

Antigone Content Warnings

This sheet is for anyone who would like to have a greater understanding of the sensitive content prior to seeing the show, therefore please be aware that if you read on there will be significant spoilers.

The themes of the show include grief, bereavement and suicide throughout. A gun is used, and a loud gunshot is heard at the end of the show.

PLOT SUMMARY

Antigone follows the story of a young girl who has lost both of her brothers in a war. One is hailed a hero, whilst the other is deemed a traitor. His body is put on display and the new leader, Creon, denies him a proper burial, and threatens death upon anyone who disobeys this ruling. Antigone believes that without following a full burial ritual, her brother will not have safe passage into the afterlife and this will be disobeying the Gods. She takes it upon herself to bury her brother despite Creon's laws. She is then sentenced to death, and herself and her betrothed both die by suicide.

SCENE BY SCENE BREAKDOWN

Opening/Scene 1

As you walk into the theatre, a coffin is centre stage on a slight platform. It is reminiscent of a state funeral with a wreath and flag adorning the coffin. The coffin remains on stage throughout the next scene.

Scene 2

During Creon's address, the coffin is taken to the back of the stage as those present bow their heads and mourn. Then, a dead body is revealed to be displayed on a crucifix at the back of the stage. This is Antigone's brother Polynices. The body is a prop and there is a hood over its face.

The body remains on stage throughout the next few scenes.

Scene 4

During Creon's coronation and Ismene's song, Antigone performs a burial ritual on the body and removes it from stage. It is apparent that she is mourning the loss of her brother.

Scene 5

Haemon and Creon discuss Polynices burial, we see Antigone above walking through the city covered in dirt. Creon talks about the family bloodline and how Oedipus removed his eyes from his skull in a gory manner.

Scene 7

Antigone and Haemon discuss that Antigone is likely to be captured and put to death. Haemon expresses suicidal thoughts in response to this.

Scene 8

Antigone and Creon discuss the nature of grief and mourning in depth. Creon sentences both Antigone and Ismene to be executed.

Scene 9

Haemon and Creon argue about Antigone's sentence, and he threatens her with his suicide. At the end of the scene, Creon orders guards to take Antigone to a cave and leave her there to die.

Scene 10

Upon entering the cave, it is clear that Antigone is very distressed. Within her monologue she realises there is no escape and in her eyes her only solution is death by suicide. She discusses how she feels there is no one left for her and how all of her dead family will greet her in the afterlife. Moving into the next scene, Ismene sings whilst Antigone moves towards the back of the stage and performs the same burial ritual seen earlier upon herself. The cave mouth closes with the screen dropping which shows us symbolically that she has died.

Scene 12

Tiresias the sage prophesies Haemon's death to his mother Creon. Creon also reveals that she has previously lost a son and discusses her grief over this.

Scene 13

The screen/cave mouth reopens, and a platform moves forward from the back to centre stage. Haemon visibly grieving Antigone, who lies dead in his arms in the cave. Antigone has her headscarf now wrapped around her neck. Creon rushes in, but it is too late as Antigone has already passed. Haemon argues with his mother and threatens her life. He pulls his gun from his holster and aims it at Creon.

There is a blackout and a loud gunshot can be heard. The gunshot sound makes use of the directional speakers and there is a ripple effect that travels across the auditorium, as if the gunshot could be heard across the entire city.

Scene 14

The lights come up to reveal Haemon is dead in his mother's arms. She is crying. Creon gives her final monologue expressing her extreme grief over the loss of her two sons. She lets out a guttural scream. Antigone's body can still be seen in the background.

Scene 15

Ismene arrives at the cave and sees Creon holding a dead Haemon before rushing over to Antigone's body. We watch Ismene and Creon tend to their dead loved ones, Antigone and Haemon, as Tiresias watches on from the upper platform, and Ismene sings a final song.