

The Haitian Project, Inc.
Community Update: Odysseus and Sisyphus
November 2, 2011



Top row: Dressed for the stage, students of Louverture Cleary School act out the epic play *The Odyssey*.

Bottom Row: LCS students and THP Volunteers use some muscle to operate the new manual rock crusher to breakdown rubble so it can be used for future building.

You know that work is going well when you have time to play—or, in this case, have a PLAY. Thursday we had a GREAT, epic play: *The Odyssey*. Odysseus's journey makes a great metaphor for Haiti's constant struggle to stability. This struck me as I heard the student body's reaction of "Oh,oh!" to Odysseus final entrance line, "Home. I have been away for 20 years!"

THP Volunteer Emily Marquet directed a Kreyol interpretation of *The Odyssey* with a cast of more than 30 students. Rehearsals ran for eight weeks culminating in a weekend retreat at LCS where the theatre troupe perfected their lines, told stories around a bonfire, and watched *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* On the day of the performance, the actors "played big," as Emily says, wowing the audience with comedy, dancing, and, just in time for Halloween, a frightening Cyclops mask made with scissors and a deflated basketball. The performers thoroughly enjoyed the experience; Edwine, a senkyem (8th Grade) student, was so thrilled to be cast as the

princess that she ran to thank Volunteer Abi Roznowski for encouraging her to audition. Rumor has it that Louverturians will be tackling Shakespeare next. Again, congratulations to Emily Marquet.

Continuing on the Greek theme, thanks once again to the success of last year's Renovation Campaign, we were able to purchase a great tool to help us in our Sisyphean task: crushing the rubble. This task does indeed seem to be endless. But, the manual rock crusher not only makes it go faster, it also produces more usable products of various grades of sand and aggregate to use in future building.

Another aspect of THP that is a bit Sisyphean is finding the funds—it has to be done every year. Recently, I had at least a few minutes of the promised 15 minutes of fame as the other brother in Steve Schwarzman's good-hearted ribbing of Bank of America. Mr. Schwarzman teased that my mom must be proud to have two sons that run underfunded, non-profit organizations. You may enjoy watching the clip (you can advance to 4 minutes to hear Schwarzman's comments): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkITbyyNEDg>

While I am sure that Bank of America is solid under my brother's excellent management, Schwarzman has us pegged. We are underfunded this year--who isn't in this tough economy, and isn't that the missionary way? Fortunately, we have many generous donors, so we will not be asking anyone for a big bail out. What I would ask is if you have made your annual contribution and you feel you could make another one in 2011 that you please do so. Every gift will help us to narrow the gap. We are currently running 20% behind and need your support to help cover that.

On the Feast of All Souls, we pray in special appreciation for our departed supporters—may they rest in peace and intercede on our behalf.

Thank you for your continued support.

Peace, Patrick

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“What you receive as gift, you must give as gift.”
“Se gratis nou resevwa, Se gratis tou pou nou bay.”

---Matthew 10:8