

1-12-2000

Antigone's Timeless Tragedy Coming to Stage at UD

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

"Antigone's Timeless Tragedy Coming to Stage at UD" (2000). *News Releases*. 8852.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/8852

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlange1@udayton.edu.



Jan. 12, 2000
 Contact: Pamela Gregg
 gregg@udayton.edu

NEWS RELEASE

ANTIGONE'S TIMELESS TRAGEDY COMING TO STAGE AT UD

DAYTON, Ohio —It could be that French playwright Jean Anouilh knew the only way to deliver his message about the horrors of the Nazi regime during World War II was to cleverly disguise it as a legendary Greek tragedy.

Then again, it could simply be that man's inhumanity to man — a condition as old as man himself — remains a sadly timeless tale ripe for dramatic reinvention in any era.

Whatever the motivation, Anouilh's 1942 adaptation of Sophocles' *Antigone* remains famous for its powerful character interaction, said professional director and playwright Tony Dallas of Yellow Springs, who will direct the University of Dayton theater production opening Jan. 21.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Jan 21 and 22 and Jan. 27 - 29 at the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre. There will also be a 7 p.m. performance on Sunday, Jan. 23. Tickets are \$8 general admission, \$5 for UD students, faculty and staff, and \$7 for non-UD students, and are available at the theater box office, (937) 229-2545, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

"This is a very exciting play," Dallas said. "This particular adaptation is quite famous because of the powerful scenes between the main characters, Antigone and Creon, and are in fact scenes actors often audition to. They're very intense — with a kind of drama that would unfold in a living chess match between characters — and make for very good theater."

The story pits the humanity of young Antigone against the tyranny of her dictator uncle as they vie for control of Thebes. During their dramatic point and counterpoint arguments, Creon oversteps the boundaries of human morality and becomes immovable, Dallas said.

-over-
 OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
 300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679
 (937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax
 www.udayton.edu

“Most of Sophocles’ plays are all about the balance of power. In *Antigone*, both characters are so incredibly stubborn that the audience doesn’t know who to side with.”

While Anouilh’s version shares the same premise as the Sophocles play, it is also quite different, Dallas said.

“Anouilh wrote his modern adaptation in Paris during WWII and the occupation of the city by the Nazis,” Dallas said. “He was trying to speak to the occupation, but needed a way to get his message past the censors.”

The principal difference between the two author’s versions is the evolution of Creon’s character.

“In Sophocles’ version, Creon comes to understand his entrenchments and the tragedy that resulted with the death of his son and the suicide of his wife,” Dallas said. “But in Anouilh’s version, we watch the creation of a tyrant as Creon instead becomes hardened by dealing with those losses.”

And although Creon doesn’t learn his lesson, the play still serves as a warning to us in terms of our own behavior, Dallas added. “Its message alludes to the conditions in places like Bosnia and Kosovo, for instance, places where tyrants have been created, and what it takes to push someone over the edge.”

Dallas said his students are doing exceptionally well with the difficult piece. Senior Megan Cooper takes the role of Antigone, and Bruce Cromer — a theater teacher at Wright State University and the only professional actor in the cast — plays Creon.

Tony Dallas’ vast experience as an actor and director include directing a number of plays for the Human Race Theatre Co. He is also currently writing the text for *1903 - Wings of a Dream*, a play he is co-authoring with WSU theater department chair Stuart McDowell.

Set to premier in November, *1903* is a prequel to *1913*, a play about the infamous Miami Valley flood in that year.