

Curse of the Cyclops - Episode IV

30 minute play in one act

By Joe Gallagher



Characters

The Gods of Olympus

Zeus	<i>Chairman of the Olympian Board</i>
Dionysus	<i>God of Wine</i>
Hera	<i>Goddess of Divine Justice and Wife of Zeus</i>
Athene	<i>Goddess of Wisdom</i>
Aphrodite	<i>Goddess of Love</i>
Poseidon	<i>God of the Sea</i>
Hermes	<i>The Messenger God</i>

Sundry Gods, Muses and Graces

The Mortals

Odysseus	<i>Hero of Ancient Greece</i>
The Bos'un	<i>A taskmaster</i>
Alphos	
Betos	
Gammos	<i>Members of Odysseus's crew</i>
Deltos	
Pukos, Mukos, Pinkos and Perkos	
Other members of Odysseus's crew	

Intro *Chill FX. Enter Hermes as narrator*

Hermes Salutations mortals. I am Hermes, messenger of the Gods.
Better known to you as the Interflora logo.

Our story takes us to the sun-drenched shores of Ancient Greece, where the shimmering blue waters of the Mediterranean caress the rugged coastline under a cloudless sky. But this is not the world of the holiday brochure.

This is a world of myths and heroes - a world of fanciful creatures and hideous monsters, where mortals dwell under the whimsical gaze of the Gods who control them all.

Scene 1 Olympus

Enter the Gods

Zeus Anything happening down there?

Aphrodite No. Not much.

Poseidon Just the Trojans knocking ten shades out of the Greeks.

Zeus The Greeks will win. Easy.

Aphrodite How do you know?

Athene Can't you guess?

Hera He made the fates an offer.

Aphrodite Like – one they couldn't refuse? (*Athene nods*). Right.

Hera You disgust me sometimes. Do you know that Zeus?

Zeus The Greek's would have won anyway!

Poseidon Uh! Reality check!

Zeus Easy!

Athene Listen to the pair of you. Can we not just leave it for one day?

Hera Yes. Ten years it's been going on now.

Hermes (*as narrator*) And so it had. A brutal war between Greeks and Trojans. It all began when Paris, a Trojan prince was given a golden apple by Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love, having declared her the winner of a divine beauty contest.

Scene 2 Mount Ida

Judgement of Paris flashback. SFX TV game show

- Hermes** Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to Mount Ida.
I'm Hermes, Messenger of the Gods and your host for this special event –
The Judgement of Paris.
Yes , the gallant Trojan Prince will decide tonight who is the most beautiful of
all the Goddesses on Olympus.
Ladies and Gentlemen please welcome – Paris!
- So Paris, who's your hot favourite?
- Paris** They're all lookers right enough.
- Hermes** All lookers right enough! So what qualities are you looking for in a Goddess?
- Paris** I don't know. Personality goes a long way.
- Hermes** Personality! Looks like we've got a bit of a smoothie!
I think it's time to bring in our first contestant.
Ladies and Gentlemen will you please welcome -
Hera – Goddess of Divine Justice.
Hera. Is there anything you'd like to say to get Paris's vote?
- Hera** Well. He'll be King one day so if I give him the power to rule with justice he'll
be remembered forever.
- Hermes** And if he votes against you?
- Hera** I'll make sure he goes down as one of history's no-hopers.
- Hermes** Harsh stuff from Hera. Let's have our next contestant.
Ladies and Gentlemen please welcome –
Athene – Goddess of Wisdom.
Hello Athene. What would you like to say to Paris.
- Athene** Vote for me Paris. You know it makes sense.
- Hermes** Wise words from Athene. Now, Ladies and gentlemen please welcome
Aphrodite – Goddess of Love. Hello Aphrodite.
How are you going to get Paris's vote?
He already has Justice and Wisdom on offer.
- Aphrodite** I have a Golden Apple.
- Hermes** A Golden Apple? Why is that so special?
(Aphrodite whispers in Hermes ear). Does Paris know that?
(Aphrodite nods. Paris grins). Thank you Aphrodite.
So Paris. Who's it going to be? It's time to decide...

...Scene 7 Below deck

Hermes appears to Odysseus

Hermes Looks like you're on your final warning Odysseus.

Odysseus Zeus will protect me. Poseidon would never dare to challenge the course of Destiny.

Hermes Odysseus mate. You're still no closer to home. And your missus is getting chatted up by all manner of undesirables back in Ithaca.

Odysseus My wife Penelope will never betray me.

Hermes And what about your crew?

Odysseus They are a fine body of men. They are with me all the way!

Hermes Is that right? They weren't too chuffed when you tanned the last of the Tunnocks.

Odysseus That was a misunderstanding.

Hermes And they're less than delighted with the rowing shifts.

Odysseus It's not my fault the winds have failed us.

Hermes Odysseus. The winds are Poseidon's best pals. They'll not be doing you any favours in a hurry.

Odysseus Hadn't thought of that.

Hermes Take something special to get back in their good books.

Odysseus I know! I'll sacrifice some olives. Bad idea?

Hermes I would try and think of something else. Got to go. *(Hermes exits)*

Odysseus I'll do my best.

Scene 8 On deck

FX Nautical. Crew enter in background

Bo'sun We're down to three handfuls of grain, two dozen fusty olives and a bag of Doritos...

...Scene 9

The crew enter the cave of the Cyclops and discover a huge stash of cheese. A feeding frenzy ensues. Alphos relates the story to Hermes as the scene is simultaneously played out.

- Hermes** So what happened next?
- Alphos** Well, just when we were tucking into the cheese. The Cyclops came home. And he blocked up the entrance with a massive rock.
- Polyphemus** (*off*) I can smell human beings. Show yourselves!
- Odysseus** Have no fear Mighty One!
- Deltos** Aye. Calm your jets Big Man.
- Odysseus** We are simple sea-faring folk, blown off-course and seeking shelter. Tell us your name, so that we can pay tribute to your hospitality.
- Polyphemus** They call me Polyphemus.
- Odysseus** We are honoured Polyphemus, to share of your fine cheese. In return, we have some lovely olives that you might like...
- Polyphemus** Stuff your olives! I have plenty.
- Odysseus** Then perhaps I can tempt you with...
- Polyphemus** You are a fool if you think you can bargain with the Cyclopes.
- Alphos** (*to Hermes*)...and then the Cyclops reached out, grabbed Pukos and Mukos and gobbled them up in a oner. It was horrible.
- Hermes** You must have been devastated.
- Alphos** It was a pure nightmare. Then, next morning, he had Pinkos and Perkos for his breakfast! ...

Full script and workshop support or CPD available by arrangement.