

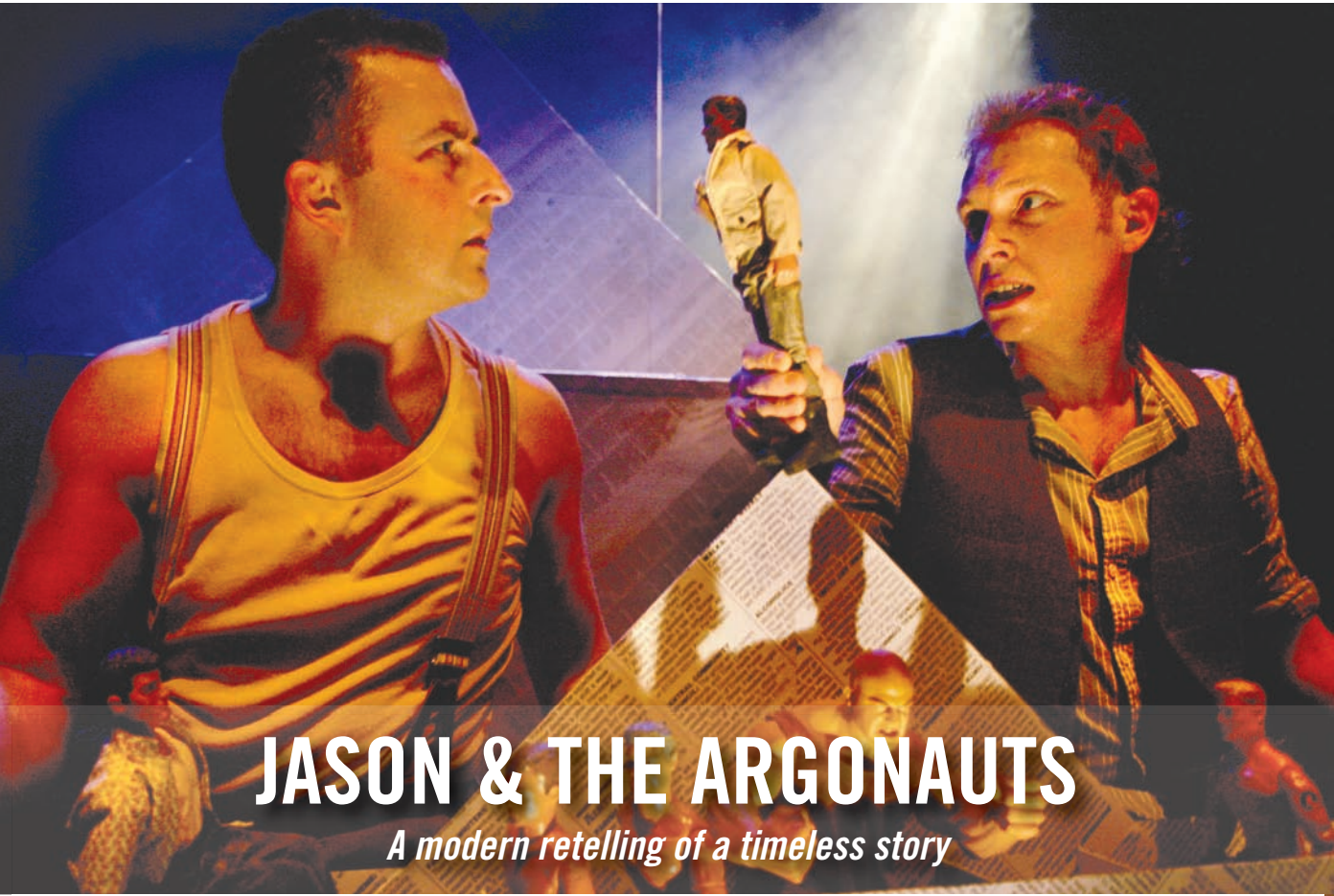
# *Jason & The Argonauts*



## Activity Guide



PlayhouseSquare



# JASON & THE ARGONAUTS

*A modern retelling of a timeless story*

By Robert Forrest

Directed by Douglas Irvine • Produced by Visible Fictions

Westfield Insurance Studio Theatre  
Idea Center at PlayhouseSquare

School Shows: October 14-17  
Public Performances: October 18

**JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS** is a classic story from ancient Greek mythology. A myth tells a story that is not necessarily true but often teaches a lesson.

This is a story of a young man's quest to reclaim his father's throne. Along the way, he has many adventures making friends and solving problems. Two actors portray the many characters in this play with help from some 'action figures,' a cart, and a paper boat. Together, they journey to the other side of the world, pass through the clashing rocks to defeat the bronze birds, a sea monster, and a sleeping dragon to win the Golden Fleece, the girl and a kingdom. In order to fulfill his destiny, Jason learns how to depend not only on himself but on others as well.

Arts education and enrichment at PlayhouseSquare is made possible by the generous support of foundations, corporations and donors.

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# LYRE



*The Lyre is a U-shaped instrument with 3-10 strings used in ancient Greece. It is played by plucking the strings with your fingers while holding the Lyre on your lap.*

*Legend says that the Lyre was created by the ancient Greek god Hermes who found a tortoise shell and put strings on it. Hermes then gave the Lyre to the god Apollo who in turn gave it to Orpheus. Orpheus played his lyre when he sang to Hera.*

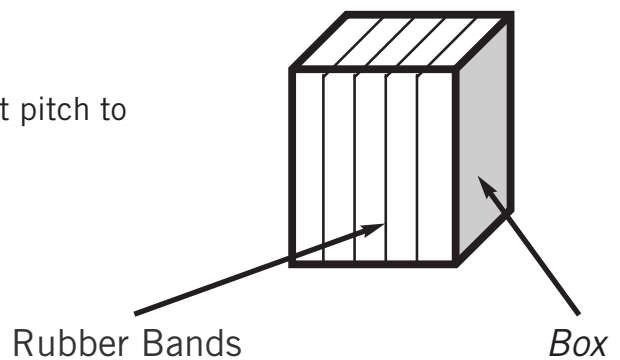
## **Make a box LYRE following the directions below.**

### **Supplies:**

1. Small box (can be a jewelry size box or small shoe box or just the covers of the boxes)
2. Small rubber bands of various sizes and thickness to go around box
3. Paint or construction paper to cover the box along with markers or crayons, if desired

### **Directions:**

1. Paint or cover box with construction paper to decorate it, if desired.
2. Put 3 or more rubber bands of various thickness and sizes around box, evenly spaced from each other.
3. Pluck rubber bands to hear sounds.
4. Adjust the rubber bands from lowest pitch to highest pitch.
5. Write a song.



# A-MAZING

Enter the maze to help Jason find the golden fleece.





# BEING A HERO!



"If you're not afraid of anything, you can't really be brave –  
you're just stupid.

And if you're not brave, you can't be a hero.

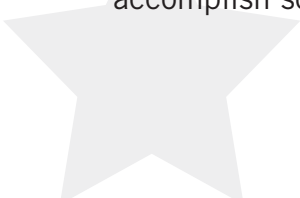
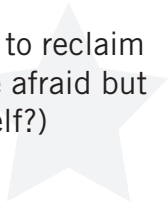
So, to be a hero you have to be afraid."

*-from Jason and the Argonauts*

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Here are a few times *Jason* was afraid but had to be brave. Write or draw about times when **YOU** were afraid but had to be brave.

1. Jason had to **leave home all alone** to reclaim his throne. (When were YOU were afraid but had to do something all by yourself?)
2. Jason **carries Hera** across the river of blood. (When did YOU help someone, even though it was hard?)
3. Jason's first time at sea; he **feared he was sailing to the end of the world**. (Were YOU ever lost but found your way?)
4. Jason, Medea and the Argonauts **work together** to find the Golden Fleece **in spite of many obstacles**. (When did YOU and a group of friends or family work together to accomplish something?)



# WHO IS WHO?

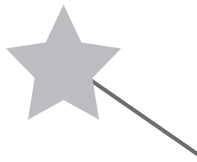
## MATCH THE CHARACTER NAME WITH THEIR DESCRIPTION

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. JASON_____    | A. Guards the Fleece                     |
| 2. AESON_____    | B. Sea Monster                           |
| 3. CHIRON_____   | C. Strongest Man in the World            |
| 4. PELIAS_____   | D. Jason's Father who appears in a dream |
| 5. HERA_____     | E. Great Musician & Poet                 |
| 6. HERCULES_____ | F. Jason carries her across the river    |
| 7. MOPSUS_____   | G. Jason's Stepfather                    |
| 8. ORPHEUS_____  | H. Good with a bow & arrow               |
| 9. HYLAS_____    | I. Witch Princess who helps Jason        |
| 10. MEDEA_____   | J. Medea's Father                        |
| 11. AEETES_____  | K. Studies birds and plants              |
| 12. CETO_____    | L. Jason's evil uncle                    |
| 13. PHINEAS_____ | M. Half woman, half bird creature        |
| 14. HARPY_____   | N. King tormented by the Harpies         |
| 15. DRAGON_____  | O. Captain of the Argo                   |



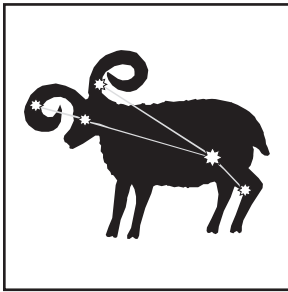
For answers, visit [playhousesquare.org/discovery](http://playhousesquare.org/discovery)

# CONSTELLATIONS



Constellations are groups of stars in the sky that can be seen from the Earth. These groups of stars often form shapes and have the names of people, animals or events from Greek mythology.

There are **3 constellations from JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS** that can be seen in the Cleveland night sky.



**ARIES, THE RAM** is the animal that provided the Golden Fleece. The story behind the Golden Fleece begins in Ancient Greece, where an evil woman was jealous of a King's children. This woman told the King that in order to save the country's corn crop and prevent the people from starving, the King's son had to be sacrificed. However, on the day of the sacrifice, a flying ram with golden wool appeared to rescue the boy and take him away.

The golden wool or "fleece" of the ram was placed in a grove and guarded by a dragon until Jason, Medea, and the Argonauts arrived to take it away.

The constellation **LYRA** is named for the harp-like musical instrument used by the Argonaut Orpheus. The constellation, LYRA, has a star called Vega, which is fifth brightest star in the whole sky. LYRA is best seen from late spring through early autumn, but is visible all year.

The constellation **HERCULES** (also called the *Strongman*) represents the Argonaut who was considered to be the strongest man in the world. While HERCULES is visible all year round, it is best seen from April through October.

Look at the night sky and see if you can spot these constellations. Using binoculars or a telescope can add to your enjoyment.

For a **night sky map** to locate the constellations, go to this website:

**<http://www.astroviewer.com/interactive-night-sky-map.php>**

Astroviewer allows you to SEARCH for constellations and enter your location so you know exactly what is seen in the sky at different times of the year!



# 2008-09 Discovery Theater Series



## **Jason and The Argonauts**

October

Westfield Insurance Studio Theatre



## **Letters Home**

November

Ohio Theatre



## **Brady Rymer and The Little Band That Could**

November

Allen Theatre



## **Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny**

January

Ohio Theatre



## **Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters**

February

Ohio Theatre



## **Step Afrika!**

March

Allen Theatre



## **Circus INcognitus**

March

Ohio Theatre



## **The Mayhem Poets**

May

Ohio Theatre

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