

# **Apollo's Troupe**

**A story of humanity  
coming together in  
universal peace**



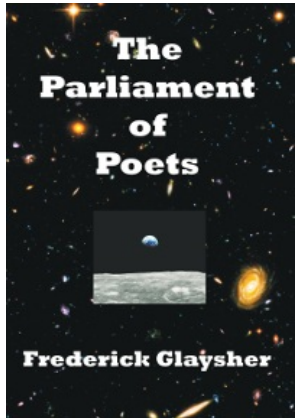
**Set partly at the Apollo 11  
landing site.**

**Celebrating the  
50th Anniversary of the  
moon landing:  
July 20, 2019**

**"Like a story around a campfire."  
—The Audience**

## Synopsis

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, a Journey toward healing the planet.

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 Persona, 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 new global,

universal vision 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.

**Purchase in Lobby at Intermission or After Show**

## The Cast & Crew

Don Quixote, Tolstoy, etc.

Jorge Luis Borges, Robert Hayden, Mbeku, etc.

Queen Sogolon, Mimbardda, Jane Austen, etc.

Poet of the Moon

Director

Stage Manager

Dennis Kleinsmith

Mike Sandusky

Breon Canady

Frederick Glaysher

Jeff Thomakos

Chrisian Plonka

**Special Thanks to the WSU Theatre Department,  
the Families of the Cast & Crew,  
& Jeff Thomakos, Michigan Michael Chekhov**



FREDERICK GLAYSHER is an epic poet, rhapsode, poet-critic, and the author or editor of ten books, including *The Parliament of Poets: An Epic Poem* (ISBN: 9780982677889), set partly on the moon at the Apollo 11 landing site and around the world.

The 1,800 lines of verse that make up *Apollo's Troupe* is the theatre script version of the 9,150 lines of his epic poem (294 pages).

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. *Apollo's Troupe* blends the ancient Greek rhapsode's performance of Homer with the modern style of reading by Charles Dickens and Edgar Allan Poe into a new experimental epic form of dramatic storytelling for a contemporary audience.

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.

Mr. Glaysher spoke on Robert Hayden at the centennial celebrations held for him at the University of Michigan in 2013, Wayne State University in 2014, and read at each event from the canto of his epic poem in which Hayden is a character. Both Hayden centennial essays are included in *The Myth of the Enlightenment: Essays*, much of which was written concurrently with his epic. He also spoke on Hayden for Poetry Month, 2017, at the Detroit Public Library. In 2017, Glaysher lectured on “The Poetry of Robert 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*.

**Bookstores:** Source Booksellers, The Wright Museum of African-American History Bookshop, Book Beat, Mayflower Bookshop, Crazy Wisdom Bookstore.

**Online:** Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple iTunes, **EarthrisePress.Net**, Kobo, and global affiliates. Other books of poetry: *The Bower of Nil: A Narrative Poem*, and *Into the Ruins: Poems*.

**Website: [fglaysher.com](http://fglaysher.com)**

**Performances at The Underground at The Hilberry.  
Wayne State University, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit, MI 48202.  
Friday, May 17, 8:00pm; Saturday, May 18, 8:00pm;  
Sunday, May 19, 3:00pm. 2 Hours. 15-Minute Intermission.  
TICKETS at [www.WSUshows.com](http://www.WSUshows.com) (Apollo's Troupe)**

"In my view the last complete and true epic poem in the English Language was *Paradise Lost* written by John Milton in the 17th century, Glaysher is really an epic poet and this is an epic poem! Glaysher has written a masterpiece." —*The Society of Classical Poets*

"One of the most important books of our time. A new vision for humanity; one of Unity and Oneness of humankind, synthesizing and integrating the great thinkers of all time. An impassioned plea on behalf of humanity that reaches down and grabs the human longing for the Awakened Heart." —**Tina Benson, Transpersonal/Jungian Psychotherapist, Mill Valley, California**

"What Joseph Campbell described as the Hero's journey. A hero must meet obstacles, and in the case of the Persona, the obstacles are both internal and external—very Jungian is our hero. The quest for individuation or the coming together in wholeness, is evident as we, the readers/listeners follow the trials and travels of our hero. Beautiful book." —*The Examiner, Portland, Oregon*

"Bravo to the Poet for this toilsome but brilliant endeavour." —*Transnational Literature, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia*

"An attempt to merge the sciences and the humanities to reach a greater understanding of the human condition. ...the poetry and language is rather beautiful. Glaysher has grasped epic poetry's rhythms and cadences, favouring an iambic meter to create a pleasant, rolling pace to the piece. It's really very readable." —**Chris Hislop, Savage, London, UK**

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

"Brilliant! Rarely now do I read a book in three days. This one I did. My mind and heart were fed. I sent copies to friends. This poem is an anodyne in the era of Trump." —**Joseph C. Jacobson**

## **Apollo's Troupe** *performing the Theatre Script of* **The Parliament of Poets: An Epic Poem**

**Book I** Poets East and West, on the moon  
In the mid part of the moon, I stood...

**Book II** Black Elk, Chief Seattle, on the moon  
A great war cry went up, drums tom-tommed...

**Book II** Mimbardda, in Australia, DreamTime  
One of the women, Mimbardda, began...

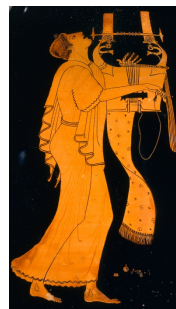
**Book VI** Mogao Cave, on the Silk Road, China  
With the sun, we entered the cave, Tang Dynasty...

**Book VI** Du Fu, in the capital of the Tang Dynasty  
Behind me, a voice in the early evening...

**Book X** Machu Picchu, in South America  
At last we stood before the primal shape...

**Book X** Borges, on the pampas north of Buenos Aires  
So the epic poet tells a tale...

**Book XI** Sogolon, Mbeku, in Africa, and then the moon



**Approximately two hours.**  
**Recording the performance not permitted.**  
**No photos during performance.**  
**Please turn your cellphones OFF.**

More than twenty-five epic poetry readings at Shelton Theater (San Francisco), University of Michigan's Rackham Amphitheatre, Wayne State University, Saginaw Valley State University, Detroit Public Library, Troy Public Library, Hannan Café, Austin International Poetry Festival, Paint Creek Unitarian Universalist, Birmingham Unitarian, Grosse Pointe Unitarian, Troy Interfaith Group, Theosophical Society of Detroit, Crazy Wisdom, Tuesdays at North Beach Branch Library, East Side Reading Series, MUSINGS, The Farmhouse, and elsewhere.

## Other Reviews

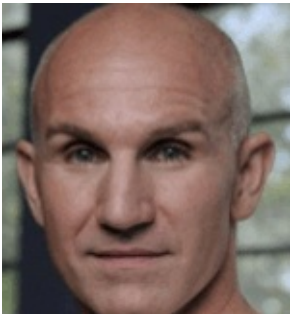
“Mr. Glaysher has written an epic poem of major importance that is guaranteed to bring joy and an overwhelming sense of beauty and understanding to readers who will travel the space ways with this exquisite poet. While the poem reads like the classic poetry of Milton, it has the contemporary edge of 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, Poet, Department of English, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan**

“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**

“This great poem promises to be the defining epic of the age and will be certain to endure for many centuries. A profound spiritual message for humanity.” —**Alan Jacobs, Author, London, UK**

“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**

## Actor Biographies



**Dennis Kleinsmith, Actor.** (Cervantes/Don Quixote, Tolstoy). Very excited to be joining Apollo's Troupe, especially excited to be performing on the WSU Studio stage where he performed numerous times oh so long ago as an undergraduate. It would seem he's been preparing ever since for this production as he has performed Shakespeare, Chekov and Dostoevsky not only here in the Detroit area but in Seattle and Los Angeles as well. He hopes you'll enjoy the show even a part as much as he enjoys performing it.



**Breon L. Canady, Actor.** (Sogolon, Mimbardda). BFA Acting, WSU. Returns to the Studio Theatre. She has performed with Shakespeare in Detroit in *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, Theatre Nova, *Side Effect of Happiness* and *Bright Half Life*, Ringwald Theatre in *Gay Play Series*, Matrix Theatre in *Beautiful Day in November*, Bonstelle Theatre, and elsewhere. Sang in the chorus for *Porgy and Bess* at the Detroit Opera House, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.



**Mike Sandusky, Actor.** (Robert Hayden, Du Fu, Borges, etc). Bachelor of Music Ed., Grambling SU. Matrix Theatre in *Dream Deferred*, Black and Brown Theatre in *Wonderland*, Park Players of Detroit in *To Be Young Gifted and Black*, Fratellanza Theatre in *Five After Five*, The Dio in *The Wild Party*, Pennyseats Theatre Company in *Murder Ballad*, Neighborhood Theatre Group in *Dispatches from the Dumb Decade*, Plowshares Theatre in *A Detroit Story*.

## Production Staff Biographies



**Jeff Thomakos, Director.** 30 years in theatre. A proud Hilberly graduate (2008), a writer, actor, and teacher. Purple Rose, *Boeing Boeing*; Meadowbrook, *Of Mice and Men*; Tipping Point, *Rabbit Hole*; Jewish Ensemble, *Two by Two*; Water Works 2008-2011 Director, *Tempest*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Macbeth*. Theatre Coach and owner at his Michigan Michael Chekhov Studio in Troy and national authority offering classes on the Chekhov Technique. [michiganchekhov.com](http://michiganchekhov.com)



**Christian Plonka, Stage Manager.** Proud to be keeping book for such a noble project. He has been a part of the Stage Management staff for multiple years through Water Works Theatre for productions of Shakespeare in *Love and War*, *Much Ado About Nothing*. He is always happy to help make theater with a fire behind it such as this.



**“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**

**“Mr. Glaysher has written an epic poem of major  
importance.” —ML Liebler, Poet, Department of  
English, Wayne State University**

**“Glaysher is really an epic poet and this is an epic  
poem!” —*The Society of Classical Poets***

**“A great epic poem of startling originality and  
universal significance, in every way partaking of  
the nature of world literature.” —Hans Ruprecht,  
Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada**

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

**“And a fine major work it is.” —Arthur McMaster,  
Department of English, Converse College,  
in *Poets’ Quarterly***

**“Certainly wowed the crowd with the  
performance and the words themselves.”  
—*Albany Poets News*, New York**

**EarthrisePress.Net**