

PLAYBILL

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Wagner College to Stage Galt MacDermot-Matty Selman Musical 'Goddess Wheel'

By ADAM HETRICK

The Lysistrata-inspired musical "Goddess Wheel," by Tony Award winner Galt MacDermot and Matty Selman, will receive an April staging at Wagner College.

"Goddess Wheel," according to Wagner, "tells the story of the Peloponnesian War between Sparta and Athens. The women, fed up with the war, decide to withhold sex until the men sign a peace treaty bringing the war to an end."

It has music by MacDermot ("Hair," "Two Gentleman of Verona") and book and lyrics by Selman, both of whom are Staten Island natives.

The musical was first staged at the American Repertory Theater and the Prince Music Theatre under the title "Lysistrata" in 2002. Cherry Jones starred in the central role. NYU's CAP 21 program also offered a developmental production of "Goddess Wheel" in 2005.

Rusty Curcio will direct the production that has musical direction by James Higgins. The band for "Goddess Wheel" will be MacDermot's New Pulse Jazz Band. Performances run April 18-29.

The cast will include Danielle Dallacco as Lysistrata; Leighann Colin as Penelope/Persephone; Ilana Bolotsky as Young Widow; Tara Kirk and Ashley Burger as Women of Sparta; Caroline LaTorre, Heather Kirschenbauer and Erica Weiderlight as Goddesses; Matt Sydney as the Chancellor; Ryan Cole as the Spartan Envoy/Soldier Ghost; and Andrew Khouri and Matt Favetta as Men of Athens. John Jamiel, head of acting at Wagner, plays Oracle/Hates. Wagner College's athletes are also featured in the production as Spartans.

For tickets phone (718) 390-3259. Performances will take place at Staten Island's Snug Harbor Cultural Center.