



greek olympic society of columbus presents in english  
**CLASSICAL GREEK THEATER**  
**ANTIGONE / ANTIGONH**

19 October 2008 Sunday Evening

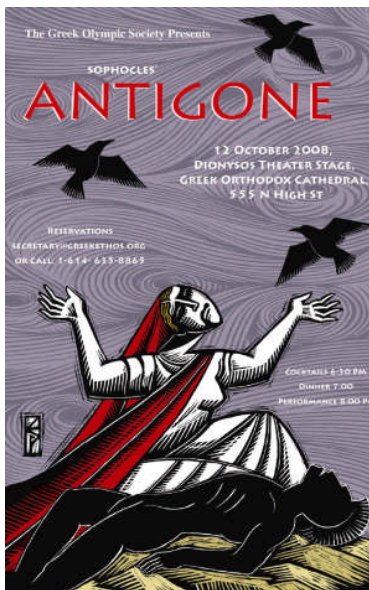
**Greek Orthodox Cathedral**, 555 N High St., Columbus, OH

Cocktails - Dinner 6:30 to 8:00 PM; \$25

**Antigone** is a drama by **Sophocles**, one of the trilogy that includes Oedipus the King and Oedipus at Colonus. Antigone, the faithful daughter of Oedipus is featured in all 3 plays. **Sophocles** is considered one of the 4 greatest playwrights in the world, the other 3, **Aeschylus**, **Euripides**, and **Aristophanes** were his rivals and contemporaries in the 5<sup>th</sup> century Athens, the **Golden Age** of Classical Theater in Greece.

Not being trained in the arts, my analysis of the ancient dramas may sound too much like an engineering report than a literary treatise. However, **I have a dream**; it is to unite our glorious past with the also glorious present. Anyway, what impresses me with the plays of these giants of the theater are their depth of knowledge of human thought process; the fluidity and euphony of their poetic verses; the creative way of exploring human **heroism** and **folly**; the dialectic portrayal of man's strive for morality and salvation; the poignancy of **hubris**; the dramatic depiction of the ecstasy of true love [Agape=**Αγάπη**], of the splendor of a friend's love [Philia=**Φιλία**], of the agony of unrequited love [Eros=**Έρως**], of the power of heavenly love [Eulabia=**Ευλαβεία**] and of filial love [Eusevia=**Ευσέβεια**] such as those of **Antigone** the heroine in Sophocles trilogy.

**THE DRAMA ANTIGONE:** Antigone returns to her hometown **Thebes** after her father's king **Oedipus** dormition in Colonus, outside Athens. Having blinded himself for unwittingly killing his father and marrying his mother, Oedipus went into self-imposed exile. His 2 sons vied for his throne. **Polyneikes** hires mercenaries from Argos and attacks the 7 gates of Thebes, which are defended by his brother **Eteocles**. In the battle, they meet and kill each other. Their uncle **Creon** assumes the throne. Eteocles is given a glorious state funeral for dying in defense of the city. Creon rules that Polyneices be left out in the battleground **unburied**, a fate considered the most **ignominious** in ancient Greece. Anyone who disobeys the order would be punished by death. That sets the stage for a classical conflict.



Antigone chooses to defy Creon's **human edict** and to obey the **heavenly law** of the inviolable right to a funeral for her brother. Antigone as all genuine martyrs is consumed by religious piety [**Ευλαβεία**] that makes her disregard the earthly powers of civic authority. Creon, on the other side, obsessed with law and order, is prepared to sacrifice individual **human rights** for the sake of the State.

The other main characters in this enthralling and as relevant drama today as it was when first performed 2,500 years ago, under the shadow of the Parthenon in the Acropolis **Dionysos Theater** of Athens, and in the midst of the war with monarchic Sparta for hegemony of territories and their resources, are: sister **Ismene**, gentle, pliant, preferring compliance than confrontation, but whose love [**Αγάπη**] for Antigone is such that she too eventually chooses defiance; noble **Haemon**, the son of Creon, whose erotic love [**Έρως**] for Antigone leads him to the same fate as Romeo in Shakespeare's play that was written 2,000 years later, however; **Eurydice**, the wife of Creon, sister of Jocasta the wife of Oedipus, she too cannot endure the pain. **Tiresias**, the blind old sage, whose advice to Creon is heeded but as in all dramas **too late**.

The **Chorus** adds color to the classical dramas and educates the audience of the real issues in the play. In this case, the Chorus represents the citizenry who are prepared to stand alongside their king Creon out of respect and fear, but sympathize with the single-mindedness and filial piety of Antigone and that of her devoted lover Haemon.

**Taiganides, Elissaios Paul**; PE; Producer [ethos@grekolympicsociety.org](mailto:ethos@grekolympicsociety.org)

DIRECTOR – Eleni Papaleonardos; PRODUCER – Elissaios P Taiganides; STAGE MANAGER – George Papalios; MURAL ART – Evangelia Philippidis; SCENERY CONSTRUCTION – Ilias Adamantidis and Petros Avradopoulos; HOSPITALITY – Nick Geldis & George Tornik; BUSINESS MANAGER – Chris Bouzounis; ADS MANAGER – George Sourvanos; TREASURER – Jim Dracopoulos; PUBLIC RELATIONS- Ilias Adamantidis; COMMUNITY LIAISON - Harry Ruska; ART EXHIBIT – Fran Papalios