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Antigone (1985)

Spring 4-19-1985

Antigone Playbill

Providence College

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The Blackfriars Theatre



PLAYBILL



A NOTE ABOUT THE PLAY

Two years ago the Perseverance Theatre of Juneau, Alaska staged a production of **Antigone**. Few of us, however, would easily have recognized Sophocles' play. While retaining the basic text, the Perseverance Theatre set the play in the Eskimo culture. The play was translated into the Yup'ik Eskimo language for a cast of Eskimo actors. The set, costumes, music and ceremonies were all Eskimo as well. The director, David Hunsaker, marvelled at how similar the dramatic Inuit masks of the Eskimos were to Greek theatrical masks of 400 B.C. The Yup'ik **Antigone** toured all over Alaska and was a "hit" wherever it played. Even in isolated villages, audiences who came to the performances by snowmobile related to the tragedy.

Though we have chosen to do a more traditional presentation of **Antigone**, the Eskimo production points out the universality of Sophocles' play. The conflict between individual conscience and the need for authority in the state — personified in Antigone and Creon — is still meaningful today. Whatever our ideological stance, we find conflicts of conscience engrossing. Whether the conflict is between immigration authorities and American churches who give sanctuary to Central Americans, anti-nuclear activists and the military, or union organizers and the government in Poland, we are intrigued and involved. Knowing this, Sophocles wisely developed both sides of the conflict in **Antigone**; the play is as much Creon's as it is Antigone's. In fact, his tragedy is much greater as a consequence of his countermanding of divine law.

The topics treated in **Antigone** — the dangers of individual and family pride, the primacy of conscience and divine law, and the need for order and authority — do, indeed, transcend cultural differences and time periods.

Fr. Matthew Powell, O.P.

BACKGROUND

Polynices, son of Oedipus and brother of Antigone and Ismene, led the expedition known as "The Seven Against Thebes" to seize the throne from his brother Eteocles. After a long siege, it was decided to settle the issue by a duel between the brothers. In the encounter, they slew each other. After the invaders fled, Creon, the new King of Thebes, buried Eteocles with honors. However, because Polynices was considered a traitor, Creon issued an edict forbidding anyone to bury him on pain of death.

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE THEATRE

presents



Translated by

DUDLEY FITTS and ROBERT FITZGERALD

Directed by MARY G. FARRELL

Scenery & Lighting Design STEVE CROWLEY

Costume Design DAVID M. CABRAL

Sound Design CHRIS EHRLER

Research Consultant REV. MATTHEW POWELL, O.P.

Theatre Program Director JOHN GARRITY

THE BLACKFRIARS THEATRE

April 19-21 and 26-28, 1985

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Ismene	KELLY SULLIVAN
Antigone	MARY VINING
Choragus	PATRICK HENNEDY
	ROBERT MULLEN
Creon	JAMES MAHER
Sentry	RODERICK PAULETTE
Haimon	JAMES COLVIN
Teiresias	STEPHEN DIAS
Boy	LORI KILEY
Messenger	ARTHUR ROGERS
Eurydice	KATHLEEN McAREAVEY

CHORUS

JAMES COLVIN

STEPHEN DIAS

JOANNE FINNERAN

RICHARD GREENE

PATRICK HENNEDY

LORI KILEY

VINCENT LUPINO

KATHLEEN McAREAVEY

ROBERT MULLEN

RODERICK PAULETTE

ARTHUR ROGERS

ALICIA ROY

KELLY SULLIVAN

There will be one ten-minute intermission.

MANY THANKS . . . to those of you who have given us clothing for costumes in the past. We can still use clothing of any period, along with any accessories or material you no longer need. Your contributions would be greatly appreciated. Please call us at 865-2327, and we shall be happy to make arrangements to pick up any items you may wish to donate. Thank you.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager	Stacy Vaughn
Assistant Stage Manager	Terri Finegan
Movement Coaches	Joanne Finneran, James Maher
Technical Director	James Colvin
Lighting Operator	Janine Patnaude
Sound Operator	Edward Gibbs Deasy
Scene Shop Crew	James Colvin, Edward Gibbs Deasy
	Grant Derderian, Stephen Dias, Mark Leskanic
	Vincent Lupino, Robert Mullen, Janine Patnaude
	Terri Finegan, Richard Greene, John Healy, Patrick
	Hennedy, James Maher, Pamela Pratt, Alicia Roy
	Nancy Shaughnessy, Stacy Vaughn, Mary Vining
Assistant Costume Designer	Peter DeNegre
Costume Shop Crew	Clelia Smalley - Draper
	Elizabeth Arendt - Stitcher
	Peter DeNegre - Leather Work
	Stanley Spilecki, Jr. - Special Projects and Crafts
	Alicia Roy - Wigs
Costume Running Crew	Peter DeNegre
	Elizabeth Arendt, Stanley Spilecki, Jr., Marianne Lamy
	Amy Robertson, Janine Patnaude, Pamela Pratt
Publicity	Mark Enright
	Stacy Vaughn, Alicia Roy, James Maher
	Amy Robertson, Lori Kiley, Sarina Sheehy
Box Office Manager	Lisa Gould
Assistant Box Office Managers	Alicia Roy, James Maher
House Manager	Scott Avedisian
Ushers	Providence College Friars Club
Office Assistants	Lisa Gould, Christine Lagonigro
Photography	Randall Photography
Theatre Program Secretary	Marilee J. McClure

PROGRAM NOTES

Smoking is not permitted in the Blackfriars Theatre.

The use of cameras during the performance is prohibited.

If you would like to be placed on our mailing list,
please fill out an address card in the lobby.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to Don Madden, Jeffrey Burrows, Stephen Cabral, Kevin Dambruch, Chris Ehrler, Roger Lemlin, and Mr. David London of David London and Company.

CHRONOLOGY

Theatre	Society, Politics, Culture
	ca. 800 B.C. Homer
	ca. 585 B.C. Thales of Miletus begins natural philosophy (physics)
Play contests begun in Athens	534 B.C.
Thespis "first actor"	ca. 530 B.C.
	ca. 520 B.C. Pythagoras flourished
	510 B.C. Democracy in Athens
	499 B.C. Persian wars (499-478 B.C.)
	490 B.C. Battle of Marathon
Comedy introduced to City Dionysia	487 B.C.
Aeschylus introduces second actor	ca. 471 B.C.
Sophocles introduces third actor	ca. 468 B.C.
	ca. 460 B.C. Periclean Athens-"golden age" (ca. 460-429 B.C.)
Oresteia , Aeschylus (525-456 B.C.)	458 B.C. Socrates (469-399 B.C.)
Prizes for tragic acting awarded	449 B.C.
	447 B.C. Beginning of Parthenon; Herodotus flourishes
Oedipus the King , Sophocles (496-406 B.C.)	ca. 430 B.C. Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C.)
The Trojan Women , Euripides (480-406 B.C.)	415 B.C. Plato (429-348 B.C.)
Lysistrata , Aristophanes (448-380 B.C.)	411 B.C.
	399 B.C. Trial and execution of Socrates
	384 B.C. Aristotle born
	371 B.C. Theban hegemony (371-362 B.C.)
Poetics (ca. 335-323 B.C.)	335 B.C. Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.) occupies Greece
Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)	
Theater of Dionysus completed	ca. 325 B.C.
Greek theaters built throughout Mediterranean area (ca. 320 - ca. 100 B.C.)	ca. 320 B.C. Hellenistic culture spreads throughout eastern Mediterranean
Menander (343-291 B.C.)	
writer of new comedy	
Menander's Dyskolos	316 B.C.
Artists of Dionysus recognized	277 B.C.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING

(All available in the P.C. Library)

On Tragedy:

Greek Tragedy by H.D.F. Kitto

The Greek Tragic Poets by Donald W. Lucas

Greek Tragedy by Gilbert Norwood

The Origin of Tragedy by William Ridgeway

On Sophocles and His Works:

Sophocles: Poet and Dramatist by William N. Bates

The Life and Work of Sophocles by F.J.H. Letters

Sophocles by Siegfried Melchinger

On the Greek Theatre:

An Introduction to the Greek Theatre by Peter D. Arnott

The History of the Greek and Roman Theatre by Margarete Beiber

The Theatre and Drama of Greece and Rome by James H. Butler

Greek Theatre Practice by J. Michael Walton

Interdisciplinary Symposium *Relating to Antigone*

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at BLACKFRIARS THEATRE

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