

## **ANTIGONE**

Actor: Teresa Ralli

Director: Miguel Rubio

Text: Jose Watanabe (adaptation of Sofocles' tragedy)

Teresa Ralli performs in Spanish. This performance has been played in connection with political protests concerning missing people in Peru.

**1.** It is the first day of peace in Thebes. A woman appears carrying an urn to make a ritual. Before beginning the ritual, she decides to tell us her story. While narrating, all the characters she has lived with start coming to life again. First Creon, who enjoys his power and declares that there will be no forgiveness for Polinices' dead body or for whoever dares to bury him. Alone in her courtyard at home, Antigone despairs and reflects on how power has changed her uncle

Creon. She only succeeds in asking her dead brother what she should do. The narrator says to her: "Rest Antigone, let sleep be a pacifying truce while the long night passes by... Sleep." Blue.

**2.** The narrator tells us how the castle guard arrives to warn Creon that someone has buried Polinices. Antigone, alone before the gods, asks them why her brother has to remain exposed to the dogs and birds of prey, and she takes the decision to cover him with dust and officiate the funeral ritual. In the loneliness of his castle, Creon speculates over possible guilty people. With fury he remembers Polinices' missing mortuary mask and he swears to take revenge on the treacherous. The narrator tells us how she has seen Antigone "running secretly from corner to corner and from one column to the next, as if hiding from nobody" to reach her dead brother. The guards discover her as she is beginning the funeral and take her prisoner. Blue.

**3.** The narrator tells us how Antigone is carried "like a hunted animal while the people of Thebes look at her like curious monkeys". Creon and Antigone face each other. The narrator tells us of how Antigone is taken, thrown into a cave and walled in. Antigone, alone in the cave, starts thinking about the death awaiting her in consequence of her mercy and piety. Her future with Hemon, her beloved, is destroyed. The narrator introduces Hemon, Creon's son and Antigone's love. Hemon decides to beg his father forgiveness for Antigone. While Creon suggests to Hemon to let Antigone find a suitor in hell, Hemon tells his father what he has heard. He tells him what simple people say and demands that his father should learn from them. Hemon asks his father to listen to the gods and to give in so that "everyone can celebrate peace and Antigone can see the light". In the cave Antigone hears the voices of her father, mother, brothers and sister. She knows that "the sweet resignation we call death" is near. Blue

**4.** The narrator describes the apparent calm that surrounds Thebes. Tiresias, the old seer, is coming. He tells Creon that he sees the crown at the edge of an abyss and warns him to bury the dead body and free the loyal sister, because the gods reject all kind of sacrifices and the furnaces are full of Polinices' remains brought by birds of prey

and dogs. Creon starts showing his fear and the solitude of his power based on unjust behaviour. Tiresias returns to Creon to warn him that the smell of blood is overwhelming and that the Furies are approaching in order to take a beloved person as victim. The narrator takes us to the cave where Antigone daydreams that the sun is rising and she decides to die. The narrator, moved by her own story, tells us about the people of Thebes, how they finally rouse and shout to Creon at the doors of his palace. Creon appears on the balcony and revokes his order. He decides to go himself to the cave to break the seal of rocks and free Antigone. It is too late. Somebody has entered the cave and found Antigone's dead body. It is Hemon, who tries to plunge his sword into his father's body and, as he doesn't manage to do so, finally kills himself. "Cruel sign of rage against his own father". The narrator describes her meeting with Antigone and reveals her own identity. She came tonight to do the ritual. Finally she begins, she opens the box, in a belated but necessary gesture.