

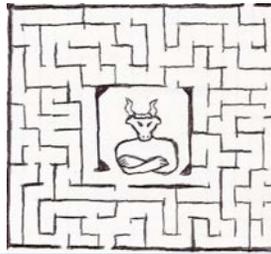
# The Living Labyrinth

## A-MAZ-ing Myths of Ancient Greece

Program Guide  
Barry Stewart Mann

### Program Description

*The Living Labyrinth: A-MAZ-ing Myths of Ancient Greece* is a program that brings together favorite stories about the classical gods and goddesses - with superhuman powers and powerful human failings - and the hapless humans they both protected and perplexed. Barry animates classic myths, such as "The Flight of Icarus," "Persephone in the Underworld," "Atalanta's Race," and "Narcissus and Echo," with masks, props, tableaux, humor, and plenty of audience participation. He presents these classic tales, which form part of the foundation of Western culture and literature, in an accessible, informative, and surprisingly contemporary manner that is sure to engage and illuminate.



### Artist Bio

Barry Stewart Mann is an actor, storyteller, writer and educator who has taught and performed around the country. He holds a B.A. in English from Harvard University and an M.F.A. in Drama from the University of San Diego. Barry is a member of the Alliance Theatre Acting Faculty, the Atlanta Partnership for Arts in Learning, the Southern Order of Storytellers, and the National Storytelling Network. He was chosen as the 1999 National Storyteller of the Year by Ohio's Creative Arts Institute, has told stories locally at such venues as the Carter Library, the High Museum, the Decatur Book Festival, and Emory University, and was a featured teller at the second *Festival Internacional de Cuentacuentos* (International Storytelling Festival) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

### Sample Standards

- ELACC3RL2: Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
- ELACC3RL3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- ELACC3SL2: Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually . . . and orally.
- TAES3.1 Analyzing and constructing meaning from theatrical experiences, dramatic literature, and electronic media
- TAES3.3 Acting by developing, communicating, and sustaining roles within a variety of situations and environments
- TAES3.11 Engaging actively and appropriately as an audience member in theatre or other media experiences

## Key Vocabulary

- Aegean Sea - the great sea of Ancient and Modern Greece
- Aphrodite – the goddess of beauty and love
- Boar - a wild, horned pig
- Echo - a sound that is repeated by bouncing off of a surface
- Demeter – the goddess of nature
- God/Goddess - an immortal, superhuman being in mythology or religion
- Hades – the god of death and the underworld
- Hera – the queen of the Greek gods
- Labyrinth -- an intricate pattern of corridors and passageways, like a maze
- Minotaur - a creature that is half bull and half human
- Mt. Olympus - the highest mountain in Greece, site of the gods' palace
- Myth - a story, often about gods or heroes, often explaining something in nature
- Narcissist - someone who only cares and thinks about himself or herself
- Nymph - a water or forest spirit, or a beautiful young woman; also, the term for a young dragonfly
- Pomegranate - a deep red, apple-sized fruit with sweet red seeds
- Tableau - a picture created by a group of people frozen in specific poses
- Zeus – the king of the Greek gods

## Objectives

- To gain an understanding of what myths are and the purpose they served in ancient cultures
- To become familiar with several important Greek myths
- To connect certain words and names with their origins in Greek mythology
- To observe and experience a variety of interactive storytelling techniques

## Assess the Learning

What is a myth? What makes a myth different from other types of folklore?

Who are some of the primary Greek gods and goddesses, and what are their characteristics?

What is a labyrinth? Why did Daedalus build the original Labyrinth?

Who was Icarus? How did he die?

Who was Persephone? What happened to her? How does her myth relate to the natural world?

Who was Narcissus? What was his character flaw? What is a narcissist?

Who was Echo? How did we get the word 'echo'?

Who was Atalanta? Why did she compete in a foot race? Did she win or lose, and how?

## Extend the Learning

- On a map of Greece, find places mentioned in *The Living Labyrinth*, including Mt. Olympus, Athens, Delphi (the site of an important oracle), the Aegean Sea, Knossos (near Herakleion on Crete), and Olympia, the site of the ancient Olympic Games.
- Pick a god or goddess, find out about him or her, and create a collage (with drawings and/or pictures from magazines) to represent him or her and how he or she would be a part of modern life (e.g., Aphrodite, the goddess of Beauty, might be represented by nail polish; Apollo, the god of Music and Poetry, by CD's)
- Draw a picture of a scene from one of the myths.
- Create your own myth to explain some natural phenomenon (as if you didn't know how it really occurred, but were using only what you know with your five senses).
- Make a list of brand names (e.g., Nike, Saturn), that derive from Greek (or Roman) culture and mythology. Look up their meanings.
- Explore echoes in and around the classroom or school. Find places where echoes are strongest, and try to determine why.
- Play Mirror or Reflection. In partners, have one person be Narcissus, and the other be his reflection. Go slowly -- aim for precision, not to trick one another. Then switch roles. Then try to share, allowing both partners to both initiate movement and reflect movement.
- Compare the myths in the program to fairy tales, modern stories, and contemporary film and television shows.

## Additional Resources

Ardagh, Philip. *African Myths and Legends. Celtic Myths and Legends. Norse Myths and Legends. North American Myths and Legends.*  
D'Aulaire, Ingri and Edgar. *D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths.*  
Low, Alice. *The Macmillan Book of Greek Gods and Heroes.*  
Osborne, Mary Pope. *Favorite Greek Myths.*  
Pickels, Dwayne E. *Roman Myths, Heroes, and Legends.*

### Online

[www.greekmythology.com](http://www.greekmythology.com) (a site devoted to the topic)  
[www.messagenet.com/myths](http://www.messagenet.com/myths) (a catalogue of the Greek gods and goddesses)  
[www.library.thinkquest.org/J0110010](http://www.library.thinkquest.org/J0110010) (a site with info, games, and more)  
[www.paleothea.com](http://www.paleothea.com) (a site devoted to goddesses, nymphs and other women of Greek mythology)  
[www.theoi.com](http://www.theoi.com) (a site devoted to the topic of Greek mythology)

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