



STEPHANIE BUTZER | Senior Reporter

(Left to right) Senior Lauren Bambino, freshman Gerald Caesar, sophomore Zane Phillips and sophomore Benedetto Robinson rehearse a scene from "Story of Home." The play will open Oct. 5 in the Black Box Theatre.

Final lines come together for 'Story of Home' premiere

Stephanie Butzer
Senior Reporter

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
If at first it does not sound right, revise, revise, revise. Then, when it is perfect, the show can go on.

Logan Sutton, senior BFA acting major and Lumen scholar, is the playwright of "Story of Home," and after several revisions, adjustments and minor tweaks, his play is ready to welcome an audience into the Black Box Theatre.

The process of revising "Story of Home" — an original play that explores Odysseus' family's struggle in his absence during the

Trojan War — has not been an easy one. Sutton has been exploring the topic and its modern connection since fall break of his freshman year.

The play explores the idea of waiting, a very different kind of struggle than is present in most productions, but one that has a familiar ring to it in the modern age.

Sutton's "Story of Home" focuses on the characters that Homer, author of "The Odyssey," does not touch on in his Greek epic. In Homer's work, what happens at home is left mostly up to the reader's interpretation.

Finding and tweaking characters

Sutton wanted to explore not only the

19-year wait for Odysseus to return to Ithaca, but also what happened during those years. His son, Telemachus, played by sophomore Sam Jones, and wife, Penelope, played by senior Lauren Bambino, grow during this period. Telemachus, who was a newborn when his father left for war, had to be able to embrace playing several ages.

"We needed an actor who could go through all those different perspectives truthfully," Sutton said. "That's what we were looking for the most with Telemachus."

In the original drafts, there were two people playing the part: a young Telemachus and an older version of the boy.

As the drafts progressed, it became clear it would be best to cast the same actor in both

parts. Sutton said Jones fit this description because he was able to play the character's full range in a believable way. Telemachus and Penelope provide two different ways for the audience to interpret the conflict. Sutton hoped this would help tell two different stories. They both have inner conflict, and this containment builds to create scenes of uncomfortable tension.

As the older, more mature character, Penelope is fully aware of the circumstances and their potential effects on Ithaca. Audience members then see Telemachus, a young boy who struggles to grow into a man without a father figure to look up to.

"Telemachus doesn't have a father figure in his life because he's waiting his entire life

Logan Sutton is the playwright of "Story of Home." He is a senior BFA acting major and Lumen scholar. The play will open Oct. 5 in the Black Box Theatre. Photo by Stephanie Butzer.