

The Ancient Olympics

The Legend of Callipateira

Characters.

Total Characters. 7 main parts, 2 other parts, 2 judges, 2 Olympic guards, 2 Greek men, the torch bearer, 7 villagers, 5 soldiers, assorted Greek gods, heroes, 10 Olympic crowd. *(Numbers are flexible).*

Main Parts:

Callipateira -	A Greek woman.
Peisirodus -	Callipateira's son.
Aurora -	Peisirodus' female friend, a great gymnast.
Costa -	Greek man from same village as Peisirodus.
Alexandria -	Callipateira's friend.
Miletos -	Great Greek wrestler.
Olympic Steward -	Olympic official.

Other Parts:

Pausanius -	Peisirodus' friend.
Senior judge	
2 other judges	
2 Olympic guards	
2 Greek men	
The torch bearer	
7 villagers	
5 soldiers	
Assorted Greek gods, heroes	
10 Olympic crowd	

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Only men were allowed to compete in the Ancient Olympics in Greece. Girls and unmarried women could attend, but not married women. However one married woman, Callipateira, wanted to go to the Olympic Games so she could help her son to become an Olympic champion. She put on a false beard and went to the games.

This is the story of Callipateira and her adventures at the Ancient Olympics. On the way we discover the traditions of the games, such as the Olympic Torch and the Olympic Truce. These traditions continue to this day and are the embodiment of the spirit of the modern Olympic movement.

The Ancient Olympics is a fictional story based around Pausanias' original story of Callipateira, in his book "Pausanias: Description of Greece" written around 150 AD and translated by W.H.Jones of Harvard University in 1918, which gives the explanation of the origins of both the Olympic Torch and the Olympic Truce.

Created specifically for children this lively look at the legends and life of Ancient Greece is accompanied by a unforgettable score of momentous songs you will find it hard to forget and the children will start singing as they walk around the school.

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Song List.

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Ancient Greece - | <i>The villagers, Alexandria, Callipateira, Peisirodus & Pausanius.</i> |
| 2. The Olympic Truce - | <i>Alexandria, Callipateira, messenger & soldiers.</i> |
| 3. It's Not Fair - | <i>Peisirodus & Aurora.</i> |
| 4. I Can be a Man - | <i>Callipateira, Peisirodus, Alexandria & Aurora.</i> |
| 5. The Olympic Torch - | <i>Greek gods, heroes & torch bearer.</i> |
| 6. We're Going to Kill You! - | <i>Costa & Miletos.</i> |
| 7. He's a She (But I Won!) - | <i>The judges, Costa, Miletos, Peisirodus, Aurora Callipateira and the crowd.</i> |
| 8. What is To Happen To Me? - | <i>Callipateira, Aurora, Peisirodus & Olympic guards.</i> |
| 9. The Final - | <i>The crowd, judges, Aurora & Miletos.</i> |
| 10. Heinous Crime - | <i>Olympic steward & crowd.</i> |
| 11. A New Law - | <i>Olympic steward & judges.</i> |
| 12. You're a Superstar - | <i>All.</i> |

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SCENE ONE – An Ancient Greek Village

The scenery flats represent a Greek village. Hercules and Athena enter carrying scrolls. They read from them over the instrumental start of the song.

Hercules. Welcome one and all to Greece,
An ancient world that's now deceased.
Two thousand five hundred years ago,
We the Greeks, we ran the show.

Athena. Every four years an event took place,
Which challenged men, and made them face
Their strengths and weaknesses against all odds,
As they paid homage to the gods.

SONG 1: Ancient Greece - The villagers, Alexandria, Callipateira, Peisirodus & Pausanius.

Alexandria and Callipateira enter the performance area. Greek villagers, Peisirodus and Pausanius also enter, during the introductory dialogue. Some are carrying grapes, clothes and other goods to be sold. During the song, the villagers sing and dance and some sell their goods to other villagers. Peisirodus and Pausanius pretend to play, fight and wrestle.

Many years ago in a far off land,
Lived a people who worshipped the gods.
Lived and died by them, were defied by them,
But they still dreamt of beating the odds.

Though much warring and chaos were there.
They still lived lives of joy and of flair.
During summer they hadn't a care,
Many years ago, oh so long ago, back in Greece they

Lived a simple life, but a joyful life,
Even though there was heartbreak and fear.
Though the men they fought, all the women thought,
Maybe one day that peace would be here.

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So they danced and made light of it all,
And they sung they were having a ball.
Though they knew that one day they might fall,
Many years ago, oh so long ago, back in Greece they

Sold their fruit and cloth, even made some loss,
Just to live in the hope of the peace.
When four years came round, they could all be found,
At the Olympics of Ancient Greece.

At the end of the song, they all exit with the exception of Alexandria and Callipateira, who stay and move to the centre of the performance area. Callipateira looks very sad.

Alexandria. Callipateira, you are usually full of life. I haven't seen you this sad since.....

Callipateira. (*Interrupting*) Since my husband died in the war.

Alexandria. Yeah. What's wrong?

Callipateira. A messenger came to the village this morning. He told us that they have declared a truce. The war is over.

Alexandria. That's a good thing, isn't it?

Callipateira. No it's not. My husband died so that we could defeat the Spartans, not to sign truces with them.

Alexandria. Well now everyone will be able to go back to their normal lives.

Callipateira. Hardly, the truce only lasts for a month while the Olympic Games are on.

Alexandria. Ah. So it's an (*slowly*) Olympic Truce.

Callipateira. Exactly. Now can you see why I'm so upset?

Alexandria. Er. No.

Callipateira. My husband was an Olympic hero. Now he's dead, he can't compete anymore.

Alexandria. Because he's dead!

Callipateira. Exactly.

SONG 2: The Olympic Truce – Callipateira, Alexandria, Messenger & Soldiers.

During the song the two stand at the front of the performance area, Callipateira on the right and Alexandria on the left.

Several soldiers enter and move to the rear right of the performance area as seen from the audience. They are preparing for battle by cleaning their weapons, etc. A messenger enters from left of the performance area and hands a scroll to one of the soldiers. He reads the scroll and hands it back to the messenger. The soldiers take all their armour and weapons and exit the performance area, cheering and joining in with the chorus.

Messenger.

Though the war you fight seems endless,
I must call a peace for a time.
The Olympic Truce now binds us,
To lay down the weapons for a while.

For the Truce will hold the power.
And sport is all you'll need.
The Truce gives me the power,
To set you free.

All.

Though the times are filled with hatred,
We can all relax and breathe,
And concentrate our actions,
On the hope we all believe.

For the Truce will stop the fighting,
The flame will burn so bright.
The Truce gives us the power,
Not to fight.

The Truce will stop the fighting,
The flame will burn for all.
The Truce gives all the power,
Of the soul,
Of the soul.

The messenger exits.

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Alexandria. I have an idea. You can honour your husband's name in the Olympics.

Callipateira. How am I supposed to do that? Women aren't allowed at the Olympics.

Alexandria. Your son, Peisirodus, he is a good wrestler. Take him to the games. He could win.

Callipateira. He could win, but only if no one else turns up.

Alexandria. He hasn't got a trainer. You are a great trainer. With you helping him, he may have a chance. Anyway the Olympics are about taking part, not the winning.

Callipateira. *(Contemptuously)* Yeah right! *(Thinking)* No maybe. Hold on! Maybe he could win, yeah, maybe he could win *(Suddenly becoming filled with hope)* Maybe he could win. Let's go and find him.

Alexandria and Callipateira exit. They leave to the right of the performance area. Peisirodus and Costa enter along with three Greek men.

Costa. I am the greatest wrestler in the whole of Corinth.

Peisirodus. No way. I am. My dad was Olympic champion.

All the others start yawning, suggesting that they have heard it all before.

Greek man 1. *(Mimicking Peisirodus)* My father was Olympic champion you know.

Costa. Peisirodus, just because your dad won the Olympics doesn't make you a great fighter.

Greek man 2. None of us will ever make the Olympics. Why don't you concentrate on something else? Leave the sport to the sportsmen.

Greek man 1. Yeah, anyway, you can't get to the Olympics without a trainer.

The two Greek men and Costa leave the performance area. Peisirodus sits on the floor cross-legged. He is very upset.

Peisirodus. *(To the audience)* I only want to honour my father's name.