

PARKVIEW FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS: SOPHOCLES' ANTIGONE

Audition Dates and Times:

Auditions will be held in the PV Auditorium on **Sept 18 (Tuesday) 4:00-6:00pm** and **Sept. 19 (Wednesday) from 6:00-8:00pm.**

Call-backs:

No call-backs will be scheduled this year for the Fall Show.

Show Dates:

Wednesday, Nov. 14 @ 9:30am (Non PV Student Show)

Thursday, Nov. 15 @ 9:30am (PV Student Show) and 7:30pm (Opening Night)

Friday, Nov. 16 @ 7:30pm (Closing Night)

Antigone Summary:

Before the play begins the two sons of Oedipus, **Eteocles** and **Polyneices**, have fought for the kingship of Thebes. Both men die in the battle. Their successor, **Creon**, decides that King Eteocles will be buried, but Polyneices, because he was leading a foreign army, will be left on the field of battle. **Antigone**, his sister, buries him anyway.

Antigone is caught burying Polyneices and is condemned to death. Her fiance and Creon's son, **Haimon**, learns about this and tries to convince Creon to change his mind. It's only then that the seer Tiresias appears and finally persuades Creon that the gods want Polyneices buried. By then it's too late -- Antigone has hung herself. Haimon kills himself when he finds her, and Creon's wife kills herself when she learns about her son. Creon is left alone with the knowledge that his own hubris has destroyed his family and left him a broken man.

Characters:

Antigone - Female

Antigone is both the daughter and the sister of Oedipus (since he married his own mother). Now that Oedipus and his brothers are dead, Antigone and Ismene are the last of the Labdacus family. After her father went into exile, Antigone and her sister were raised in the house of Creon. Her brothers Polyneices and Eteocles were casualties in a brutal war for power, each brother dying by the other's hand. Creon has declared that Eteocles will be honored with burial since he was a defender of Thebes, while Polyneices' body is left to the vultures and dogs. It is this edict that drives Antigone to defy the state, since she believes her brother Polyneices deserves the same treatment as Eteocles. Some critics see Antigone as too self-righteous, even alienating, but others claim her as a seminal feminist, determined to do what is right even in defiance of patriarchal law. Indeed, Antigone captured the public imagination immediately after the first performance of the play more than 2,500 years ago, as her deeds expanded the possibilities of human action, reconceived the role of women in society, and delineated a new type of character, one who sets her individual conscience and belief in divine principle above and against the power and authority of the state.

Ismene - Female

Antigone's last surviving sibling, Ismene is the foil for her stronger sister. In comparison to Antigone she has almost no agency, primarily because she is utterly terrified of disobeying men in power. She does not believe that women should

ever violate the laws of men, since they are stronger and deserve subservience. Ismene does not help to bury Polyneices, but tries to claim responsibility for the burial later so that she can die with Antigone. Antigone refuses her help and Ismene is spared. This reflects both her great love for her family and her place as a symbol of the status quo who is rewarded for remembering her place.

Creon - Male

The ruler of Thebes in the wake of war, Creon cherishes order and loyalty above all else. He cannot bear to be defied any more than he can bear to watch the laws of the state defied. He has Polyneices' body defiled while Eteocles is honored because he feels that he cannot give equal to share to both brothers when one was a traitor and the other was loyal. He does not recognize that other forms of justice exist, and in his pride he condemns Antigone, defies the gods, and brings ruin on himself.

Chorus of Theban Elders – Male and Female

The Chorus comments on the action and interacts with Creon, actively interceding with advice at a critical moment late in the play. The Chorus is comprised of the Theban elders, vital for maintaining order in the city, and Creon summons them to win their loyalty. They watch the unfolding events with sympathy and a discerning eye: they pity Creon and Antigone, but also comment critically on their faults.

Watchman – Male or Female

The Watchman brings the news that Polyneices has been buried, and later captures Antigone. He is the comic foil in the play and his speech is an interesting experiment in the history of Greek drama, as it attempts to approximate the rhythms and diction of natural speech. Similarly, his psychology reflects that of the simplest logic and reason - his only concern is preserving his life, and he asks basic questions, contrasting with Creon, Haimon, Ismene, and Antigone's lofty speeches on principles and ethics.

Haimon - Male

Haimon is the son of Creon and Eurydice and is engaged to be married to Antigone. In a dramatic dialogue with his father, Haimon defends the moral basis of Antigone's actions while warning his father that the people of Thebes sympathize with her determination to bury Polyneices. He and his father part in anger, as he simply asks his father to do what's right for Thebes, and his father stubbornly follows the path of least resistance. Haimon's devotion to Antigone is clear; at her death, he is so distraught that he tries to kill his father and then kills himself.

Teiresias - Male

Teiresias is a blind prophet who warns Creon that the gods do not approve of his treatment of Polyneices' body or the punishment of Antigone. Creon insults Teiresias, believing that he's simply blackmailing him for money, but the prophet responds with a prophecy foretelling the death of one of Creon's children and a warning that all of Greece will despise the king if he does not relent. Creon realizes that Teiresias has never been wrong and that he must do his bidding. The prophet is an important part of Sophocles' vision: through Teiresias, the will of the gods is made known, and his very existence implies that there is a definite will of the gods that is far above the domain of man's law.

Eurydice - Female

Eurydice is Creon's wife and Haimon's mother. Broken by her son's suicide, she kills herself, calling curses down on Creon for having caused the tragedy.

Messenger – Male or Female

The Messenger reports the suicides of Antigone and Haimon to the Chorus and Eurydice. He leaves to follow Eurydice when she runs off in grief. The Messenger also reports Eurydice's suicide to the Chorus and Creon. Creon, already broken by Haimon's death, is forced to confront the suicide of his wife as well.

ANTIGONE Rehearsal Schedule

DATE	TIME	OBJECTIVE	NOTES	CALLED
10/8 Mon.	4-6:30p	Read Through		ALL
10/9 Tues.	4-6:30p	Block Sc. 1-4		A, I, CR, CH, W, H
10/10 Wed.	4-6:30p	Block and Run Sc. 1-4		A, I, CR, CH, W, H
10/11 Thurs.	4-6:30p	Block Sc. 5-8		A, CR, CH, I, T, M, E
10/12 Fri.	OFF			
10/15 Mon.	4-6:30p	Block and Run Sc. 5-8		A, CR, CH, I, T, M, E
10/16 Tues.	4-6:30p	Run Sc. 1-4		A, I, CR, CH, W, H
10/17 Wed.	4-6:30p	Run Sc. 5-8		A, CR, CH, I, T, M, E
10/18 Thurs.	4-6:30p	Run Entire Show		ALL
10/19 Fri.	OFF			
10/22 Mon.	4-6:30p	Run Sc. 1-4		A, I, CR, CH, W, H
10/23 Tues.	4-6:30p	Run Sc. 5-8		A, CR, CH, I, T, M, E
10/24 Wed.	4-6:30p	Run Sc. 1-4		A, I, CR, CH, W, H
10/25 Thurs.	4-6:30p	Run Sc. 5-8		A, CR, CH, I, T, M, E
10/26 Fri.	OFF			
10/29 Mon.	4-6:30p	Run Sc. 1-4	OFF BOOK	A, I, CR, CH, W, H
10/30 Tues.	4-6:30p	Run Sc. 5-8	OFF BOOK	A, CR, CH, I, T, M, E
10/31 Wed.	4-6:30p	Run Full Show	OFF BOOK	ALL
11/1 Thurs.	4-6:30p	Run Full Show	Crew Watch	ALL
11/2 Fri.	4-6:30p	Run Full Show		ALL
11/5 Mon.	4-7p	Run Full Show	Crew Watch	ALL
11/6 Tues.	4-7p	Run Full Show		ALL
11/7 Wed.	4-8p	Run Full Show & Work Shadow Players		ALL
11/8 Thurs.	4-8p	Cue to Cue & Run Full Show		ALL
11/9 Fri. 4-9p		Run Full Show	TECH	ALL
11/12 Mon.	4-9p	Run Full Show	TECH	ALL
11/13 Tues.	4-9p	Run Full Show	TECH	ALL
11/14 Wed.	9:30a	Student Show	FINAL TECH	ALL
11/15 Thurs.	9:30a / 6:30p	Student Show / Opening Night	arrive by 5:30p	ALL
11/16 Fri.	6:30p	Closing Night	arrive by 5:30p	ALL

CAST ABBREVIATIONS:

A = ANTIGONE
 I = ISMENE
 CR = CREON
 CH = CHORUS
 W = WATCHMAN
 H = HAIMON
 T = TEIRESIAS
 M = MESSENGER
 E = EURYDICE

SCENE BREAKDOWN:

Sc. 1 pgs. 11 - 15 A, I
 Sc. 2 pgs. 15 - 22 CR, W, CH
 Sc. 3 pgs. 22 - 32 CR, W, A, I, H, CH
 Sc. 4 pgs. 32 - 37 CR, H, CH
 Sc. 5 pgs. 37 - 43 A, CR, CH
 Sc. 6 pgs. 43 - 47 CR, T, CH
 Sc. 7 pgs. 47 - 52 CR, M, E, CH
 Sc. 8 pgs. 52 - 54 CR, M, CH

ANTIGONE AUDITION SIDES

ANTIGONE

It was not god's law. Zeus made no such law. Nor did Justice who lives with the gods below the earth make it a practice for mankind. You are a mere mortal. And what you decree is as nothing in the face of the law of god unwritten and beyond truth. They live not in the now or in the yesterday. They live in eternity. They come to us time out of mind. I am not afraid of any man. Man's power means nothing. I am afraid of the anger of the gods. And therefore I have kept their laws. I knew that I would die. Of course. But your threats meant nothing. If I die before my time, I think I win. For if you live in grief such as mine, what is death but a victory? So there is no grief in death for me. But if I left my mother's son to rot unburied, I would feel grief, but now I grieve not at all. You may think me a fool. But folly may be in the eye of the beholder.

ANTIGONE

My tomb, Death's bedroom, where I shall sleep forever! Soon I will be with my family, the pale corpses whom Persephone welcomed. I am the last and the most accursed. For I have won death before my time. But I know I shall see again those that I love- my dear father, and you my mother, and my brother too. I washed your bodies, dressed you for the grave, poured the libations at your tombs. Oh Polyneices! You know the price I pay for covering your body. But in the eyes of the wise what I did was right. (she turns to the chorus) If a child of mine had died or its father, I would not have broken the state's decree. What makes me think this way? If a husband had died I might have found another and then given birth again. But my parents are dead, and I can never have another brother. That is why I risked my life for you, my darling Polyneices. But Creon thought that what I did was so wrong, dreadful and arrogant. And so he marches me away to death. I will know no marriage bed, hear no bridal song, take no husband in my arms nor hold a baby to my breast. Now without a friend, cursed by fate, with life still in me I go to share darkness with the dead.

CREON

People who are proud crack first. They shatter like iron forged in hot fire. Hard iron splits and slivers in the heat. The sliver of a bit reins in the proudest horse. Pride makes slaves. And this girl is proud, arrogant. She broke the law, our city's law. She did it. That was the first thing. Now she boasts of it. She laughs. She laughs in my man's face. She plays the man. And I am nothing if she wins. She is my sister's child. But if she were my own daughter she would die. She and her sister. For I accuse Ismene too. She shared in this... this burial. Call her out. I saw her in the house. She was no longer mistress of herself. Sometimes secret plans become revealed before the plotters work their evil. I loathe too when the workers of evil try to make what they do something of grace.

CREON

My son, your heart tells you true. Never put anything above your father's will. A father prays that he will breed sons who live with him in duty and obedience, hating his enemies and honoring his friends. But when a son proves good for nothing, what has a man bred but trouble for himself and laughter for his enemies? My son, do not let desire for a woman rule your mind. This thing in our arms would soon grow cold when you knew you had a wicked woman for a wife. A wicked lover in your bed-what knife could cut as deep? No. spit her out, devil that she is-let her be a bride in hell! She was the only one of all the city to disobey me. She was caught in the act. I will not be called a liar- she must die. She can sing a prayer to Zeus, the god of kinship. If I allowed disobedience in my own family, I would have to allow it everywhere. If a man is honest and fair in the home, he will gain the public's confidence. I would trust such a man to rule his people well, even to be ruled well. In the thick of battle, when the hail of spears fall, he will be there, by your side. But if a man crosses the law, uses force, makes plans to subvert the power of the state, you will never find I have a word of praise for him! Whoever the state has put in power must be obeyed-in all things, important unimportant, just and unjust.

ISMENE

Alas alas. I love you, my sister. But remember how our father died, not only unloved but hated, *hated*. He knew the curse and he put out his own sad eyes. Remember, my sister, remember his wife, his own mother. Remember her death, the anguish and the shame. The noose. Remember the death of brothers. They murdered and they died. One day, two deaths. The hands that loved suddenly killed. And now we are alone. We too will die a painful death-if we ignore the king, forget the law. Remember that we are women. Remember that the law belongs to men. This edict, cruel as it is, must be obeyed. I ask forgiveness. I ask forgiveness of the dead. I have no power. I must bow to those who have it. To make a wild and futile gesture makes no sense.

HAIMON

My father, the gods have given men the power to think. It is the best thing that we have. I could not find the words to turn your words around. I have no such skill. But someone else might argue differently... and well. You cannot know everything that people say or do... or how they criticize you. You frighten them. They are afraid to say things that would annoy you. But in the darkness I have heard them say that the city grieves for Antigone, grieves for her unjust punishment. Unjust-to die in shame for what was an act of glory and of justice. She would not leave her dead brother to lie unburied in the dust, for birds and hungry dogs to make an end of him. She deserves a crown of golden glory. Beneath the skin of the city that is what you will hear. My father, your success is my success. There is no greater pleasure for a son than to see his father prosper and achieve undying respect. And a father wishes the same for his son. I beg you... let your stubbornness die. You do not alone own truth.

WATCHMAN

I don't know! The ground was hard and dry... there were no signs of digging... no wheel tracks in the dust. Whoever did this left no trace. Nothing. It was the guard who had the morning shift who noticed it first. We felt sick... astonished really. The body was not there as it had been, not *buried* exactly, just a thin layer of dust, just enough to put his ghost at rest... no footprints of wild animals... no dog tracks... nothing. The body was intact. We began to fight, quarrel, shout at each other. Guard punched guard. Accusations flew about. No one could stop it. Everyone had done it. Nobody had done it. We were ready to take red-hot iron in our hands to swear our innocence. We'd walk through fire. We'd swear by every god we had not done it. We knew nothing. Not the when or the where. Finally when we had talked all the questions through, one man spoke up: it was clear – *you had to be told*. We all stared at the ground. But there was no other choice, no way out really. No way to hide it. What he said... convinced us. We cast lots. I... won. And so I am here. It's not what I want but I am here. Not what *you* want either. Nobody likes the bringer of bad news.

TEIRESIAS

You will understand when you have heard the meaning of my art. I sat as of old in the secret haven where I listen to the sacred screams of birds. I heard bird cries I have never known. They screeched mad and inarticulate. I could hear the murderous tearing of their talons, heard the dying of their wings. I was afraid. I lit a fire of sacrifice upon the altar. The flames refused the flesh and a slimy ooze dripped from the thighs, sputtered, smoked, and died. Gall spurted from the bladder and became vapor in the air. The fat dripped, dripped. But did not burn. The meaning of my art is clear. The ritual failed. This boy was my eyes. As I am yours. The city is diseased because of your decision. Every altar in the town is glutted with the spewed out flesh of Polyneices, regurgitated by dogs and birds... the son of Oedipus. The gods will accept no sacrifice from us, not prayer nor flesh nor flame. The birds cry in the air, but I do not understand their cries. For they are gorged with thee oozing blood of the dead. Think about these things my son. All men make mistakes.

ANTIGONE Information and Contract

I. GENERAL: The Parkview Fine Arts Department will present **Antigone** on November 14 - 16. It will be an exciting yet demanding experience for all. Because of this, the following should be read carefully, signed by BOTH the parent/guardian and the student, and returned to Mr. Hamilton on *the day you audition*. The audition form containing ALL SCHEDULE CONFLICTS (on the back) must also be completed at this time or you will *not be considered for the cast*.

II. AUDITIONS: Auditions are open to all Parkview students meeting grade and conduct standards. Auditions will be held after school from 4:00 – 6:00 on Sept. 18 (Tuesday) and from 6:00 – 8:00 on Sept. 19 (Wednesday). Students are judged not only by their talents, but also dependability, attitude, and cooperation, which may have been observed through classroom activity or previous performance situations. THIS SHOW IS TREATED AS A PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE THROUGHOUT THE PRODUCTION, THEREFORE **THE COMMITTEE'S CASTING DECISIONS ARE FINAL AND ARE NOT TO BE CHALLENGED OR QUESTIONED.**

NOTE: Students who have failed to fulfill previous performance contracts (i.e. dropping out or having been removed from the cast) will not be considered for this year's fall show.

III. REHEARSALS: Rehearsals will begin on October 8 and go through the final performance on Saturday, November 16. Most rehearsals will be held Monday through Thursday after school until 6:30. On the second to last week rehearsals will conclude at 7 or 8 o'clock. The last week, rehearsals will be extended until 9:00. Students will be required to attend rehearsal *only* when their scenes are scheduled. It is the responsibility of the individual student to keep up with his/her schedule.

ABSENCES: Students should indicate all afternoon and evening anticipated conflicts Monday through Thursday from October 9 through November 8. These conflicts should include work schedules, other rehearsals, practices, performances, competitions, college visits, family and social outings, etc. Be sure to include specific days, dates, and times. Open-ended conflicts *will not* be honored. **ANY** absences that occur that is not indicated on your form at the time of the auditions will be unexcused.

Absences due to illness will be recorded as unexcused. Cast members who receive two (2) unexcused absences will be removed from the show. NOTE: There are no excused/unexcused absences of any kind for rehearsals from November 5 through the performances. Students who are removed from this year's show will not be allowed to audition next year.

ANOTHER NOTE: Rehearsals and auditions are closed. Only participants may attend. Parents should call and schedule conference time outside of these if needed.

IV. OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES: Students will be required to provide their own shoes and some of their costume. Many of the costumes need to be made. Parkview will provide fabrics and notions, but cast members will need to find seamstresses who will be awarded complementary tickets. Students may **NOT** keep costumes if the fabric and notions were provided by Parkview.

V. CONDUCT: Rehearsals can be fun creative experiences; however, time is valuable and so are relationships. A cast member may be removed from the cast to due to the lack of cooperation/respect for others, more than two unexcused absences, or by drastically altering his/her physical appearance before the show.

VI. PARENTAL COMMITMENT: As always, we appreciate parental support for getting students to and from rehearsals on time. **No school district transportation will be provided this year.** In addition, we need your talents for the production itself. Please place a check by the committee/committees on which you are willing to serve.

_____ Sewing _____ Cast Party _____ Publicity/promotions _____ Set/properties

Please sign and return this form when you audition to indicate understanding and acceptance of the above information. For more information, contact Mr. Hamilton at 447-2356.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Student's Signature

ANTIGONE *Audition Form*

BE SURE TO COMPLETE THIS ENTIRE FORM ALONG WITH SIGNATURES ON THE REVERSE SIDE AND **RETURN IT WHEN YOU AUDITION.**

NOTE THIS CHANGE: No bus transportation will be provided this year.

NAME _____ GRADE _____
HEIGHT _____

SEX _____ PERSONAL PHONE _____ HOME
PHONE _____

CITY OF RESIDENCE _____
EMAIL _____

PANTS SIZE _____ DRESS SIZE _____ SHIRT SIZE _____ MAGNET
AREA _____

List previous performance experience beginning with Parkview shows:

IMPORTANT: List all afternoon and evening conflicts (even if not confirmed) from October 8 through November 16. You must give **specific dates and times** or those conflicts will not be honored. For example, do not simply write down "Cheerleading" or "Choir." Remember that these conflicts will be the **only** excused absences. Also, **NO CONFLICTS WILL BE HONORED NOVEMBER 5 THROUGH THE END OF THE PRODUCTION.** You may not add to your list once the show is cast.

List the specific roles you would like to play (You must be willing to accept any part you list):