

Alright Medusa! Here I come!

Player One runs off. Hermes enters.

HERMES

And so Perseus flew to the dwelling of the great gorgon Medusa. Using his helmet he snuck in, invisible. Just pretend,

Player One enters wearing the helm.

Player Three enters, as Medusa.

PLAYER THREE

I am Medusa and I smell mortal blood, come out, come out, you'll make a wonderful addition to my collection of statues.

HERMES

Perseus used the bronze mirror to find Medusa, never catching her exact gaze. Once he snuck behind her then...

Player One slices his sword, beheading her. Player Three runs off leaving a "head" behind.

HERMES

Now the all powerful gorgon was nothing more than a head. With the quest complete Perseus had nothing to do but return to Polydectes in Greece.

PLAYER ONE

Woah, Medusa's head...awesome...

Player One exits.

HERMES

But as most greek heroes do he got a little...distracted...

Player Two enters, pretending to be tied up.

PLAYER TWO

Oh woe is me, my father has cast me away to be swallowed by the sea. There is no more for me to do but sit and wait for my doom.

Player One enters, pretending to fly.

PLAYER ONE

Now back to greece and- who is this damsel in distress?

PLAYER TWO

Oh! Hero! Help! I am Andromeda and I have been forsaken by my father to please the gods!

PLAYER ONE

Geez, that sounds like...really bad, maybe I shouldn't...but you're pretty hot so,

PLAYER TWO

All you have to do is slay Cetus! He's right over there!

PLAYER ONE

Ok!

Player One runs off yelling. He slays the monster and re-enters.

PLAYER ONE

Easy work,

PLAYER TWO

You've saved me! Now take me back to Greece and we can be wed.

They exit.

HERMES

Lots of marrying people that you just met in these stories huh? Well, anyways. Perseus returned to the island with Medusa's head and his hot new wife.

Player Three enters, in a crown.

PLAYER THREE

My plan worked just as I suspected! He is gone!

Player One enters.

PLAYER ONE

Yo Polydectes, look what I got!

They hold up the head.

PLAYER THREE

Nooo!

Player Three freezes like a statue.

PLAYER ONE

Oh shit, this thing still works! Score!

Player Two enters as Athena.

PLAYER TWO

Well done young hero, you have slain the gorgon and defeated Polydectes.

PLAYER ONE

Polydectes more like Poly-dick-tes am I right? No? Okay...

PLAYER TWO

Now you must return to Argos and reclaim your throne. Also give me that head I do not trust you with it at all.

PLAYER ONE

Aww...okay...

The Players exit.

HERMES

And so finally Perseus and Danae returned to Argos where Acrisius was killed in a freak discus accident.

Player One enters with a frisbee.
They throw it offstage.

PLAYER ONE

Oh shit-

HERMES

Who's really to say who threw it though? And that brings us to the end of our great heroes story, where him and Andromeda lived happily ever after.

All three Players come onstage and
take a bow.

HERMES

See, Zeus wasn't that entertaining?

ZEUS

Perhaps you were right Hermes.

HERMES

Of course I was right! I'm the messenger of the Gods you know how many stories I know. The amount of stories I hear

(MORE)

HERMES (cont'd)

on a daily basis, I mean you should just let me run the show all the time. You know there was one Apollo told me-

ZEUS

Oh! Apollo, god of music and art! He should take over the show for me,

HERMES

Woah- wait a minute-

ZEUS

He is the perfect god to take the mantle! I'm sort of sick of it anyways.

HERMES

There's no way...

ZEUS

What was that?

HERMES

I do this whole story, this whole show about one of your sons to show you I can do this and you wanna give it to Apollo!

ZEUS

Well yes, I think he deserves it-

HERMES

You know how many mortals know Apollo? He has so much! He has the muses, and the sun, and the lyre which if you recall, I MADE!

ZEUS

You did?

HERMES

Yes!

ZEUS

Well you have plenty too,

HERMES

All I get is my caduceus, which isn't even associated with me anymore by the way, and being portrayed by Lin Manuel Miranda in a TV show!

ZEUS

Lin Manuel Miranda, that's the Hamilton guy right? Wait wait wait, Perseus is my son?

HERMES

Yes! Did you even watch the play?

ZEUS

You know I kind of dozed off for a minute there...

HERMES

Ugh! Whatever!

Hermes storms off.

LIGHTS.