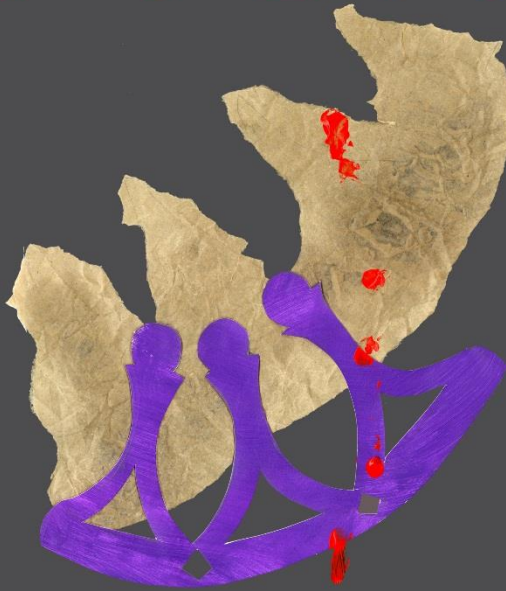


Network
Theatre
Company

NEWS



Daughter. Sister. Lover. Patriot?



ANTIGONE

Adapted and directed by Frances Bruce

Performances: 22 - 26 October 2013 at 7.30pm (Doors 7pm) - Ticketed

News

Editorial

Hello and welcome to the latest Network Theatre Company newsletter! Our next production, *Antigone* opens in two weeks, and it's shaping up nicely. Frances Bruce the director has a wonderful vision of the piece and she gives us a glimpse of it in her preview note.

This December, we are proud to present the London premiere of Alan Ayckbourn's "Life and Beth." We have a splendid cast in place, but we still need a young male actor to play Martin who's in his early 20s. Please contact Emma Byrne on ebyrne.uk@gmail.com for more details before the 20th October. This represents a real coup for Network and it promises to raise a Christmas smile as only Ayckbourn can!

David Murray Award

Our annual event commemorating life of David Murray and his considerable contribution to the Network Theatre (including being chairman for many years) is on **12th October 2013**.

In a change to our published programme, we will be running a one off reading of *Allo Allo* for this evening. This promises to be a fun event and the bar of course will be open!

With next year being Networks 75th anniversary we hope to make this event a big splash for it in 2014.

2014 shows

Two plays have been programmed for next year, both featuring returning directors who produced successful shows this year. February features *King Lear*, directed by Bernie Byrnes who has previously staged *The Tempest* and this year's splendid interpretation of *Faustus*. Based on those shows *Lear* promises to be a bit special.

June brings "Looking for Normal" by Jane Anderson, directed by Calendar Girl's Rebecca Mason. A modern American piece, full of humour and sadness, *Normal* is a love story with a twist- and explores what it really means to love someone.

Preview

Antigone

By Sophocles; directed by Frances Bruce

I discovered Antigone during a particularly tumultuous time. We emigrated from Derbyshire to South Africa when I was nine years old, and arrived in Cape Town just as a state of emergency had been declared. Over the course of the next few years, South Africa balanced on the edge of civil war. For a high school girl caught up in the throes of this political situation, Antigone became and has remained one of my favourite stories.

Sophocles' Antigone is undoubtedly one of the clearest plays ever written: this story is a freight train of action and consequence. My choice to adapt Sophocles' Antigone was fuelled by this question: what makes a Patriot: someone who does what they are told, or someone who does what is right?

Conflicts raging around the world right now make this question even more vital. Words such as "terrorist" and "patriot" are used as part of pop culture, and I am keen to shine a light on what it means to love a country. What does this love demand of its leader? What does this love demand of its people? To love a family.... What does this love demand of us? The easy option? Or do we choose what we know we must protect as the focus of our love?

Our Antigone takes place over the course of one full day, the first official day of Creon's rule as King of Thebes. Thebes has been ravaged by civil war, a bombed out crater of its former glory. The corpses of Antigone's two brothers lie where they fell at the seventh gate. The land is a butchered dustbowl; there is no rain and nothing grows here. Thebes is a suspended reality. We have decided against contemporary costumes and set. Sometimes by holding a mirror too close to contemporary life, we deny ourselves the full cathartic experience that waits at the soul of Sophocles' masterpiece. We offer a Thebes from another time and place.

The Chorus is renamed Collective: a troupe of Theban elders named after letters in the Greek alphabet who collect myth and legend, and advise their King. The play begins with the Collective inducting their newest member – an enthusiastic elder called Omega - into their order.

Supporting characters have been given a fuller arc in the story, to further highlight the core themes raging at the heart of the conflict. Both Eurydice and Ismene are far from victims; they both do what they must to protect what they love, while doing what they can to support those they love. Haemon – the true patriot – is a horrific casualty to his father Creon's lust for power and control. Creon is a Theban ruler with contemporary traits; he is cruel and strategic. And Antigone? Antigone does precisely what she sets out to do, and does so willingly and consciously; acutely aware of her personal sacrifice.

We invite you to escape into our imagined world of Thebes to be delighted by the stout heart of the Sentry, inspired by the wisdom of a female Tiresias, electrified by the passionate and idealistic Haemon, comforted and moved by the strength of Eurydice and Ismene, led by the lyrical, wise and human force of the Collective and blown away by the iconic powerhouse adversaries, Creon and Antigone.

Tickets for Antigone are available from

<http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Networktheatre> priced at £ **12.00**

Coming up

The David Murray Award

presented by Kay Murray

Featuring an informal reading of *Allo allo*

written By Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft

12th October 2013

Life and Beth

By Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Emma Byrne

Performance dates: 4-7th December 2013

King Lear

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Bernie Byrnes

Audition and reading dates TBA

Performance dates 19-22 February 2014 and

26 February 2014-1 March 2014

All our play readings and auditions are open to non-members and are very relaxed and informal. So if you fancy trying out for a play or are just interested in the network theatre why not come along? We welcome new members. If you would like to become a member please contact membership@networktheatre.org