

(Really) old war stories click

Vets moved by ancient Greeks

BY ELIZABETH LAZAROWITZ

THE WOUNDS of war are often more than skin deep.

Plays by the Greek dramatist Sophocles tackled that theme thousands of years ago, and Fort Greene-based director Bryan Doerries is using the theme to show modern soldiers that war's psychological toll is nothing new.

"When audience members see their experiences reflected in a 2,500-year-old story with amazing actors giving very emotional performances, something unlocks," said Doerries, 32. "They talk about issues they would never talk about otherwise."

The director and translator brought his Theater of War project, which is part-performance and part-town hall talk, to military personnel, veterans and their families at Brooklyn's Fort Hamilton last Friday.

It was one of Doerries' latest stops in a year-long tour of 100 military bases funded through a \$3.7 million Pentagon grant.

The group stages readings from two Sophocles plays, "Ajax" and "Philoctetes," that depict



Director Bryan Doerries (l.) and Phyllis Kaufman staged Sophocles at Fort Hamilton. Photo by Jeanne Noonan

mythological warriors consumed with anger, despair and shame in the wake of their battles. A panel discussion and an audience comment period follow.

Doerries enlists a changing group of acclaimed actors. The Brooklyn cast included Gloria Reuben from NBC's "ER"; Arliss Howard from the movie "Full Metal Jacket" and Michael Stuhlbarg from the film "A Serious Man."

Stigmas about getting help for

psychological problems remain a problem for combat veterans, said Wendy Katz, a VA NY Harbor Healthcare System psychologist specializing in aiding soldiers returning from war zones.

"It takes the courage to ask for help," said Katz, a panelist. "I think this will help plant a seed."

After two tours in Iraq, Maj. Jeff Hall, 39, said he related to the character of Ajax, an emotionally tortured Trojan War vet.

"It was almost like a biography of what I was going

through," said Hall, who lives with his wife, Sheri, 41, at Fort Riley in Kansas, and has been a frequent panel member.

"We see these guys who've had traumatic experiences, and then we stand up and we say, 'Look this has happened for years,' " said Hall, who struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder. "This has just happened to me, and I'm still standing here."

For more information, visit theater-of-war.com.

elazarowitz@nydailynews.com

Borough filmmakers are Kings at Manhattan movie fest

BY JAKE PEARSON

LIGHTS ... camera ... Brooklyn!

Borough filmmakers dominated this year's Manhattan Film Festival, supplying nine of the 58 films officially selected for the competition — the most from any single place.

"We've never received so many films from one area before," said Philip Nelson, 32, president of the four-year-old festival.

The nine were picked from 30 flicks submitted by Brooklyn moviemakers.

"There's so much diversity in all the films from Brooklyn," said Nelson. "That's what caught my eye."

The first round of the competition starts May 1, when the 10 feature-length and 48 short films will be shown online and before a panel of judges. Seventeen finalists will then be screened July 21-25 at the Symphony Space theater on Manhattan's upper West Side.

"Many Brooklynites themselves can't see how special a place it can be," said Carroll Gardens native Christopher Bazzoni, 34, who wrote and directed a 16-minute comedy about a wanna-be gangster from Bensonhurst called "Mickey Donallo."

"People who live here are so busy working they can't catch it the way a filmmaker can [and] that's why I wanted to capture the Brooklyn I grew up with ... the older, classic Italian Brooklyn neighborhood."

Like most of the Brooklyn movie-makers, Bazzoni — who works as a lighting director on TV sets — has a day job.

But some of them, like Park Slope native Jason Cusato, are professionals. His 87-minute feature-length picture, "Apostles of Park Slope," is the festival's headliner.

"My film is obviously about Brooklyn," said Cusato, 34. His flick features 12 neigh-

borhood friends who bond together after the death of one of their parents.

"My inspiration, stories and all of my dialogue come from my experience ... living in this neighborhood."

Though he grew up in Queens, Julio Palheiro, 28, moved to Bay Ridge three years ago and began working on his 20-minute drama "Prisoners."

"It's about a young Korean-American delivery guy who makes a delivery to the wrong house, and ends up being captured," said Palheiro, who hired Clint Eastwood's "Gran Torino" co-star Doua Moua to act in the short. "Brooklyn attracts a young, creative, energetic crowd," he said. "That's part of why I moved here — that and my girlfriend."

To learn more about the festival and see some of the films, visit manhattanfilmfestival.org/Index.htm.

More Local News

Plea to Paterson

A group of 17 elected officials sent a letter to Gov. Paterson last week, urging him to include Brooklyn and Queens in a request for federal disaster relief funding after last month's destructive nor'easter.

"The storm on March 13-15 led to unprecedented damage in neighborhoods from Manhattan Beach in Brooklyn to Far Rockaway in Queens," read the letter, which was initiated by Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Brooklyn, Queens).

The governor's request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency did not include the two boroughs, both of which experienced flooding, beach erosion and downed trees.

Leigh Remizowski

Plans for parks

Members of the Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn will meet today with residents of Greenpoint and Williamsburg and representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation to discuss park improvement plans for the area.

Local park lovers can share their ideas on park upgrades and vote on proposed projects. A portion of the meeting, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Polish National Home/Warsaw, 261 Driggs Ave., also will include updates from Parks.

The Open Space Alliance was formed through a formal partnership agreement with the department to allow community input in the management and maintenance of existing parks as well as the creation of new parks. Visit www.osanb.org.

Gayle DeWees

BROOKLYN NEWS OFFICES

News Desk (718) 875-4455

News Fax (718) 875-7795

E-mail your news and pictures to BrooklynNews@nydailynews.com

Sports Fax (212) 210-1678

E-mail your sports information to BoroSports@nydailynews.com

The name and logo of Brooklyn News is a trademark of Daily News, L.P., and may not be used or copied in any manner without the express prior written consent of Daily News, L.P. All submissions become the property of the Brooklyn News and may be used by Brooklyn News in any form or medium. Brooklyn News is not responsible for the return of unsolicited submissions.

© 2010 Daily News L.P.
The Brooklyn News is published by the Daily News L.P., 450 W. 33rd St., New York, N.Y. 10001.

Brooklyn News Offices:
P.O. Box 3314, New York, N.Y. 10116

Advertising (212) 210-2355
JoAnn DiNapoli - jdnapoli@nydailynews.com

Home Delivery (800) 692-NEWS

Tap Kids

April 25 at 2pm

All Tickets \$6

Recommended for ages six and up

BROOKLYN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE
2009-2010 SEASON

www.BrooklynCenterOnline.org
(718) 951-4500

Walt Whitman Theatre at Brooklyn College
2 train to Flatbush Avenue (on-site paid parking available)

Sponsored by:

KSI