



ANTIGONE Family Feuds

Antigone shows at The Subiaco Arts Centre, 180 Hamersley Road, Subiaco, from Wednesday, February 25, 'til Saturday, March 7. Bookings can be made through BOCS.

When ancient Greek playwright Sophocles composed *Antigone* back in 442 BCE, little did he know he was creating a play that would stand the tests of time. Over 2500 years on, *Antigone* is still being performed for audiences around the globe, with Perth having its opportunity to view this classic tale as part of the *Perth International Arts Festival*.

Based on the interpretation of Sydney based writer and WAAPA graduate Eamon Flack, Matt Lutton's *Antigone* is relevant to modern audiences, with naught a Toga in sight, as actress Kate Mulvany points out.

"[The text] is universal. I guess we look at it and go 'It's just going to be like Shakespeare - war and fairies prancing around some forest' but it's not, it's about really domestic issues. Like when your stepdaughter really pisses you off, what do you do about it?"

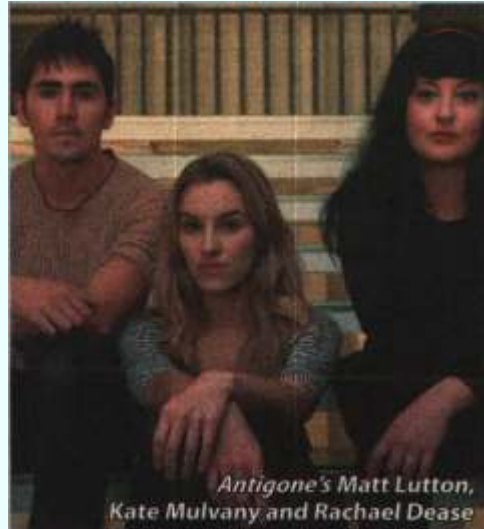
"It's set in Thebes but really, with Matt Lutton's production, it could be any city anywhere; any city who's at war - Perth is at war, our country is at war so it could be here."

"It's the story of a new king called Creon who is the brother in law of Oedipus, who has taken over Thebes. His nephews, who are Oedipus's sons, have fought each other on the battlefield and one has fought for the enemy and one has fought for his side and they've killed each other. He [Creon] demands that one of the brothers gets a proper burial and the other has to be left where he died, which in ancient Greek terms is huge - they believed you must never leave someone dead on the ground."

"Antigone's struggle is that she's battling for her brother, Polynices, to get a proper burial. King Creon absolutely forbids anyone from burying his body but Antigone decides to break all of his laws and go ahead and bury the body. And then all the ramifications of that happen."

Mulvany explains she had no hesitation when approached by Lutton to play Antigone; it's a role she's hoped to be cast in ever since studying the text in her teen days.

"I studied the text a bit when I was at



Antigone's Matt Lutton, Kate Mulvany and Rachael Dease

Curtin, doing Ancient Greek studies, and really loved it then but probably didn't appreciate it quite as much as I should have, but that was 11 years ago, so it's nice to return to it and understand it more."

"Antigone's petulance and her arrogance, I really liked that... She's always represented in other productions as a very noble creature who walks onstage and she has high moral standards; I didn't want to play her like that. I wanted to play her as someone who was a bit more petulant and speaks before she thinks, but that turns in to a form of nobility in itself."

Mulvany explains that Lutton has added a musical twist to the text in casting Schvendes' Rachael Dease as the Greek Chorus.

"It's unbelievable having her and the band in the room. She is pretty much a cast member and so when she sings, and the songs she's singing are commenting on the action but in a very Rachael Dease way - it's her lyrics, her music, her performance. I get tingles every time she opens her mouth, I go 'I can't believe I'm on stage with this woman!'"

"It adds this whole new layer to the text. People will come along and they'll get a play but they'll also get a fantastic concert."

EMMA BERGMEIER