



An ancient tale reborn

IN an unusual turn of events, local singer/songwriter Rachael Dease has found herself playing a city.

A theatre novice, Dease will 'play' the city of Thebes in exciting young director Matthew Lutton's highly contemporary reinvention of Sophocles' Greek tragedy *Antigone*, which promises to be the locally produced highlight of this year's Perth International Arts Festival.

While WA Academy of Performing Arts graduate Eamon Flack's adaptation will retain the language and events of Sophocles' tale of flawed leadership, a modern visual aesthetic has been added to the proceedings.

The biggest variation in the production is the replacement of the Greek chorus with a series of new songs, which were written by, and will be performed live by Dease – a musician, lyricist and lead singer of award-winning local band Schvendes.

Onstage, musicians Tristen Parr, Bill Darby and Pete Guazzelli will accompany Dease's evocative torch songs.

Even though this is the adaptation of a 2451-year-old text, Dease said people might be surprised to find out exactly how pertinent it was to people in today's age.

"It is about love, tragedy and the fragility of human emotion and the fragility and consequences of our decisions, on not just us and our families, but whole societies.

■ *Antigone* will be reborn at the Subiaco Arts Centre from February 21 to March 7.



Ross McRae

Rachael Dease with musicians Bill Darby, Peter Guazzelli and Tristen Parr.