

ANTIGONE



PRISON
Performing
ARTS

WOMEN'S EASTERN

RECEPTION, DIAGNOSTIC &

CORRECTIONAL CENTER

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018

In collaboration with St. Louis University Theatre

SPECIAL THANKS

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WOMEN'S EASTERN RECEPTION, DIAGNOSTIC, & CORRECTIONAL CENTER

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THE SEBY B. JONES FAMILY FOUNDATION

ANTIGONE

CAST

Evon E.	Antigone 1, Ismene 1
Ann Marie P.	Antigone 2, Ismene 2
Laura H.	Antigone 3, Ismene 3, Emcee
Brittany P.	Antigone 4, Ismene 4
Erica Withrow.....	Antigone 5, Ismene 5
Kimberleigh S.	Antigone 6, Ismene 6, Eurydice
Lacey K.	Antigone 7, Ismene 7
Autumn S.	Creon
Alicia D.	Haemon
Tessa V.	Tiresias
Rachel S.	Guard 1
Michelle H.	Guard 2
Patty P.	Chorus 1
Telisha L.	Chorus 2
Sharnique "Nikki" J.	Chorus 3
Megan C.	Chorus 4
Sandra D.	Chorus 5
Cynthia S.	Chorus 6
Erica N.	Percussion
LaWanda J.	Sound Board Operator

Script Development: Marilyn Arnold, Hannah Balint, Jimmy Berntowicz, Lucy Cashion, Claire Cunningham, Sandra D., Andre Eslamian, Jackson Gress, Jessica H., Miranda Jagels-Felix, Sharnique J., Michael Lanham, Shannon M., Heather N., Valen Piotrowski, Patty P., Ross Rubright, Parvuna Sulaiman, Rachel S., Tori Thomas, Rachel Tibbetts, Tessa V., LaToshia W., Erica Withrow, and Noah Weisbrod.

CO-DIRECTORS

Lucy Cashion & Rachel Tibbetts

Costume design for SLU production: Lou Bird

Set design for SLU production: Dan Giedeman

Fight Choreography for SLU production: Ryan Lawson-Maeske

Program Cover design for SLU production: Valerie Cook

Megan C. (Chorus 4) I'm 36 years old. This is my first PPA play however I have taken two PPA classes with Mr. Limber. I joined this to pass time but to also get to know different people and to continue to stay optimistic. I'm excited that they have a program like this and I word of advice: Don't be afraid to get out there and try something new. It's worth the risk.

Sandra D. (Chorus 5) After having helped restructure the Greek tragedy, *Antigone*, my hope is that the audience understands and enjoys it as much as I'm pleased and proud to be part of its unfolding. Many thanks to Spoken Word, PPA, and all involved for this wonderful opportunity of self-expression. Man, this stuff is a gas! Ya dig?!

Alicia D. (Haemon) I am 33 years old and my first time incarcerated here was 2013. I had always wanted to participate in PPA. Perhaps out of habit - I allowed my fears to get in the way of doing something different and once again I simply remained part of the audience. Now my second time here, I made myself take a chance in being part of something bigger than myself and this institution. Fear of failure is a hindrance I no longer choose to belong to. My sense of accomplishment is even more beautiful than I could have ever expected.

Evon E. (Antigone 1, Ismene 1) I'm 21 years old. I have a four year old son who means the world to me. I have been incarcerated for 33 months. I joined PPA to get out of my comfort zone and it has been one of the best decisions I've ever made since being in the institution. This process has allowed me to establish my own uniqueness and express myself in a different way. I look forward to participating in more plays.

Laura H. (Antigone 3, Ismene 3, Emcee) I'm 25 years old, born and raised in St. Louis, MO. I've been involved with PPA since 2016 and I've enjoyed the journey! Throughout the years I've learned a lot about acceptance, patience, and persistence. No matter how difficult things may be, it's the strength and passion that helps you get through those times. I am proud to be a part of this production and to say the least, sad that it will be my last before I am released from confinement. I want to give a special thanks to those who have played an important part in making PPA so grand and memorable. Christopher Limber, the cast of *Animal Farm*, the cast of *Run-On Sentence*, Stacie Lents, Lisa Boyd, Rachel Tibbetts, and Lucy Cashion.

Michelle H. (Guard 2) I am 40 years old, a loving wife and mother of 6 kids, 3 girls and 3 boys. I train service dogs and I like to stay busy and positive that's why I am doing this play. This is my second play with PPA and I have done a few Rec plays. I enjoy the plays because it gives me more to do with my time and we have a lot of fun so I thank you.

Sharnique "Nikki" J. (Chorus 3) I have never heard of Antigone before doing the workshop. I had fun being part of the workshop and production. Working with Rachel and Lucy was new and fun. You never know what you might get. Whoever made the saying, "Think outside the box," had to know them.

Lacey K. (Antigone 7, Ismene 7) I'm 30 years old and this is my first full semester with Prison Performing Arts, throughout my life I have had ample time of performing in front of an audience rather it be band, dance, or cheerleading, but I will say this experience has taught me so much. Even though I have a long way to go, I am proud to say that I am developing in the art of acting. Being able to escape a harsh reality and disappear into a character is an amazing feeling. I love being a Thespian! Thanks to PPA and a special thanks to Lucy, Rachel, and Erica!

Telisha L. (Chorus 2) I'm 36 years old and have three children. I enjoy entertaining others with my acting. I have been performing with PPA about 3 years and I hope and pray that I can continue my acting skills. Enjoy the show.

Erica N. (Percussion) I'm 32 years old and from St. Louis, MO. I have been involved with PPA for 2 years. This year I am the drummer for *Antigone* and it is an honor to be a part of this production. I played the drums for a few years for my church so it's really exciting to be able to share my talent through this production. It's exciting and I pleasure to work with these women.

Ann Marie P. (Antigone 2, Ismene 2) I'm 24 years old and from the Branson area. This is my first play ever. Which is kinda scary because it's way out of my comfort zone but Lucy and Rachel have made this such an amazing experience that I will definitely continue PPA in the years to come.

Brittany P. (Antigone 4, Ismene 4) I am 28 years old and was born and raised in the St. Louis area. This is my first production with PPA and it has been a blast! I have built relationships with a handful of women, while bonding over everything that goes into the production of a play. This process has been full of struggles, but I am confident it will be a success due to all of the wonderful women that have put forth so much time, energy, and emotion. I would love to thank Lucy, Rachel, and Erica for their dedication, support, laughter, and encouragement. I would also like to extend an extra huge thank you to Prison Performing Arts for making all of this possible. I have had an incredible and unforgettable experience and I can't wait to see what the future holds!

Patty P. (Chorus 1) Prison Performing Arts is my whetstone. Undoubtedly without these plays, this old lady would wear down dull. Congratulations to PPA supporters, staff, and participants! Good show!

Autumn S. (Creon) I'm 31 years old and this is my fourth PPA play. I had the pleasure of seeing *Antigone* performed here and I was blown away. The moment the play was over I said, "I have to be a part of this production." I decided to take a risk and try out for Creon. Anyone who knows me knows this is my polar opposite and honestly, I might have bitten off more than I can chew. I'm looking forward to our performances and I hope everyone enjoys it as much as I did. I'd like to thank everyone who's made this play possible and let my husband, daughters, and son know I love them more than life itself.

Kimberleigh S. (Antigone 6, Ismene 6, Eurydice) First off, I would like to thank Lucy and Rachel - without you two we never could've pulled this off. PPA sparked my interest over the last two years of my incarceration. I decided before my release I would at least do one play. I watched all the SLU students perform *Antigone* and was absolutely thrilled and ready for action. I really went out of my element, especially singing. It's been a great experience - sad that it's almost over!

Rachel S. (Guard 1) This is my second PPA play, the first in which I participated in the writing process of the play. It's sort of overwhelming recognizing lines that I've written and those from my friends, even stranger to know there will be productions of *Antigone* performing across the country (hopefully worldwide). I am very grateful to be involved with this.

Cynthia S. (Chorus 6) This is my first play with PPA. I am so grateful that I have been able to be a part of this. I have enjoyed being a part of something that makes me feel as if I'm no longer in prison. Everyone made me feel as if I was a unique part of a wonderful production. These have truly been the best few months in a very long time.

Tessa V. (Tiresias) This is my 10th semester with PPA. I loved being a part of the workshop before seeing some of my words in a play. Doing this is fun because it's different. I love working with this group of women. We work hard together to make something amazing happen.

Erica Withrow (Antigone 5) is a graduating senior theatre major at Saint Louis University (SLU) with a minor in Asian Studies. In the fall, Erica was cast as Antigone #7 for the SLU production of this script, where she collaborated with fellow artists to integrate the incarcerated women's writings into the *Antigone* script. She loved the project so much she decided to work with PPA to work with these women every week. Some of her ongoing projects include performing as the Old Gentleman in SLU's production of *Rhinoceros*, and creating, performing, and producing a one woman show about true stories of sexual assault.

Lucy Cashion is the Artistic Director and founder the experimental theatre company Equally Represented Arts (Best Theatre – Alive Magazine). With ERA, she has created, designed, and directed productions such as *Trash Macbeth*, a feminist adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy critiquing American consumerism (St. Louis Theatre Circle Award: Best Director of a Drama) and *Oedipus Apparatus*, a transformation of Sophocles' classic into a post-modern performance of tragedy as a God-made machine (commissioned by West End Players' Guild; St. Louis Theatre Circle Award Nomination: Best New Play). Lucy is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Saint Louis University, where she leads a partnership with Prison Performing Arts, in which student artists and incarcerated artists collaborate to create theatre, culminating in performances at the University and at the prison. Lucy received her MFA from Columbia University in the City of New York.

Rachel Tibbetts is the Director of Youth Programs for Prison Performing Arts and has been with the organization since 2005. She has worked in arts education since 2000 as an Education Associate and Assistant Director of Education at the Delaware Theatre Company in Wilmington; and Arts Partners Program Administrator and Assistant Arts Education Director at Young Audiences of St. Louis. She received her B.A. in Theatre from Oklahoma State University. Rachel co-directed *The Rover* with Lucy Cashion with the women at WERDCC. She graduated from the Community Arts Training Institute at the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission; and she recently graduated from the inaugural class of the GoodMultiplier Fellowship, a program that mobilizes women and people of color to lead change in the nonprofit sector. Rachel is co-producer of the Slightly Askew Theatre Ensemble (SATE), a St. Louis area based professional theatre company. She was recently nominated for two St. Louis Theatre Circle Awards, Best Director for SATE's *First Impressions* and Best Actress in a Comedy for Midnight Company's *Little Thing, Big Thing*.

SPECIAL THANKS

Bess Moynihan

Chris Harris

Ellie Schwetye

Emily Clinger

Jane Sullivan

Jennifer Theby Quinn

Mustard Seed Theatre

SLU Theatre Department

Traci Clapper

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

This production is a new version of *Antigone* created through a collaboration between Prison Performing Arts and Saint Louis University Theatre. Below are the stages of creation for this production.

Summer 2017:

Lucy Cashion (Assistant Professor of Theatre for SLU) and Rachel Tibbetts (Director of Youth Programs for PPA) co-taught a playwriting workshop here at the Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic, and Correctional Center. The workshop focused on *Antigone*, the character, the play, and the story's legacy. Nine women at WERDCC participated in the six-week workshop. Lucy and Rachel were accompanied on several occasions by Miranda Jagels-Felix, a recent graduate from SLU and a cast member in the SLU production.

Early Fall 2017:

Lucy Cashion conducted auditions for the SLU production. Together with her cast and creative team, a new version of *Antigone* was created by curating the writings generated from the WERDCC workshops with selections from various translations of Sophocles' *Antigone*. Several SLU students also generated additional, original text. The source material was adapted into a new script for this particular collaboration. The script was staged, rehearsed, and performed as part of the SLU Theatre Season.

Late Fall 2017:

The SLU production traveled to WERDCC and was performed for approximately 200 inmates, including the women who participated in the six-week workshop and whose writings make up much of the script.

Winter 2018:

Beginning in January, Lucy and Rachel rehearsed weekly at WERDCC, co-directing a production of the same new script the SLU Theatre students performed. They were accompanied by Erica Withrow, a Theatre major who performed in the SLU production. Erica also stepped in to perform in the WERDCC production after one of the original cast members was transferred.

Spring 2018:

The Vandalia Women's Theatre will now perform in their own production of *Antigone*, doing four internal performances for the prison population, and two public performances in the Visiting Room. Students involved in the SLU production will travel to WERDCC to attend a public performance.

This collaboration was made possible by a grant from the SLU Center for Service and Community Engagement.

In memory of Mark Wilson.

PRISON PERFORMING ARTS

Prison Performing Arts is a 27-year-old, multi-discipline, literacy and performing arts program that serves incarcerated adults and children at St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center, Hogan Street Regional Youth Center, Quest Day Treatment, St. Louis City Justice Center; Family Court's Detention Alternatives Program, Northeastern Correctional Center (NECC) in Bowling Green, Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center (WERDCC) in Vandalia, MO and Missouri Eastern Correctional Center (MECC) in Pacific, MO.

Prison Performing Arts involves incarcerated youth and adults in the performing arts to inspire intellectual curiosity and personal development. We nurture the discipline, teamwork and communication skills necessary for successful re-entry into society. We encourage members of the larger community to connect personally with program participants, and we offer continuing programs for participants who have been released.

SUPPORT PPA

If you enjoyed your experience with us today, please consider making a financial contribution on our website to support arts opportunities for incarcerated adults and detained youth in Missouri. We are grateful for your continued support.

Prison Performing Arts

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www.prisonperformingarts.org/support-us

Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic, and Correctional Center

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