



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, April 22, 2009

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SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY SCREENS "PLATOON" *A Continuation of the Exciting "Page and Stage" Series*

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library continues its presentation of the *Page and Stage: The Power of the Iliad Today* series with *Platoon*. San Diego Public Library is one of only 16 libraries nationwide to receive a grant to host this series. Like Homer's *Iliad*, the film shows how war can bring out the best and the worst in human beings. The screening and discussion, moderated by classics scholar Charles Chamberlain, Ph.D., a member of the Literature faculty at the University of California San Diego, will take place Sunday, June 28 at 2:00pm in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego.

Platoon was marketed with the tag line, "The first casualty of war is innocence". Critics both praised and criticized *Platoon* for its presentation of the violence seen in the war and the moral ambiguity created by the realities of guerrilla warfare, when unit leaders have to make a choice between saving the lives of their own men and taking those of suspected guerrilla sympathizers. *Platoon* is a gritty and emotional look at the lives of a platoon of American soldiers as they patrol, fight and die in the jungles of Vietnam as seen through the perspective of a young recruit.

Page and Stage: The Power of the Iliad Today is a ground breaking in-depth partnership between the library and the theatre sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and involving New York's acclaimed Aquila Theatre, the American Philological Association that represents Classics professors in the U.S., the Urban Libraries Council and New York University's Center for Ancient Studies. The events are designed to inspire people to come together to read, see, and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life. For more information about *Page and Stage*, visit www.pageandstage.org online.

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Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at

www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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