

The Minotaur



by Anna Ziegler

Theatre Pro Rata
October 7-22, 2017
Performing at The Crane Theater

The play

The Minotaur is a contemporary retelling of the classic Greek tale, one which incorporates a modern chorus of a lawyer, a priest, and a rabbi to comment on the traditional story. In this version, Ariadne's connection with her half-brother, the Minotaur, provides new insights into family ties. The arrival of Theseus as both lover and murderer/hero takes the story into previously unexplored paths in the labyrinth.

The published version of the play includes the following two epigraphs:

Such people stand on their balconies at twilight and shout that the future can be changed, that thousands of futures are possible.

—Alan Lightman, *Einstein's Dreams*

We are not the owners of our instincts. But controlling them, that is civilization.

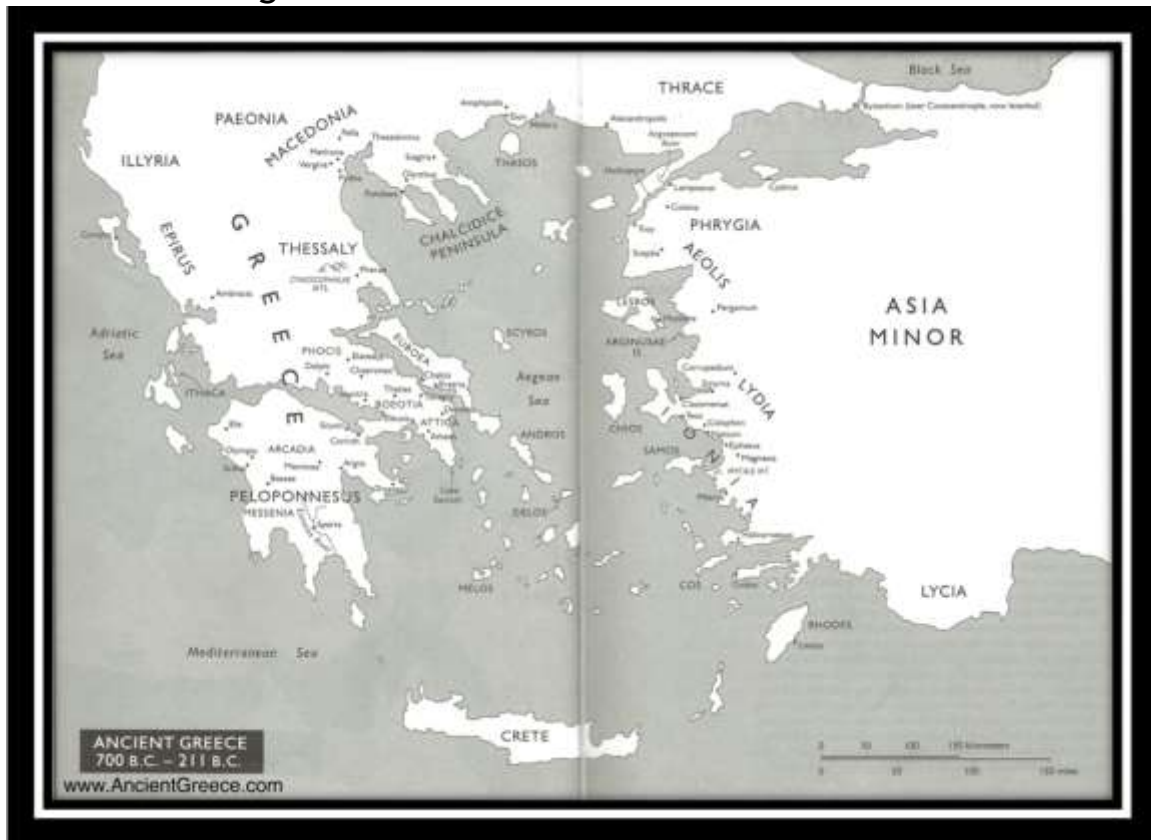
—Elie Wiesel

The playwright

Anna B. Ziegler was born in New York, completed an undergraduate degree in English at Yale, then an MA in poetry at the University of East Anglia in England. Upon returning to the U.S., she pursued her developing interest in playwriting with an MFA in dramatic writing at NYU/Tisch. She has written a series of award-winning dramas, including *Photograph 51*, *A Delicate Ship*, and *Boy*. Her plays have been widely produced in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

More info: <http://annabziegler.net>

The ancient Aegean



Resources

Websites

The classic story

<http://www.ancient.eu/Minotaur/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minotaur>

Cretan civilization

<http://www.historywiz.com/minoans-mm.htm>

Historical/cultural site with lots of illustrations

Books

Adult/YA

Bernard Evslin, *The Minotaur* (BL 820.M63 E97 1987)

Steven Sherill, *The Minotaur Takes a Cigarette Break* (fiction 2000)

The minotaur working in a rib joint in North Carolina in the late 20th century; intriguing and fun.

Steven Sherill, *The Minotaur Takes His Own Sweet Time* (fiction 2016)

David Elliott, *Bull* (2017 retelling in verse; very nicely done)

Mary Renault, *The King Must Die* (historical fiction 1958); and a post-Crete sequel, *The Bull from the Sea* (1962)

Children/YA

Robert Byrd, *The Hero and the Minotaur* (2005)

Ingri & Edgar D'Aulaire, *D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths* (1962)

Patrice Kindl, *Lost in the Labyrinth* (Teen fiction 2002); the story told from the perspective of Ariadne's younger sister Xenodice

Yvan Pommaux, *Theseus and the Minotaur* (Children's graphic 2014)

Miscellaneous

Corona Borealis: the constellation created by Dionysus in honor of Ariadne after her death (in one version of the story)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corona_Borealis