4-26-1952

Antigone

Sophocles
JOHN CARROLL
UNIVERSITY THEATRE
LEONE MARINELLO, Director

presents

Antigone
By Sophocles

April 26 and 27, 1952
Sophocles' ANTIGONE probably appeals more directly to modern man than any tragedy which has come down to us from fifth century Athens. The conflict which it presents, between manmade law on the one side and natural law on the other, is as meaningful today as it was twenty-four hundred years ago. Modern sympathies, like those of the original audience, favor the individual conscience based on the moral law. Thus Antigone becomes the personification of man's struggle for independence of conscience in rendering to God the things that are God's. Creon's case for law and order, however, is made extremely plausible. The arguments for which he gives voice are familiar to all of us, from our childhood homes, from school, from the army—from every experience in which authoritarian order figured in any degree. Creon is unquestionably sincere in his desire for an orderly law-abiding Thebes and he believes that strong unequivocal rulership is the first necessity of a stable society. But he is an inexperienced ruler, and in addition he is embittered by the loss of his son. He is vain of his power, he overreaches his authority and he underestimates the opposition. For these errors he pays a frightful penalty.

The design of our stage has caused us to simplify some of the action and to reduce the size of the chorus from fifteen to seven performers. Choruses as a rule tend to be less effective on a small stage than a large one. We have tried to counterbalance this tendency by using both men and women for variety, less movement for concentration and more speeches than are indicated in the original for clarity.

The music for the most part is chosen for its noncommittal character. This is an attempt to copy Greek music which is notable for its indefiniteness. The closest our choice of music came to this Greek feature is in the works of Eric Satie.

The dead Oedipus, former King of Thebes, slew his father and married his mother unwittingly. Of this union were born the sisters, Antigone and Ismene, and their elder brothers, Polyneices and Eteocles. After the death of Oedipus, the two brothers decided that they would divide the ruling of Thebes—each one ruling in alternate years. Eteocles was the first to rule. At the end of his year, he refused to give up the throne and exiled his brother, Polyneices, supported by the foreign Argean army, marched against his native Thebes in order to wrest the throne from Eteocles.

The action of the play takes place on the day following the great battle in which the Thebans have defeated the powerful invading force. During the battle the two brothers, Eteocles and Polyneices, have killed each other. The throne being empty, Antigone's uncle, Creon, as next male kin, assumes the throne. Creon's eldest son, Margareus, has also been killed in the battle.
THE CHARACTERS

(In the order in which they speak)

Antigone ....................................... Eileen Casey
Ismene, her sister ........................... Alverda Solens
Choragos ...................................... Richard Bauhof
Creon, King of Thebes ................. Michael Gallagher
A Guard ........................................ Thomas McCarthy
Haemon, son of Creon, betrothed to Antigone ........................ Charles Polenik
Teiresias, a soothsayer ............................ Roger Sargent
Teiresias' attendant ............................ Tommy Casey
Eurydice, Queen of Thebes, mother of Haemon ................ Mary Budd
Chorus of Theban Men ............... Elmo Miller, William Joliet
Chorus of Theban Women ........ Nancy Parker, Cicily Boswick, Elizabeth Unis
Soldiers ........................................ Ron Berschig, Jack Garin

SCENE SEQUENCE

Prologue: Antigone and Ismene
Parodos: Men's Chorus
Episode I: Creon and Guard
Ode, "Man"—Men's Chorus
Intermission—10 minutes

Episode II: Guard, Creon, Antigone, Ismene
Ode, "Nemesis"—Men's Chorus
Episode III: Creon, Haemon
Ode, "Aphrodite"—Men's Chorus
Commens: Antigone and Choruses; then Antigone, Creon
Ode, "Heroines of Legend"—Men's and Women's Choruses
Episode IV: Teiresias, Creon
Intermission—10 minutes

Paean to Dionysus: Choruses
Exodus: Messenger, Eurydice, Creon
THE LITTLE THEATRE SOCIETY

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Rev. William J. Murphy, S.J. ........................................... Moderator
Mr. Leone J. Marinello .................................................. Director
Richard Bauhof ............................................................ President
Gregory Moffett .......................................................... Vice-President
James DeChant ............................................................ Secretary
John Church ..................................................................... Business Manager

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Michael Braun ............................................................. Head Electrician
Thomas Nangle ............................................................ Property Manager
Joyce Alef ................................................................. Costume Mistress
Robert Vidrick .............................................................. Make-up Chief
Ralph Shattuck ............................................................ Sound Chief
Jane Gorman .................................................................. Bookholder

Assistants
James DeChant .......................................................... Charles Polizzi
Marie Fuchik ................................................................. John Kelly
George Stanton ........................................................... Mary Lenahan
Robert Schumacker ................................................... Thomas Moore
Glenn Mesner ............................................................... Anthony Kamiecki
James Prunty ............................................................... Terry Olars
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