

Antigone

Daile Pepper March 24, 2009 - 7:32AM

West Australian director Matthew Lutton will fire the imaginations of Perth audiences with a blistering new version of Sophocles' tragedy, *Antigone*.

The production will be part of the 2009 Perth International Arts Festival, with Kate Mulvany in the role of the gutsy *Antigone*.

Lutton's work is a contemporary portrayal of flawed leadership and the danger of fanaticism. This new adaptation maintains the language and events of Sophocles, and brings a highly contemporary theatrical and visual aesthetic to the story.

The Greek chorus is replaced by a series of new songs written and performed live by musician and lyricist Rachael Dease (lead singer of award-winning band Schvendes) who blasts opens Sophocles' chorus with a series of her strikingly haunting torch songs, accompanied by musicians Tristen Parr, Bill Darby and Pete Guazzelli.

The production has a rich visual language to accompany the intense spoken debates in this adaptation by Eamon Flack (Artistic Associate of Belvoir St Theatre's Company B). The offstage action that is traditionally only described verbally by Sophocles, is depicted visually in this production.

The war has ended, and it's time for a city to rest, to mourn, and rebuild. But when the daughter of a past king defies the city's latest law and buries her traitor brother, the limits of love and leadership are pushed to the knife-edge.

To strengthen a fragile city, the honouring of traitors is outlawed. No one shall give support to an enemy. But how does a newly appointed leader re-shape a community without trampling on the traditions of the past and the needs of the individual? *Antigone* is an urgent and deeply moving story, where fanaticism threatens to unravel both hearts and minds.

Lutton's work was last seen by Perth Festival audiences in 2007 with his beautiful and chilling production of Mishima's *The Lady Aoi*.

At 24 years of age he is fast establishing his reputation as one of Australian theatre's most exceptional talents and is the director of his own contemporary national theatre company, ThinIce.

Recent works include *Red Shoes* (part of *Artrage* 2008), *Don't Say the Words* (for Griffin Theatre Company in Sydney), *Tartuffe* (at Melbourne's Malthouse Theatre), *The Goose Chase*, *Woyzeck*, and *The Visit*.

Antigone will run from 21 February to 7 March 2009, at the Subiaco Arts Centre as part of the 2009 Perth International Arts Festival.

[Tickets are on sale now through BOCS, \(08\) 9484 1133.](#)