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The Odyssey on Angel Island Provides an Odyssey of Its Own

BY SF WEEKLY STAFF

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Ross Travis as Hermes

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For the We Players, all the world is truly a stage — or at least the Bay Area is. The site-specific theater company brings drama to dramatic public spaces: *Macbeth* at Fort Point, *Hamlet* on Alcatraz, *The Odyssey* on a historic schooner as it sailed the San Francisco Bay. For its latest project, the company is exploring more chapters of Homer's epic, this time on Angel Island.

The all-day adventure is an odyssey in its own right. You take a ferry that departs Pier 41 at 9:40 a.m., and you don't return until after 5 p.m. You walk three to four miles on paved and unpaved paths, up and down hills, around almost the entire island, all with no official lunch break. Like true adventurers, I suppose, you must eat while you journey; indeed, by comparison to the We Players' past two shows, *The Odyssey* on Angel Island has the highest travel time-to-theater ratio.

Taxing as the experience is, especially for theatergoers accustomed to exercising their sitting muscles, it is not without rewards, chief among which is the scenery itself. There's the bay, with its pools of blues and greens unobstructed by hills (or condos). There are Pride of Madeira in full bloom and the painterly, peeling bark of eucalyptus trees. And of course, there are views of San Francisco, Marin, the East Bay, and the bridges from unfamiliar, even disorienting angles.