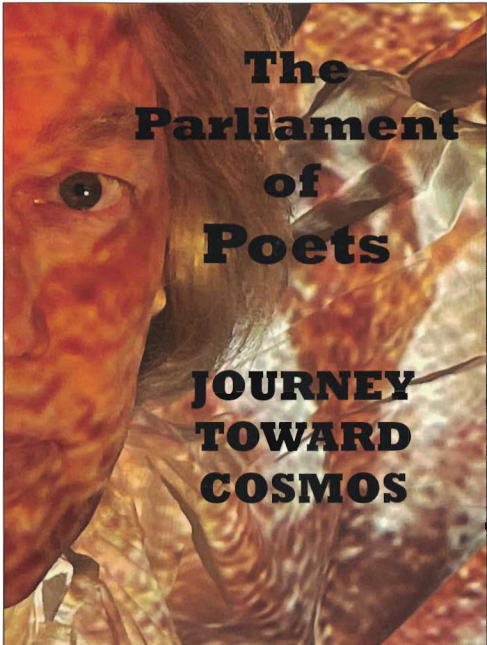


# STAGEBILL®

APOLLO'S TROUPE  
PRESENTS AT  
ACTORS TEMPLE THEATRE



## **The Parliament of Poets**

### **JOURNEY TOWARD COSMOS**

**PRODUCER  
APOLLO'S TROUPE**

**ACTOR'S TEMPLE THEATRE**  
339 W. 47th Street, NYC 10036

**PRESENT**

**THE PARLIAMENT OF POETS**

90-minute Solo Performance  
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED  
BY  
**FREDERICK GLAYSHER**

**GENERAL MANAGER  
ED GAYNES**

**PUBLICITY, DDPR  
DANIEL DEMELLO**

**DIRECTING**

**MICHIGAN MICHAEL CHEKHOV**

Stage Manager, Matthew Palmer

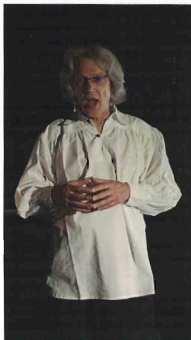
Assistant Stage Manager, Josh Iacovelli

**SHOW TIMES**

Thursdays, February 15, 22, 29, 7:00 pm  
Saturdays, February 17, 24; March 2, 3:00 pm

**TICKETS at the Door or Telecharge.com**

## SYNOPSIS



**FREDERICK GLAYSHER** blends the storytelling role of the ancient Greek rhapsode's performance of Homer with the modern style of dramatic reading in theatres by Charles Dickens and Edgar Allan Poe into a new experimental epic form for a contemporary audience. Glaysher will perform a 1,600-line theatre version of the 9,100 lines of his epic poem.

**If the old exclusivisms evolved into the exclusivism of the Enlightenment, from the moon, together, we can see universality...**

Thirty years in the making, *The Parliament of Poets: An Epic Poem* (ISBN: 9780982677889. 294 pages), by Frederick Glaysher, takes place partly on the moon, at the Apollo 11 landing site, the Sea of Tranquility, celebrating our common humanity uniting us all.

In a world of Quantum science, Apollo, the Greek god of poetry, calls all the poets of the nations, ancient and modern, East and West, to assemble on the moon to consult on the meaning of modern life. The Parliament of Poets sends the main character, the Poet of the Moon, on a Journey to the seven continents to learn from all of the spiritual and wisdom traditions of humankind. On Earth and on the moon, the poets teach a global, universal celebration of life.

One of the major themes is the power of women and the female spirit across cultures. Another is the nature of science and religion, including Quantum Physics, as well as the "two cultures," science and the humanities.

**In a fractured, divisive world, the poets of all the nations guide the way toward peace...**

"A poet now whose work and dedication to a demanding and difficult art I admire; a man who has the gift of inner grace."—**Robert Hayden**



"A great epic poem of startling originality and universal significance, in every way partaking of the nature of world literature. Glaysher is in a creative dialog with the greatest epic poets of all time. He is bringing together in beautiful verse form diverse visions of humanity from all over the world, frequently casting them in the form of spatial and cosmic imagery. A pure joy. A literary work of fine verbal art, it is contemporary world literature at its best."

—**Hans Ruprecht, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada**

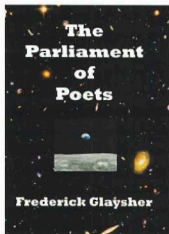
# PROGRAM

## The Parliament of Poets, By Frederick Glaysher

Approximately 90 Minutes.

No photos or video during performance.

Please turn OFF all digital devices.



**Book I Poets East and West, on the moon**

In the mid part of the moon, I stood...

**Book II Black Elk, Chief Seattle**

A great war cry went up...

**Book III The Faerie Queene**

And then something began to happen...

**Book IV Vyasa**

I cast a sideways glance at Tagore...

**Book VI Mogao Cave, on the Silk Road**

With the sun, we entered the cave...

**Book VI Du Fu**

So you are the traveler from the moon...

**Book VII Job, On the Moon**

Once I had drawn closer...

**Book VIII Dante, Chartres Cathedral**

And so I stood, enthralled by a granite metaphor...

**Book VIII William Blake, in London**

Milton shall take you...

**Book VIII Tolstoy, Yasnaya Polyana**

Far down the wooded path...

**Book IX Rumi**

Suddenly Rumi stopped and rested...

**Book IX Fathepur Sikri**

Attar and I, I holding firmly to his wrist...

**Book X Machu Picchu**

Pacha Mama, Mother Earth, O help us now...

**Book X Borges**

We must look up, elevate our view...

**Book XI In Africa, in the east of the DRC**

I am Sogolon, King Sundiata's mother...

**Book XII The Poet of the moon**

Back on the moon for the fourth time...

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## REVIEWS

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"Like a story around a campfire."

—**The Audience, Birmingham Unitarian Church**

"Certainly wowed the crowd with the performance and the words themselves."

—**Hudson Valley Writers Guild**

"A unique and moving experience." —**Michigan Michael Chekhov**

"A hopeful vision of peaceful coexistence as one united humanity. Delightful to hear the voices of great poets and thinkers of the past in dialogue with the narrator. The performance was thought-provoking, moving, and inspiring. Our world is desperately in need of this message of peace, love and humanity." —**Rev Eric Williams, St. Philip's Episcopal Church**

"Impressed, moved to laughter, tears. Held our attention for 90 minutes, stayed so energized, a feat in itself. A creative, powerful message with so many of the poet masters, phenomenal! Amazing life-time work!" —**Rev Leonetta Bugleisi, Unitarian Universalist**

"I am in awe of the brilliance of this book! Food for the soul, and answers to humanity's most pressing problems, right where they belong, in the epic poetry of all the teachers, magicians, prophets, shamans, and poets of all time. Everyone must read this book, especially if you enjoy literature, wisdom, and philosophy." —**Anodea Judith, Author, Novato, California**

"A remarkable poem by a uniquely inspired poet, taking us out of time into a new and unspoken consciousness..." —**Kevin McGrath, South Asian Studies, Harvard University**

"What Joseph Campbell described as the Hero's journey. Very Jungian is our hero. Beautiful book." —**The Examiner, Portland, Oregon**

"Don't be intimidated by an epic poem. It's really coming back to that image of the storyteller sitting around the campfires of the world, dipping into and weaving the story of humanity, in the most beautiful, mellifluous language. Thirty years were not wasted. If anybody listening has contacts to NASA..." —**New Consciousness Review Radio, Portland, Oregon**

"A uniquely powerful work." —**Spirituality Today**

"It only takes the first few paragraphs of this modern epic poem to feel the mental gush of ideas, fascinating juxtapositions, and unique symbolism for our time." —**The Jewish Post and News of Winnipeg, Canada**

"An attempt to merge the sciences and the humanities to reach a greater understanding of the human condition." —**Savage, London, UK**

"Mr. Glaysher has written an epic poem of major importance that is guaranteed to bring joy and an overwhelming sense of beauty and understanding to readers who will travel the space ways with this exquisite poet. While the poem reads like the classic poetry of Milton, it has the contemporary edge of genius modernity. I am truly awed by this poet's use of epic poetry that today's readers will connect with, enjoy and savor every word, every line and every section. Frederick Glaysher is a master poet who knows his craft from the inside out, and this is truly a major accomplishment and contribution to American Letters. Once you enter, you will not stop until the end. A landmark achievement." —**ML Liebler, Department of English, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan**

"Very readable and intriguingly enjoyable. Frederick Glaysher's hours of dedication have produced a masterpiece that will stand the test of time." —**Poetry Cornwall, No. 36, England, UK**  
"Glaysher is really an epic poet and this is an epic poem! Glaysher has written a masterpiece."  
—**The Society of Classical Poets**

## AUTHOR BIO

**FREDERICK GLAYSHER** is an epic poet, rhapsode, poet-critic, and the author or editor of ten books.

Glaysher studied at the University of Michigan with the American poet Robert Hayden and edited his collected prose and poetry. He holds two degrees from the University of Michigan, including a Master's in English, and is the Literary Executor of the Hayden Estate.

He lived for more than fifteen years outside Michigan in Japan, where he taught at Gunma University in Maebashi; in Arizona, on the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation, site of one of the largest internment camps for Japanese-Americans during WWII; in Illinois, on the central farmlands and on the Mississippi; ultimately returning to his suburban hometown of Rochester, Michigan.

A Fulbright-Hays scholar to China in 1994, he studied at Beijing University, the Buddhist Mogao Caves on the old Silk Road, and elsewhere in China, including Hong Kong and the Academia Sinica in Taiwan. While a National Endowment for the Humanities scholar in 1995 on India, he further explored the conflicts between the traditional regional civilizations of Islamic and Hindu cultures and modernity. An accredited Presenter at The 8th Parliament of the World's Religions 2021.

Mr. Glaysher spoke on Robert Hayden at the centennial celebrations held at the University of Michigan in 2013 and Wayne State University in 2014, reading at each his canto in which Hayden is a character. Both centennial essays are included in *The Myth of the Enlightenment: Essays*, which was written concurrently with his epic. He spoke on Hayden for Poetry Month 2017 at the Detroit Public Library, and lectured on Hayden at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Another essay on Hayden is in *The Grove of the Eumenides: Essays on Literature, Criticism, and Culture*.

### EarthrisePress.Net

Purchase **The Parliament of Poets: An Epic Poem** at the performance, BarnesAndNoble.com, Books-a-Million, Bookshop.org, Chapters Indigo, Kobo, iTunes, Blackwell's, Foyles, or with Square at EarthrisePress.Net, etc.



**We human beings** know how to cooperate and pull together when necessary. We've done it many times through the millennia, and we can do it again on the entire planet. The problems and the solutions are in our mind. Just a little fine-tuning might make all the difference. So, when I was in my mid-twenties, I thought perhaps a Journey to the Moon might help. And as a great world city and theatre capital, New York seems the perfect place to perform and chant my epic tale of all the great poets of the many civilizations on Earth coming together in peace and global community. If they can do it, so can we.

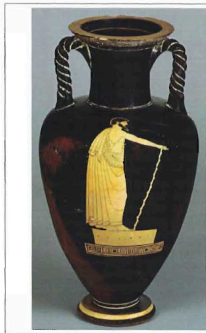
## BACKGROUND

In 1977, Glaysher took a theatre course in the Interpretative Reading of Poetry, learning that the Greek rhapsodes would travel throughout ancient Greece reciting Homer. Before long the idea of writing an epic poem became compelling and the dream that one day he might also revive the art of the rhapsode.

In *Plato's Ion*, Socrates speaks with a rhapsode who has just arrived in Athens. Ion has been performing in Epidaurus at the festival of Asclepius, and preparing to perform at the festival of the Panathenaia, the major seven day festival dedicated to Athena, patron goddess of wisdom and Athens. Ancient documents, amphorae, and modern scholarship attest that the rhapsodes, standing on a bema, performed Homer and other Greek epic poets in amphitheatres with audiences of up to 20,000 people, for more than 900 years, from at least about 600 B.C. or earlier to AD 300.

**Opening Hymn**, Theatre Passe Muraille, Toronto Fringe, July 10, 2023

YouTube. 2:16 minutes. <https://youtu.be/m5Tv-nS9lRY>



### Over sixty readings and performances

at the Michigan Theater Building, TheatreNOVA, Hathaway's Hideaway, Underground at Hilberry Theatre, Wayne State University, Shelton Theater, University of Michigan's Rackham Amphitheatre, Saginaw Valley State University, Detroit Public Library, Troy Public Library, Hannan Cafel?, Austin International Poetry Festival, Paint Creek Unitarian Universalist, Birmingham Unitarian, Grosse Pointe Unitarian, Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, Troy Interfaith, Theosophical Society of Detroit, Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, East Side Reading Series, MUSINGS, The Farmhouse, Barnes & Noble, BookWoman, Espresso Royale, Sweetwaters, Himalayan, Cafe International, Sacred Grounds Cafel?, Tuesdays at North Beach Branch Library, Cafel? Trieste, Florey's Books, West Park, Rochester Municipal Park Band Shell, Parliament of the World's Religions 2021, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Ringwald Theatre, Toronto Fringe Festival at Theatre Passe Muraille, Edinburgh Fringe Festival at artSpace@StMarks Unitarian Church, Actors Temple Theatre, etc.

**PRESS KIT** | Press Release, 7 Photos, Program for Solo Performance, Bio, Industry Theatre Marketplace, Touring, etc. [https://EarthrisePress.Net/press\\_kit.html](https://EarthrisePress.Net/press_kit.html)

**Into the Ruins of Modernity** (Seeking invitations also to perform. 90 minutes) weaves together much of Glaysher's lyric and narrative poetry from two books, *IntoThe Ruins* and *The Bower of Nil*. Dramatization, not a conventional poetry reading, a sweeping survey of the atrocities we human beings perpetrate on one another and the philosophical descent into modern nihilism that has made dehumanization and violence all the more possible. Over the long arch of global civilization, Glaysher affirms the struggle toward developing international institutions, like the United Nations, and a wider understanding of the depths of human consciousness. Evokes a reaffirmation of our deepest human capacities for cooperation and peace.



**Gazing from the moon  
we see one planet,  
without borders,  
Mother Earth,  
her embrace encircling  
one people,  
humankind.**