

Xanadu Jr.

March 13-22, 2020

**Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 pm
Sundays at 3:00 pm**



**2nd Street Stage
Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center
120 South 2nd Street**

**Book by Douglas Carter Beane
Music and Lyrics by Jeff Lynne and John Farrar**

**Inspired by the Universal Pictures film and the Tony award-nominated Broadway musical
“Xanadu”**

About the Musical

In 1980, a Greek Goddess disguises herself as a mortal named Kira and descends to Earth from Mount Olympus. She is determined to inspire Sonny, a struggling artist living in Venice Beach, California. With Kira’s help, Sonny decides to organize the first ever roller disco. While planning the disco, Sonny and Kira fall in love—but love between a mortal and a goddess is forbidden by Zeus. When Kira’s jealous sisters conspire to disrupt the roller disco, she is forced to choose between life as a mortal with Sonny or eternity as a goddess on Mount Olympus.

About the Thalian Association



Thalian Association Community Theatre is a non-profit, membership organization that’s dedicated to enhancing the rich artistic environment of the Cape Fear region. Tracing its roots back to 1788, the Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded to provide arts education and bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North

Carolina. Today the Thalian Association Community Theatre produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall, offers a Youth Theatre program and professionally manages the [Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center](#) for the City of Wilmington. In 2007, the North Carolina legislature named the Thalian Association Community Theatre the Official Community Theater of North Carolina.

Lesson Plan

This lesson will explore the powers and personalities of the ancient Greek gods, goddesses and magical beings present in “Xanadu Jr.”



Objectives

Students will:

- Learn about the gods, goddesses, and locations in Ancient Greek mythology that are featured in “Xanadu Jr”.
- Discuss the personality and abilities of the ancient Greek characters.
- Imagine their own mythological Greek god, goddess, creature, or location.

Lesson Directions

Step 1: Read the information below about the Greek gods and goddesses.

Mythology of Ancient Greece

- The ancient Greeks believed there were many gods and goddesses who ruled over mortals. Zeus was the king of the gods, but even he did not have control of Fate.
- The gods and goddesses lived on the top of Mount Olympus, which is one of the highest mountains in Europe.
- The world of the ancient Greek Gods was full of challenges, jealousy, fights, punishment, betrayal and love.
- Many ancient Greek myths are based on the idea that gods, like mortal men, could be punished or rewarded for their actions. They could fall in love; they could get angry; and they could get even!



Zeus

Step 2: Read the information below about the characters and locations in “Xanadu Jr.”

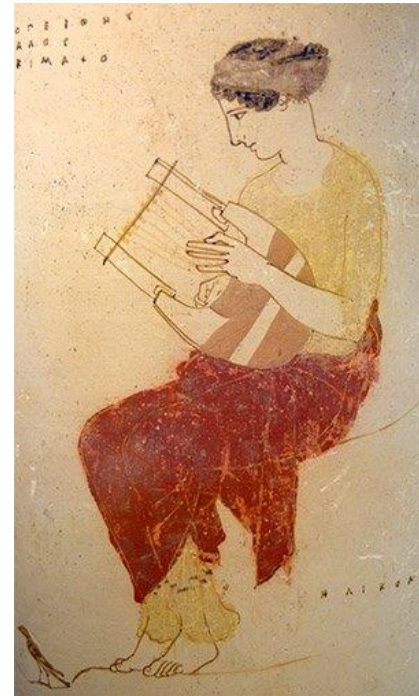
The ancient Greeks believed in many gods, goddesses and other magical creatures. Here are some of the mythological characters and places featured in “Xanadu Jr.”

Zeus

- Zeus is king of Mount Olympus, the home of Greek gods, where he rules the world and imposes his will onto gods and mortals alike.
- Zeus was the first of the Gods and a very imposing figure. Often referred to as the “Father of Gods and men”, he is a sky god who controls lightning and thunder. He uses lightning as a weapon.
- Zeus was a carefree god who loved to laugh out loud. He was regarded as wise, fair, just, and merciful, but also unpredictable – nobody was able to guess the decisions he would make. He was also easily angered and has hurled lightning bolts and caused violent storms that wreaked havoc on Earth.

Kira the Muse

- The Nine Muses of Greek mythology were deities that gave artists, philosophers and individuals the necessary inspiration for creation.
- All of the ancient writers appeal to the Muses at the beginning of their work. Homer asks the Muses both in the Iliad and Odyssey to help him tell the story in the most proper way, and still today the Muses are symbols of inspiration and artistic creation.
- In paintings, the Muses are usually presented as ethereal women with divine beauty.



One of the Nine Muses

Mount Olympus

- In Ancient Greek religion and mythology, Mount Olympus was the home of the Twelve Olympian gods of the ancient Greek world.
- Mount Olympus was thought of as a lofty mountaintop in the clouds, and the regions below were settled by Greek tribes.

Pegasus

- Pegasus was a winged horse in Greek mythology who was a friend of the Muses.
- Pegasus was given the task of carrying Zeus’ thunderbolts, along with other members of Zeus’ entourage.
- Pegasus was symbolic of wisdom and fame from the Middle Ages until the Renaissance, Pegasus became associated with poetry around the 19th century, as the source from which the poets gained their inspiration.



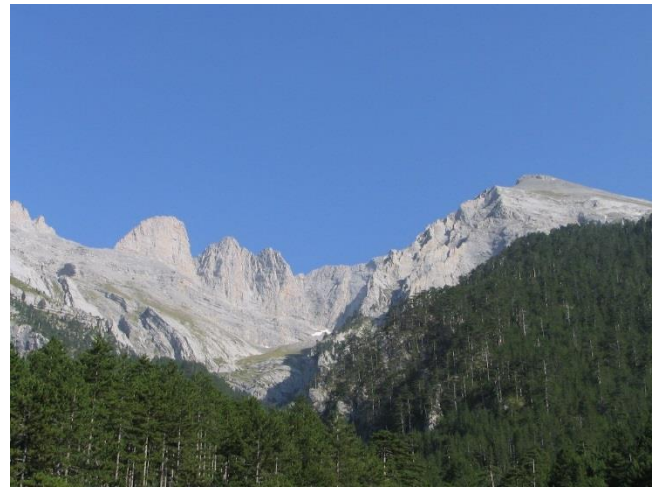
Pegasus

Step 3: As a class or in pairs, discuss the magical abilities, characteristics, personality, appearance, and other traits of the mythological Greek characters in “Xanadu Jr.”

- What do you think Kira the Muse looks like? What do you think Zeus looks like? What do you think Pegasus looks like?
- What magical abilities does Zeus have? What does he rule over? What does he use lightning bolts for?
- Who do the Muses inspire? What are the Muses symbols of?
- According to the ancient Greeks, who lived on Mount Olympus?
- What important thing did Zeus give Pegasus to carry?

Step 4: Create your own mythological god, goddess, location, or creature that would fit into the world of the Ancient Greeks.

- What would your god, goddess, or creature look like?
- Would they look like a human, an animal, or a mix of both?
- What magical abilities would they have?
- Where would they live?



Mount Olympus



Material Sources

<https://greece.mrdonn.org/greekgods/>, greekgodsandgoddesses.net, greekmyths-greekmythology.com, Wikipedia.org