

PLAYS FOR  
**New Audiences**

A Division of Children's Theatre Company

***Jason and the  
Argonauts***

by Toby Hulse

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*This adaptation is written for a cast of seven, with suggested doubling as follows:*

<b>Actor One (M)</b>	Jason
<b>Actor Two (M)</b>	Orpheus, Chiron, Cyzicus
<b>Actor Three (M)</b>	Heracles, Phineus, Aeetes
<b>Actor Four (F)</b>	Zetes
<b>Actor Five (F)</b>	Atalanta, Hera
<b>Actor Six (F)</b>	Caeneus, Medea
<b>Actor Seven (M/F)</b>	Argus, Guard

*The **Ensemble** play Refugees, Talos, Amycus, Dryads, the people of the Doliones, Harpies, Sirens, fire-breathing Oxen and the Skeleton Army.*

NOT LICENSED FOR PRODUCTION

## JASON'S STORY

*A refugee camp at the border to lolcus.*

*A crush of refugees all trying to pass through the gates and enter the country.*

*Jason at security.*

**Guard** And you were born in lolcus?

**Jason** But brought up overseas.

*Beat.*

I am Jason, son of Aeson. My uncle is...

**Guard** Yes?

**Jason** King Pelias of lolcus. Your king.

**Guard** Really? You're the nephew of the king?

**Jason** Yes. Now let me through the border.

**Guard** And you've got the papers to prove that? Birth certificate? Identity card? Passport? Authorised letters of recommendation?

**Jason** You know that I have no papers.

**Guard** Then, 'Jason, son of Aeson', we aren't going to let you through, are we? We can't have just anybody turning up at our borders and demanding asylum, can we? We'd be opening our gates to a swarm of migrants.

*Beat.*

**Jason** I have a story.

**Guard** You've all got a story. Look around you – thousands of people, thousands of stories. Is yours different? Is it a true story? A sob story? Will it break my heart?

**Jason** I was told to tell it to you, and that you would understand. You have been waiting for me.

**Guard** Really?

**Jason** Yes, I am the Man with One Sandal.

*We are suddenly in the world of **Jason's** story.*

*[To us.]* I was born in Iolcus, but I was raised far away, on the rocky slopes of Mount Pelion. My guardian and teacher was the centaur Chiron, half man, half horse, a misfit in a world of misfits.

*We see, on the slopes of Mount Pelion, all those in training to be heroes.*

We were all children who did not know our parents. Chiron was training us to be something more than ordinary.

**Chiron** You will learn to fight with the skill and strength of Ares, to shoot an arrow as straight and as true as Artemis, to run and swim so far and fast that only Hermes can catch you. I will train you to rival the Olympians themselves. My children, when a world casts you out, you must become stronger than that world. You are the last of the old breed. You are the strongest men and women that Earth has bred, and you will be the strongest heroes against the strongest enemies.

**Jason** *[To us.]* The heroes on Mount Pelion were my family now, but I knew that these harsh rocky slopes were not my home. This was not my country. I needed to be where I belonged.

*[To **Chiron.**]* Where am I from?

**Chiron** You will learn when the time is right.

**Jason** *[To us.]* And then, on the morning of my eighteenth birthday, Chiron led me to the very top of Mount Pelion.

**Chiron** Look at the sea that glitters far below us. There's nothing but the sea. It connects us, and it keeps us apart. It is everywhere and nowhere. That sea is your dearest friend and your fiercest enemy. It will bring you the greatest joy and the deepest grief. It leads to life and to death also. That sea is your destiny. Now look further, beyond the sea. Do you see that column of smoke rising on the horizon?

**Jason** *[To us.]* The smoke was rising thick and black into the clear, blue sky. It was coming from a distant city in a faraway land. And there, on the beaches that led to the gates of the city, were hundreds of makeshift tents, and people, so many people.

**Chiron** That is the city of Iolcus. The smoke comes from the funeral pyre of the true king, Aeson.

**Jason** *[To Chiron.]* And the tents? And all those people?

**Chiron** Refugees, outcasts, those who seek a home in Iolcus, somewhere safe from the troubles of their own lands.

**Jason** Why are they living on the beach?

**Chiron** The city does not want them. The people are frightened of them.

**Jason** Why?

**Chiron** They are strange, different. People are scared of what they do not know and understand.

**Jason** Why are you showing me this?

**Chiron** That city is your home. Aeson was your father. You are now the true King of Iolcus.

**Jason** Why was I raised here?

**Chiron** Your uncle Pelias has ruled Iolcus in his brother's place for many years. At the moment of your birth, to keep you safe, the goddess Hera brought you to me, to raise you, to train you and, when the time was right, to reveal your destiny to you. Jason, you must return to Iolcus and reclaim the throne. Do this for your father, and for all those who are in need, cast out, different, far from a place that they can call home.

**Jason** *[To us.]* I left Mount Pelion that very day. It was not long before I came to a river. An old woman was waiting at the bank.

**Old Woman** Will you help me?

**Jason** *[To the Old Woman.]* Of course. I will carry you across.

**Old Woman** Thank you. It is your destiny to help those in need.

**Jason** What do you know of my destiny?

**Old Woman** None of us are who others imagine us to be.