

**Educational
Musicals**

*presents an
Anthony James
Musical*

Monster of the Maze

The Story of Theseus and the Minotaur

Script



With
CD

**Written by Anthony James
Music by Tim Spencer**

Monster of The Maze

The Legend of Theseus & The Minotaur

Fact Sheets.

The Legend.

Once upon a time a king called Minos ruled on the island of Crete from a splendid palace. Underneath the palace was a maze of passages and walls, and in its centre lived a terrible monster called the Minotaur. Minos was a very powerful king. His ships ruled the sea and sailed far and wide. King Minos had a son, a prince, who was very good at running and one day he sailed away to take part in the sports taking place in the city of Athens. No one knows what happened to the prince, but he was killed. When news reached Minos he was furious and blamed all Athenians. As a punishment he sent his warships to attack Athens. Aegeus, the king of Athens persuaded Minos to order the ships' return, on one condition. Every ninth year the Athenians must send him seven boys and seven girls to be fed alive to the Minotaur. Aegeus' son, Theseus, decided he would stop the awful sacrifice, so he set sail with his friends to kill the terrible creature. Theseus told his father that if he killed the Minotaur, he would change his ship's sail from black to white on his return to show he had killed the monster.

As soon as he landed on Crete, Minos had Theseus and his friends thrown into the maze. But unknown to Minos, his daughter had instantly fallen in love with Theseus, and she had given him a ball of string to unravel as he entered the maze. She also gave him a sword that she had hidden. As Theseus entered the labyrinth, he told his friends to stay close by the entrance. At the centre he met the terrible Minotaur, and after a fierce fight slew the monster. Theseus and his friends then escaped taking Minos' daughter, Ariadne, with them. On their return journey, a strong wind blew them towards an island. On landing, Theseus and his crew feasted and danced, celebrating their escape from Crete. In the morning they sailed away leaving Ariadne. Nobody knows why Theseus left her, but her dismay was short lived, as living on the island was the god of wine and merry making, Dionysos, who fell instantly in love with Ariadne. They were married that day and lived happily together on the island.

Theseus had forgotten about changing the sail on his ship when he returned home. On seeing his son's ship returning with a black sail, his father threw himself to his death, from a high rock. A sad Theseus was then crowned as king.

The Greek World.

At its height the Greek civilisation was a glorious culture. Its influence helped shape much of today's western civilisation. The Greeks created wonderful literature, plays and visual arts. They scaled the heights of philosophy, politics and sport. Greece itself was comprised of the mainland and several islands scattered throughout the Aegean and Adriatic Seas. Hot and dry with rain only in winter, much of the land was mountainous and difficult to cultivate. The Greek civilisation began with small, isolated communities who often fought one another for the scarce, fertile farming land. These small communities eventually became large city-states, with a strong individual identity and patron god.

The Gods.

The Greeks believed that their gods were very much like themselves. They loved and fought just as the ancient Greeks did every day, only the gods had great powers that they could use on humans and one another for good and for bad. Worshippers believed that if you wanted a god to be kind to you, they should be offered the best fruits of your harvest, or your finest animals as sacrifices. Zeus was the mighty king of the gods. Athena was the goddess of wisdom and warfare and the patron goddess of the city of Athens. Dionysos was the god of wine and the earth. Each god had their own special powers and skills.

The Minoan Civilisation.

Greek civilisation really started in an era known as the Minoan. Early inhabitants settled on the island of Crete in around 6000 B.C. It is this early Greek civilisation that gave us the legend of Theseus and the Minotaur. Crete itself was ruled by a powerful king called Minos, and the word Minoan comes from his name. The king's palace was called Knossos, and was destroyed by fire in around 1700 B.C. along with many others. They were rebuilt even more luxuriously and lasted until around 1500 B.C. This period was the height of the Minoan era. The bull was worshipped by the Minoans as a sacred animal. An early Greek myth tells how Zeus, the king of the gods, fell in love with a beautiful princess called Europa. Zeus turned himself into a white bull and swam to Crete with her on his back. They had three sons, one of whom was Minos who became the king.

The Mycenaean Civilisation.

A second great Greek civilisation flourished in the Bronze age. Mycenae was a great city dedicated to Agamemnon. Heavily fortified, Mycenae's king lived in a palace which was also a military headquarters. The Mycenaeans were great warriors and traders, sailing great distances. The civilisation reached the peak of its powers in around 1600 B.C. Many prosperous years passed before its fall in 1200 B.C., when its great cities were abandoned and destroyed.

There then followed a period known as the dark ages, when stories of both the Minoan and Mycenaean civilisations became legend. These legends were finally written down by a great poet called Homer in the eighth century. "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey" describe legends from the Mycenaean era.

Greece.

The dark ages ended in the eighth century and Greece expanded, as did its populations. Trading posts began to be established abroad and Greece entered an age of great prosperity and peace. The great city of Athens became its thriving centre. In 337 B.C. Alexander, a military genius, took over from his assassinated father. Not content with ruling Greece, he began a massive conquest expanding Greek culture across Persia, Egypt and Asia. A feared leader, he was soon known as Alexander the Great. He died of a fever in 323 B.C. and his vast empire was divided up among his quarrelling generals.

It wasn't until the third century B.C. that the Greek civilisation began to decline. Eventually its power was overshadowed by the rising Roman empire, but by then Greek culture had spread across much of the world.

GREEK FACTS.

The Great Palace.

English archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans discovered the remains of the biggest and most famous Minoan palace in 1894. The palace of Knossos on Crete was a huge building with hundreds of rooms. Evans reconstructed a section which still stands today.

The Trojan Horse.

The Trojan Horse comes from a story written in the Iliad. The great city of Troy was besieged by the armies of Agamemnon from Mycenae, but the city held out for years. Finally Agamemnon's forces withdrew, leaving a gift of a huge wooden horse for the Trojan soldiers. The horse was taken into the city and in the night Agamemnon's soldiers, who had hidden inside, opened the city's gates, allowing Agamemnon's forces into the city, soldiers who had secretly returned.

The Olympic Games.

Because many of Greece's city states were at war with one another, physical training was important for an efficient army. There were many local sporting competitions, but four were very important. One of these was the Olympic Games, held every four years in honour of Zeus, king of the gods.

The Games were so important that wars could be suspended so that people could travel safely to and from them.

The Games were held at Olympia and many beautiful temples and training areas have been excavated there. Winning athletes could become very famous. The games carried on into Roman times before coming to an end in the late fourth century. The Olympic Games as we know them, were started in 1896.

Greek Pottery.

Many wonderful examples of Greek pottery have been found over the years, especially in Athens, where the best Greek vases and vessels were made. Athens had a high quality clay that fired well to a beautiful, reddish brown colour. Large quantities were made by Athenian potters for export and home use. Various styles of decoration were used, including geometric designs, pictures of animals and depictions of Greek life and legends. Many of these works have proved a valuable insight into Greek life. Ancient ceramic and decorative techniques are still used in Greece today, to create copies of ancient vases.

Monster of the Maze deals with the middle part of the legend of Theseus and the Minotaur. The legend itself originates from the island of Crete and the Cretan civilisation, known as the Minoan, after King Minos himself.

Although from a very early part of Greek history the legend endured throughout Greek culture, becoming a much used narrative theme for works of art, sculpture and ceramic.

The legend is typical of early Greek culture, touching on recurrent themes such as heroes on legendary quests, conquests and wars, social order as personified by organised public games, and a strong belief in an Afterlife populated by gods and monsters who could be influenced and bargained with through the use of sacrifice. As with all legends it is an endless source of inspiration for works of art, ceramics and sculpture.

Monster of the Maze

The story of Theseus and the Minotaur

Characters.

Total Characters. 4 main parts, 14 Athenian children (7 boys & 7 girls), 8-10 Theseus' crew, 4 palace guards, 4 handmaidens, 4 skeletons. All numbers are flexible.

Prince Theseus -	The hero. Son of the King of Athens.
Princess Ariadne -	Daughter of King Minos.
King Minos -	Ruler of Crete and keeper of the Minotaur.
The Minotaur -	A monster, half man, half bull.
The Crew -	Theseus' crew.
The Children -	Seven boys and seven girls. Athenian children about to be sacrificed to the hungry Minotaur.
The Skeletons -	Spooky inhabitants of the labyrinth.
The Handmaidens -	Princess Ariadne's servants.
The Palace Guards -	King Minos' palace guard.

Monster of the Maze

The story of Theseus and the Minotaur

Prince Theseus sails from Athens with his crew to the island of Crete, to rescue fourteen children who are being sacrificed to a terrible monster by King Minos.

The king believes his own son to have been killed in Athens, and in the dark labyrinth beneath his splendid palace he keeps the mighty Minotaur, a creature half man, half bull.

On arrival, Theseus and his crew are captured and thrown, unarmed, into the lair of the Monster. Theseus has only one chance to save himself, his crew and the innocent children of his homeland, with the help and love of King Minos' daughter, Ariadne.

Will Ariadne help Theseus, and will the prince be able to rescue the children of Athens from the fangs of the monstrous Minotaur?

Monster of the Maze is a lively retelling of the famous Greek legend of Theseus and the Minotaur, based accurately on the legend and created specifically for children.

Monster of the Maze

The story of Theseus and the Minotaur

Song List.

- 1. Sailing to Save the Children** - *Theseus & the crew.*
- 2. Maybe it's Time** - *Princess Ariadne & handmaidens.*
- 3. Oh No! Love at First Sight** - *The crew.*
- 4. It's Good To Have a Plan** - *Theseus & the palace guards.*
- 5. It's Good To Have a Pet** - *King Minos.*
- 6. Girl Power B.C.** - *Ariadne & handmaidens.*
- 7. Heroes** - *The crew.*
- 8. Who's Afraid of the Dark?** - *Theseus & the skeletons.*
- 9. Dinner Time** - *The Minotaur & the skeletons.*
- 10. A Legend Begins** - *All.*
- 11. We've Saved the Children** - *All.*

Monster of the Maze

The story of Theseus and the Minotaur

Performance Notes.

This show has been formulated so that no one character has more than five consecutive lines, apart from the narrators who are expected to read their lines.

Theseus and his crew have their swords removed during Song 4. These must be at hand to be returned by the handmaidens just after Song 6.

On Song 7 Theseus enters the maze carrying the ball of string. It is at the director's discretion as to how Theseus is choreographed with this prop. However, it is suggested that Theseus' movements should be limited until he can drop the ball of string on Song 8, to avoid entangling other young actors.

Monster of the Maze is a complete musical. Its structure enables individual interpretation by teachers and young performers.

The facts used from the Greek legend of Theseus and the Minotaur are as accurate as possible within the confines of a musical created for children. The writer has striven to be politically correct and inoffensive.

Have fun with and enjoy **Monster of the Maze**.

Anthony James

Monster of the Maze

The story of Theseus and the Minotaur

SCENE ONE - The Ship of Theseus & The Crew

Theseus enters, followed by the crew who enter carrying chairs. Theseus finally ends up at the front of the performance area. The crew sit on their chairs arranged in the shape of a ship at 45 degrees, with its bow towards the audience and Theseus. Two crewmembers unfurl a long piece of blue material which they hold at the rear of the performance space. This is the sea and can be gently moved up and down. On a signal from the last crewmember at the back of the ship, the crew pretend to row. Theseus is at its head. One crewmember stands in the centre of the ship holding a pole on which is hung a black sail.

SONG 1: We're sailing to Save the Children – Theseus & The Crew.

All. We're sailing to save the children,
Across the waves across the sea.
We're sailing to keep the children,
We've had enough of all the years
So come with me.

We're fighting for their survival,
So we must sail to fight a king.
A king who has made us suffer,
But won't anymore, we'll settle the score,
We'll set them free.

Heave! Heave!
Row-2-3-4, Row-2-3-4, Row-2-3-4,
Heave!

We're sailing to save the children,
Too many years the tale has told.
We're sailing to keep the children,
We'll stand as one, and when we're done they will be free.
We'll stand as one, bright like the sun, so fight with me.

Two narrators enter from either side of the performance space carrying parchments from which they read. Behind the narrators, Theseus and the crew become static.

Narrator 1. Long, long ago will our story begin,
On an island called Crete, where there lived a rich king.
This king was called Minos and he had a son,
Handsome, good looking and generous to some.
A runner and sportsman who wanted to show,
He could win every race and beat every throw.
So one day he sailed off, across the blue sea,
To a place called Athens. The place then to be.

Narrator 2. Once there, he proved to be the best by far,
At running and throwing and becoming a star.
He won all the races and got all the girls.
Tall, dark, handsome, his hair all tight curls.
But some of his rivals got jealous and mean,
And the king's son, so successful and lean
Was murdered in Athens by men who were bad,
And the terrible news was soon told to his dad.

Narrator 1. He learned of the murder and sent out his fleet,
Filled with the finest warriors from Crete.
Sailing across the sea to Athens they went.
To start a war and his anger to vent.
The good King of Athens pleaded his case,
King Aegeus his name, and with fear on his face
He asked the king not to start a terrible fight.
And to think of another way to show them his might.

Narrator 2. So King Minos, whose good son was killed,
Made a deal with the king that had to be filled.
So from that day to this, every seven years or so,
Seven girls and boys would be forced to go.
Sent to his beautiful palace on Crete,
But they won't be cared for or have chocolate to eat.
They'll be thrown in a maze and left there to rot,
Deep under the palace in the darkness and grot.
And waiting to eat them with his terrible teeth,
A monster, half man and half bull does creep.
This monster, the Minotaur is the star of our show
Oh....and the son of the king who you already know.
The son of the King of Athens I mean,
And we join him at sea with his trustworthy team.

Both narrators exit. Theseus and the crew become active again.

Crew 1. Are we there yet?

Theseus. No, not yet. The island of Crete is still some way off.

Crew 2. How are we going to rescue our children from the Minotaur? It lives deep under the palace of King Minos.

Theseus. Well, it's the king who has thrown our children into the maze of the Minotaur, so I think we should let him throw us into the same place.

All the crewmembers gasp.

Crew 2. But if we are thrown into the maze then we shall be lost for sure.

Theseus. The maze is under the Palace of Knossos. We haven't enough men to storm a palace, but if we're caught, we can rescue the children and fight our way out.

Crew 1. Are we there yet?

Theseus & Crew 2. No!

Crew 3. Land ahoy captain! It is the island of Crete.

All the crewmembers cheer.

Theseus. Men, prepare yourselves and as soon as we are seen, surrender. I want us to be taken prisoners. Is that understood?

All crewmembers together. Yes captain.

Theseus. Are there any questions?

Crew 1. Yes sir.

Theseus. What is it?

Crew 1. Are we there yet?

Theseus. *(Shouting)* Yes!

Crew 1. Oh good, I really need to go!

The crewmember runs off the performance area desperately seeking a toilet. Theseus and the crew exit laughing, taking their chairs with them.