

https://www.hoosiertimes.com/herald_times_online/entertainment/outdoors-and-incredible-this-is-how-to-see-warm-weather/article_63c1f8bf-bb8f-568c-a1ae-1b6643a89b30.html

Theater review: 'Antigone'

Outdoors and incredible: This is how to see warm-weather theater

By Connie Shakalis Special to the H-T May 7, 2019



IU's Conrad Prebys Amphitheater is shown during its dedication in 2017. A performance of Sophocles' "Antigone" by the Department of Theatre, Drama and Contemporary Dance will be the first public theater production at the venue. Chaz Mottinger

Last week, I saw Sophocles' "Antigone" in Greece. It seemed like that, anyway, as we gathered at the Conrad Prebys Amphitheater right behind the Bryan House, behind Indiana University's Musical Arts Center.

Why has it taken more than one and half years to do a theatrical production there? The late former IU President and Chancellor Herman B Wells came up with the outdoor-performing-space idea, which came to life in 2017, and it's perfect. Having spent most of my life in Indianapolis and New York, I've been craving those fragrant summer nights spent outdoors enjoying live theater. Now we have more of it in Bloomington, I hope. (Monroe County Civic Theater's "Shakespeare in the Park" series is another good opportunity.)

Jonathan Michaelson directed this wonderful "Antigone," a fitting initial theatrical production for the Amphitheater, with actors running in and out from the surrounding hill.

Since there wasn't a printed program, I'll try to come up with some of the names of the cast. A man named Greg provided drum beats throughout, the only music, and, somehow just those taps and bangs contributed very effectively to the action. A flickering footlight ended up adding surprise ambience, too, as it resembled sparkling water or firelight.

The actors used mics, which at first, shocked the quiet evening but soon seemed fine. It was a supreme 75 minutes of birdsong, dogwoods, mammoth evergreen trees, newly green landscaped grass, sunset and theater. The passersby in the distance added even more real-feel.

"Antigone" tells of a newly crowned king, Creon (a blustering and sympathetic Joshua Robinson), coming to power, in which he revels. But there's a Sophoclesian problem: someone has disobeyed Creon and therefore requires death by public stoning, but that someone turns out to be his niece (Glynnis Kunkel-Ruiz in yet another good part for this IU favorite). Creon must decide — he loves making decisions — to follow his heart and spare her or his convictions and kill her — for "this demonstration against my authority." Emphasis on "my."

"She is my niece, but I am the law," he declares to all.

Her miserable deed? Burying her brother, who by law was not deserving of a burial; he had attacked the city, whereas the other brother, killed in the same battle, had defended the city and received a proper funeral. Michaelson's robust sense of humor gets an outlet even in this sinister (I had nightmares shortly thereafter), serious play. His soldier (Reid Henry) has some delightfully funny moments, as he showed us why it's unfair to shoot the messenger. He, unfortunately, is the one who reports to Creon about Antigone covering her brother's corpse with dust, which is all she can muster in her haste.

We all know what this feels like, hating, unfairly, the person who gives us the bad news, and Creon is furious, threatening the soldier with something worse than death.

One of the night's best scenes came from the prophet (Mia Siffin), who warns Creon to think prudently and compassionately, lest untold sorrow follow. Siffin, also a standout in the play's chorus, is splendid as the stumbling, blind fortuneteller. Her speaking voice, too, is rich and mellow. Warning — If only Creon hadn't disdained her, accusing her of self-interest only.

Antigone's loyal fiance gave an impassioned performance and gets this powerful question for his domineering father, Creon: "Is anyone ELSE allowed to speak?"

MORE INFORMATION



Amphitheater offers outdoor space for a Greek classic

Sponsored Content on HTO

Indiana Drivers With No DUI's Getting A Big Pay Day

BY COMPARISONS.ORG

Drivers With No Tickets In 3 Years Should Do This On September



You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

Play this for 1 minute and see why everyone is addicted!

Throne: Free Online Games

Most People Never Noticed The Giant Blooper In This Iconic 'Gilligan's Island' Scene

History101

This warm color is perfect to wear year round

ella+mila

Research Home Security Systems

Home Security Systems | Search Ads

"Man Comes To Adopt Pit Bull At Shelter, But She Refused Until He Realized Why "

EternalLifeStyle

Indiana Drivers With No DUI's Are In For A Big Surprise

Auto Rates USA

