

ANTIGONE

Sophokles

translated by Anne Carson

directed by Sam Chittenden

NVT

**NEW
VENTURE
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,
Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:

Fri 6th - Sat 14th October 2017 - 7.45 pm

Matinee Sun 8th & Sat 14th - 2.30pm

(No Sun/Mon eves)

ONLINE BOOKING: www.newventure.org.uk/tickets

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

 @nvt_brighton

An Amateur Production in association with UNITED TALENT AGENCY Inc.

THEATRE <
NEW WRITING <
CLASSES <
LICENSED BAR <

50p

ANTIGONE

“We come out of the dark”

War, tyranny, incest, suicide, visions and Gods. Common fare for the ancient Greeks, for whom theatre was both escape and moral instruction.

In *Antigone*, civil war has decimated Thebes. Born out of incest, Oidipous' sons, Eteokles and Polyneikes, have fought over the throne and killed each other, leaving their sisters Antigone and Ismene alone. Oidipous' brother-in-law Kreon is now king. Threatened by dissidents, he must keep a grip if his new government is to be strong and stable. He decrees that the traitor Polyneikes can't be buried; choosing the emergency powers of secular law over the laws of the Gods. When Antigone defies Kreon and buries her brother so he can go to the afterlife, she sparks a series of catastrophic events.

Stark choices, but Sophokles gives us no black-and-white answers: Is Antigone a criminal with terrorist leanings, a brave voice of reason, or simply a loyal or obsessed sister?; Is Kreon a heartless dictator, or a man trying to balance the needs of state and family?

Antigone was first performed in Athens, in around 441 BC, at a time of national fervour. It makes references that would have resonated with Athenian audiences. On the one hand, arguing against civil disobedience, a very real concern; on the other, exposing the folly of tyranny. Athenians, proud of their democratic tradition, would have pitied the people who have no voice to tell Kreon he is wrong.

Sophokles' Thebes is a patriarchy in which women have little voice, and cannot hold property in their own right (instead having to marry their father's nearest male relative to 'keep it in the family'). Yet the women here show different kinds of strength - determination, stoicism, agency - that ultimately break Kreon's world apart.

Anne Carson's colloquial translation brings these extraordinary personal and political circumstances into the present day - a world where civil war and despotism are still rife; a world that longs for truth and courage. Carson's text is a gift of poetic yet conversational style, that we have hugely enjoyed working with. There are amazing characters, all both strong and weak in their individual ways, some stonking monologues, and dry humour, as well as the inevitable tragedy.

This is very much an ensemble piece performed by both familiar faces and new comers. The studio space lends itself well to an intimate staging in the round, and a few theatrical surprises. My gratitude is due as ever to the amazing team who have helped create a modern Thebes, with echoes of some more familiar places far and near.

Sam Chittenden

Director



The action takes place in and around the House of Elders of the Parliament of Thebes

CAST

Antigone :	Keziah Israel
Ismene :	Jessica Smith
Koryphaios (Lead Elder) :	Chris Parke
Haimon :	Scott Roberts
Messenger / An Elder :	Toby Davies
An Elder :	Jeremy Crow
Official / Girl :	Maisie Chalk
Eurydike :	Claire Lewis
Kreon :	Des Potton
Guard :	Chris Knight
Teiresias :	Paddy O'Keeffe

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director :	Sam Chittenden
Asst Director/Production Manager :	Charly Sommers
Costume Design :	Hannah Clark
Costume Making :	Jackie Jones
Set Build :	Simon Glazier, George Walter
Lighting Design :	Strat Mastoris
Lighting Operation :	Alex Epps
Sound Design & Ops :	Tim Metcalfe
Special FX Design :	Deej Johnson, Charly Sommers
Video FX :	Rima Stankute
Stage Manager & Props :	Bryony Weaver
ASMs :	Marc Ryan Pinto, Melissa Noble, Julie Monkcom
Hair & Makeup :	Julie Monkcom
Poster & Programme :	Tamsin Mastoris
Vocal Consultant :	Steve Hoar
Movement Consultant :	Uli Schilling
Photography :	Strat Mastoris
Publicity & Marketing :	Elsa Noad



Maisie Chalk

Gifted with foresight but cursed with blindness, Teiresias is lost without *The Girl*, played by MAISIE CHALK in her NVT debut. Describing her as quiet, caring and deferential, Maisie explains that *The Girl* protects and respects Teiresias, and sees herself more as a student than a caregiver.

Jeremy Crow

Performing in the round at the NVT for a second time, JEREMY CROW plays a member of the Chorus. "In some ways" he says, "the Chorus represents the audience; observing and judging actions - even if, as Sophokles reminds us, we're complicit in actions when we fail to speak." Observe and judge for yourself...



Toby Davies

"Better to be slapped with the truth than kissed with a lie" says a Russian proverb... And trying to deliver some difficult truths is TOBY DAVIES, playing *The Messenger* in this, his NVT debut. He says his character is a raconteur at heart, and can't help performing - no matter how gruesome his message!

Keziah Israel

Fearless, loyal and stubborn, *Antigone* puts her family above everything else – something actor KEZIAH ISRAEL greatly admires about the title character... But are fearlessness, loyalty and stubbornness too potent a cocktail?



Chris Knight

"Self-preservation is my natural philosophy" proclaims CHRIS KNIGHT's character, The Guard. He may be the joker in the pack, but clearly he's at least wise enough to seem dumb in a court full of divided loyalties and conflicting agendas...

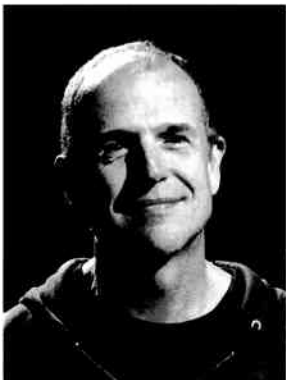
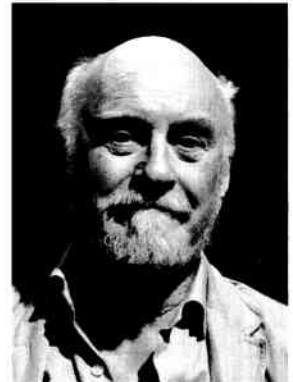


Claire Lewis

Breathing life into Eurydike, Queen of Thebes, is CLAIRE LEWIS - no stranger to Greek tragedy! Those who saw her formidable performance in NVT's 2016 production of Women of Troy know that Claire brings great depth to her roles... Claire describes her character as devout, loyal and dignified. But is her husband, Kreon, is about to put her loyalty to the test?

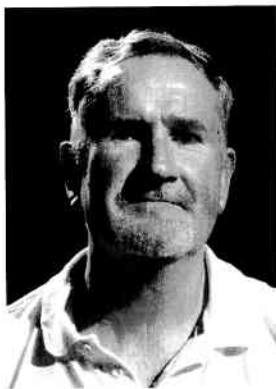
Paddy O'Keeffe

Wise and incorruptible, Teiresias is played by PADDY O'KEEFFE. Paddy says his character is principled and proud, yet impatient and dogmatic... We ask: what is the nature of prophecy? How can it be that only the blind seer, Teiresias, sees how fate will twist the present into destiny?



Chris Parke

"Compassionate and well-meaning; he shows concern for the stability & security of the state..." These are just some of the qualities that actor CHRIS PARKE likes about his character, Koryphaios, lead member of the Chorus. But are good intentions enough? Chris makes a charismatic addition to the company in his NVT debut.



Des Potton

Anyone who recognises NVT favourite DES POTTON knows you couldn't wish to meet a nicer guy... So it stands to reason that Des isn't too keen on the stubbornness and cruelty that scar his character, King Kreon. Is redemption at hand for the all-powerful king?

Scott Roberts

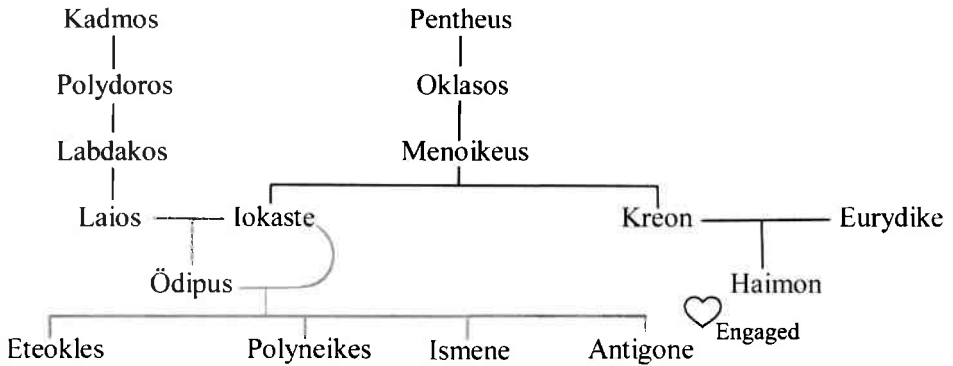
What is it that SCOTT ROBERTS loves about playing Antigone's cousin and fiancée, Haimon? He says there's an arc of emotions; "Bravery and honesty; blind loyalty and conflict... A true inner obstacle to overcome - it's a real challenge to perform".



Jessica Smith

With a fresh face and positive energy, JESSICA SMITH joins the cast for her NVT debut as Antigone's sister, Ismene. Jess loves that Ismene is both rational and caring. As with so many characters surrounding the domineering King Kreon, though, Ismene almost quivers in his shadow... As Jess puts it: "I just wish she'd stick up for herself more!"





Musical extracts from:

Prelude to Gravity - Rickie Lee Jones
Baba O'Reilly - The Who
Risky Business - Simon Scardaneli
Song for Charlie - Matthew Halsall
I Killed You in the Morning - Foreign Fields
Shenai Song - Sheila Chandra
The Cinema Show - Genesis
Dragging a Dead Priest - Tom Waits
Ambiguity - Shearwater

Many thanks to:

The New Venture Angels and as always, our appreciation and gratitude to the Front of House, Bar and Box Office teams.

COMING NEXT

ANNA CHRISTIE
BY EUGENE O'NEILL
directed by Jerry Lyne
10TH - 18TH NOVEMBER 2017
(THEATRE UPSTAIRS)

Anna was sent by her Swedish seafaring father to live with cousins in Minnesota where she was badly abused. She escaped and wrote to her father telling him it was time to help her. They are reconciled, but whilst on her father's barge they come across a shipwrecked sailor Matt Burke, and she falls in love. Dare she tell them the truth and risk everything? O'Neill's Pulitzer winning play is about love and forgiveness, charting one woman's longing to forget the dark secrets of her past and her hope for salvation.

THE PEBBLE TRUST

Contacting the NVT
For ticket information only, call the Box Office - 01273 746118. To book tickets or for other information check our website at www.newventure.org.uk. All other enquiries 01273 808353

NVYT - Youth Theatre
NVT welcomes all young people (11-17) with a passion for or an interest in theatre.
Fridays 4.30-6.30pm.

NVT Acting Class
Monday evenings at 7.30pm for all levels of acting skills. It will cost you just £5 per session (£2.50 for NVT members) First visit is FREE!

Become a Sponsor
£250: Advertise in our brochure, on the website, in each programme and our newsletter for one year. Plus two free tickets per show. Contact fundraising@newventure.org.uk for details. Or why not become an Angel, Archangel or even Archangel Gabriel to help us support the current and future improvements to our theatre. For further information please contact the Angels Coordinator Gerry McCrudden: gerrymccrudden@hotmail.com.

Membership
Full (company) membership - £25 a year. Full participation, discount on tickets & newsletter. Student/Unwaged - £13 a year. As above... *Proof of status is required.*



MAIL BOXES ETC.®

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Print & Copy | <input type="checkbox"/> Packing & Shipping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Packing Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stationery | <input type="checkbox"/> Post & Parcels |

Tel: 01273 70 60 20 www.mbebrighton.co.uk
Email: print@mbebrighton.co.uk 91 Western Road, Brighton. BN1 2NW



Bramble Cottage Retirement Home

01273 565821

Fully Compliant with CQC Standards.
Established Luxury, Retirement Home
Contact Diana Shaw For Further Details

Long or Short Stay & Convalescence Breaks. Large Individual Rooms
All With Colour TV (Satellite TV Available) L1R Servicing All Floors
Attractive Gardens & Balconies. First Class Food Prepared By 'In House'
Chef. Optional Social Programme. Visiting Hairdresser And Chiropodist.
24 Hour Care By Fully Trained Staff. Family Owned.
Highest Standards of Care, Support & Service



18 Carden Avenue
Patcham, Brighton
East Sussex BN1 8NA
Tel: (01273) 565821
www.bramblecottagebrighton.com

Supporting NVT

We are a membership club, founded in 1947. We perform established plays, both classical and contemporary, and are a showcase for new writing. If you are interested in joining us, please pick up a membership form in the foyer. In 1983, NVT bought the freehold of this listed Victorian building which needs constant investment to maintain its integrity. To keep NVT going, we need your financial support, either to add to our regular sponsors (annual package £250) or you can be a Cherub for a fiver, an Angel for £100, Archangel for £500 or an Archangel Gabriel for £1,000. Please look out for the leaflets in the Theatre. As an Angel you will be listed on the Role of Honour in the Theatre.

If you are interested, please email fundraising@newventure.org.uk for more information.