



REVEALING SOPHOCLES
REDDENING HIS MOUTH ALMODOVAR-STYLE
DRAWING HIS EYES LIKE GARCIA LLORCA
PRESENT HIM AS A NAIVE BLONDE
TODAY THE TRAGEDY IS ENTITLED:

ANTIGONE

ARTISTIC FILE

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In brief...

Oedipus, king of Thebes, learns that he has murdered his own father and sired four children with his own mother. He blinds himself and his two sons run him out of town.

Polynice and Eteocle decide to govern alternately for a period of one year each. When Eteocle's term finishes he refuses to concede the throne to his brother. Polynice appeals to 7 enemy chieftains to launch a simultaneous offensive upon the seven gates of Thebes so that he can recover the throne. The two brothers kill each other; the battle ceases and, Creon, their uncle, becomes king of Thebes. The tragedy of Antigone begins.

The new tyrant publicly proclaims that Eteocle will be given a tomb but Polynice will not since he considers him a traitor to the city.

Antigone cannot accept what is reserved for the body of her dead brother and decides to bury the corpse herself. She does this despite the fact that it has been forbidden and that the new king has threatened death by stoning to anyone who disobeys.

Antigone goes ahead and Creon condemns her to death. She then hangs herself as do the tyrant's two sons and his wife.

In short, a tragedy...

At stake...

We are in the theatre.

An area of preserved freedom where everything that is true is false. Anything goes!

2457 years ago, the poet told the story of a man who killed his father and married his own mother.

Four children were born. Among them, the first female rebel in the history of literature: a teenager named Antigone.

Revealing Sophocles

Reddening his mouth Almodovar-style

Drawing his eyes like Garcia Lorca

Present him as a naive blonde

Today the tragedy is entitled : Antigona!

Intentionally...

The Sophocles play does not seem very modern to today's audiences. The majority of our fellow citizens are atheists and the rest are monotheists. Our former presidents did not leave office after blinding himself as a punishment for killing his father and sleeping with his mother. There was no civil war to settle the succession. Today, who would dare to deprive a man of a tomb, even an enemy? Ancient Greece has nothing to do with the world we live in. Times have changed as has morality. It is not because of their so-called modernity that literary classics continue to be studied in school and produced in theatres. It is because they are the proof that humanity doesn't change.

Love, power, justice, life, death are the five metaphysical senses that make up human existence. All of the major literary classics speak about these subjects. There is nothing modern in that: they are more than that - quite simply eternal! When one chooses to produce Antigone, it is to dig deep into one's existence, to understand who one is while looking at those who preceded us!

This play is a pillar of our civilisation. It is a story that people need to know, just remember that indignation is as old as humanity itself; that one has the right, or even the duty, to say no even at a risk to one's own life.



Antigone is the mother of all rebels, the sister of all militants, the friend of all those women who consider that their supposedly physical weakness does not prevent them from fighting, from showing their rage, from making demands and sometimes obtaining satisfaction.

Of course the name Antigone evokes all of that. Nevertheless, when one works on the play, everything is not so simple. Reason is not always there were one expects it. That's life! That's history! That's a masterpiece! It must be complex, unpredictable and exciting.

And Antigone becomes **Antigona**.

So that Hemon can roar his grief.

It is for this reason that Spain figures in the show.

Antigone is a tragedy where death is mandatory; and what other countries in Spain maintains so intimate relationship with death?

Garcia Llorca said that his country was "a land of death, the country open to death". Spain loves tragedy, tears and blood. Bullfighting is the most striking examples. It is the form of contemporary spectacle which is the closest to ancient tragedy. There is the power and there is the people; there is a monster, a hero, death... Olé, the scene is set; an arena, una plaza de toro!

There is earth, air, water and fire.

Without these four elements, there is no life - if there is no life there is no death - if there is no death there is no tragedy - hence, they are the basic elements of our tragedy.

Antigona is my own translation of Antigone by Sophocles. It has allowed me to modify a few elements.

It is the theme of religion that has been changed most significantly compared to the original text; notably I modernised the relationship between the different protagonists and their religious beliefs.

The Labdacides of Antigona, compared to those of Antigone, are monotheists. The King is the representative of God on earth.

Antigona's revolt is more similar to contemporary revolts such as that of the Femen.

In terms of style, Coryphée is replaced by Tiresias who is in a certain sense the narrator - who guarantees that the story is true. With Garcia Llorca, this could be the character of the author, but I didn't want to remain blocked in the 30s and the Civil War, thinking about Spain and thinking about Garcia Llorca... As if there are not sufficient causes for revolts today.

This is why the cinema of Almodovar is part of the equation. The colour, the exuberance, the ability to find comedy and tragedy, his relationship with gender which is a hot topic at the moment, are all elements which I have borrowed from Almodovar to integrate into this production.

Jean-Charles Raymond, november 2014

Antigone

a contemporary play for all over the age of 14

duration : 80 minutes

adapted from the work of Sophocles adapted and directed by
Jean-Charles RAYMOND

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cast : Patrick HENRY, Léa MENAHEM, Hervé PEZIERE, Marie SALEMI,
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prices, technical description, educational dossier available on
demand.

Prior to representations for school audiences the company offers the
possibility to meet the artistic team and discuss different themes
either in class or outside.

the play was first produced on November 7, 2014

and it continues to run...



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The company is supported by the regional council (PACA), the
county authority (Vaucluse and Marseille), the Aix regional authority
and the city of Pertuis. For more news about other shows produced
by the company go to our website : lanative.fr et



press reviews...

*The company has taken the Sophocles play and re-situated it in a
red clay arena, the colour of tragedy and the terrible 5 o'clock
spectacle of Federico Garcia Lorca. Add the weight of Pedro
Almodovar, the taste of revolt and transgression, and Teresias in
stand-up comic mode, the DJ, a choir - this is the explosive mix of
Antigona. A corrosive translation and adaptation by Jean-Charles
Raymond. in Zibeline (octobre 2014)*