

FRIENDS OF THE ANU CLASSICS MUSEUM

# THE RETURN OF ODYSSEUS: A DRAMATIC READING

FRIENDS OF THE ANU CLASSICS MUSEUM invite you and your guests to our final event of 2006 - THE RETURN OF ODYSSEUS: A DRAMATIC READING - followed by a Buffet Dinner.

**THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2006**

**6:30PM**

**THE COMMON ROOM - UNIVERSITY HOUSE  
18 BALMAIN CRES, ACTON**

Odysseus returns to his homeland after twenty years: after ten years at Troy and a further ten years of wandering, he has made his way back to his home on the island of Ithaca. He has escaped strong winds and storms at sea; he has survived some tricky encounters with monsters. And he has escaped excesses of hospitality, offered first by Circe and later by Calypso – each of whom had wanted him to stay on with her forever. All that is now past. Thanks to the intervention of bright-eyed Athene, Odysseus' patron goddess, the hero's homeward path has come to its end. He is at home – but he does not know it. When Odysseus is put ashore on Ithaca, the story of his homecoming is not over: it has, as it were, just begun.

How does Odysseus make himself known to his son, to his wife, and to the suitors who have been courting her in his absence? This dramatic reading of the *Odyssey*, in English and in Ancient Greek, takes the story from this point in the tale.

The readers are:

- **John Derum** – well known for his television appearances, including "The Aunty Jack Show" and theatre in Canberra. He has specialised in performing and reading Australian writing, especially that of C.J. Dennis (*The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* and *More Than a Sentimental Bloke*). In 1990 he was awarded a Literary fellowship at the Australian Defence Academy.
- **Avery Andrews** – Senior Lecturer in Linguistics at ANU. He studied Greek and various other languages in secondary school, and acquired the hobby of memorizing and reciting long poems. He has found a reasonable technique for performing 'the pitch accents', a distinctive feature of Ancient Greek pronunciation that is absent from English and the familiar European languages. It is a technique that can to some extent be justified by linguistics and philology. Avery will read a number of passages from the *Odyssey* in Homer's Greek.



- **Elizabeth Minchin** – Reader in Classics at ANU. Her research field is the Homeric epics. Her book *Homer and the Resources of Memory* considers the contributions which memory makes to the composition and performance of oral song. A second book, *Homeric Voices*, is in press.

PTO for event details.

## THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2006

THE RETURN OF ODYSSEUS: A DRAMATIC READING  
BUFFET DINNER

6:30PM - THE COMMON ROOM - UNIVERSITY HOUSE  
18 BALMAIN CRES, ACTON

**\$35 per person (Friends)**

**\$40 per person (Guests)**

The Buffet Dinner includes wine and juice.  
Tables of eight.

Bookings required by **19 November 2006**.

Please fill in tear-off slip below and send, with cheques payable to J. Greenwell to:

Jill Greenwell  
22 Darambal Street  
Aranda ACT 2614

If you would like a receipt prior to the event, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

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I, .....

(please print name)

enclose a cheque for \$.....

for a total of .....people

Contact Phone number.....

The Committee of the Friends of the ANU Classics Museum would like to thank all Friends for their continuing support in helping us maintain the museum as a free community and teaching facility.



### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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