

Villa Theater Lab Series

Combined Artform presents

Aristotle/Alexander

Friday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 6 at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 p.m.

A conversation with the artists will follow the Sunday afternoon performance.

PLEASE silence all cellular telephones and other electronic devices. No unauthorized videotaping, audiotaping, or photography is permitted during the performance.

Getty

Aristotle/Alexander

Written and Directed by Alex Lyras

CAST

Andrew Byron	Aristotle
Nicky Clary	Alexander
Joanna Kalafatis	Olympias
John Kapelos	Isocrates

PRODUCTION

Matthew Quinn	Producer
Andreas Fevos	Composer, Sound Designer
Jon "Bonk" MacLeod	Video Designer
Matt Richter	Lighting Designer
Paula D. Davis	Costume Designer
Orion Barnes	Fight Coordinator
Joel David	Scenic Designer
Marine Walton	Scenic Artist
Aaron Lyons	Props
Bertha Rodriguez	PR Manager
Anna Kupershmidt	Production Stage Manager

PLAYWRIGHT & DIRECTORS' NOTE

History has forever marked the Golden Age of Athens as the birthplace of democracy. What is less well known is just how brief this radical experiment of "rule by the people" was before devolving into chaos.

Following Athens's loss to Sparta in the Peloponnesian War in 404 BCE, the dark reign of Thirty Tyrants replaced the democratic government. The Thirty proceeded to execute five percent of the Athenian population, (the democratic opposition), confiscating immeasurable personal wealth and property, and exiling

countless others deemed as threats.

Years later, Aristotle begins a systemic analysis of how best to govern a city-state, collecting 158 different constitutions in an attempt to evaluate their effectiveness. To paraphrase his *Politics*, the best form of government is one in which the individual (monarchy), or the few (aristocracy), or the many (democracy), govern with a view to the common interest.

Most importantly, the relationship between citizen and state must be reciprocal.

“There are two parts to good government,” he wrote. “One is the actual obedience of citizens to the laws. The other is the goodness of the laws which they are tasked to obey.”

Aristotle believes that the worst form of government is tyranny. Once a ruler embarks on policy-making with private interests in mind, the entire edifice comes crashing down.

As America finds itself in the throes of its own political stress-test, we are confronted with the chilling reality Aristotle understood 2,500 years ago: Constitutional democracies are far more fragile than we realize.

He must have had this in mind when he accepted the position of tutoring a future ruler. With the proper education, Alexander could very well become the ideal philosopher-king.

We are especially indebted to Ralph Flores, Anna Woo, and the dedicated team at the Getty Villa for giving us the opportunity to present this work. —*Alex Lyras*

ABOUT COMBINED ARTFORM

Combined Artform is a live theater production company based in Los Angeles founded in 1998 by Matthew Quinn and Bertha Rodriguez. The Company has produced, co-produced, and presented numerous plays across theaters hubs in Hollywood, San

Francisco, and New York City. Renowned for its expertise in the “Hollywood Fringe Festival” and the “Hollywood Encore Producers’ Awards,” the company has established itself as a key player in the industry. In 2023, Combined Artform inaugurated the “Hollywood Independent Theater Festival,” featuring top festival shows from around the world and actively contributes to the success of independent theater, while also scouting for the SoHo Playhouse in New York City.

PERFORMANCE AT THE GETTY VILLA

The Getty Villa’s public programs are designed to amplify and enhance the Museum visitor’s insight into the people and cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world. Throughout the year, the Villa presents an engaging spectrum of events, anchored by its innovative theater program.

The Villa Theater Lab series fosters the work of artists employing creative, often experimental approaches to the performance of ancient stories. The Villa Auditorium’s range of technologies have enabled teams of both newly emerging and long distinguished artists—directors, designers, musicians, playwrights, and actors—to freely incorporate advanced stage, sound, and visual elements into productions developed in residence here at the Villa.

Each September a major production is commissioned and presented in the Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater, an outdoor performance space based on ancient prototypes. Past collaborators include Round House Theatre, SITI Company, Court Theatre, Troubadour Theater Company, the Theatre @ Boston Court and Deaf West Theatre.

From autumn through spring, the Villa’s public programming also includes music and film screenings. To receive information about Getty Museum exhibitions, performances, and lecture events,

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THE VILLA THEATER LAB SERIES STAFF

Performing Programs Head

Laurel Kishi

Sr. Project Specialist

Ralph Flores

Sr. Education Specialist

Shelby Brown

Sr. Public Programs Coordinator

Anna Woo

Audiovisual Specialists

Heather Alvear, Chris Jeong,
Marvin Jones

Getty Villa Events

Heather Leisy, Lars Francisco, &
Aaron Lee Harvey