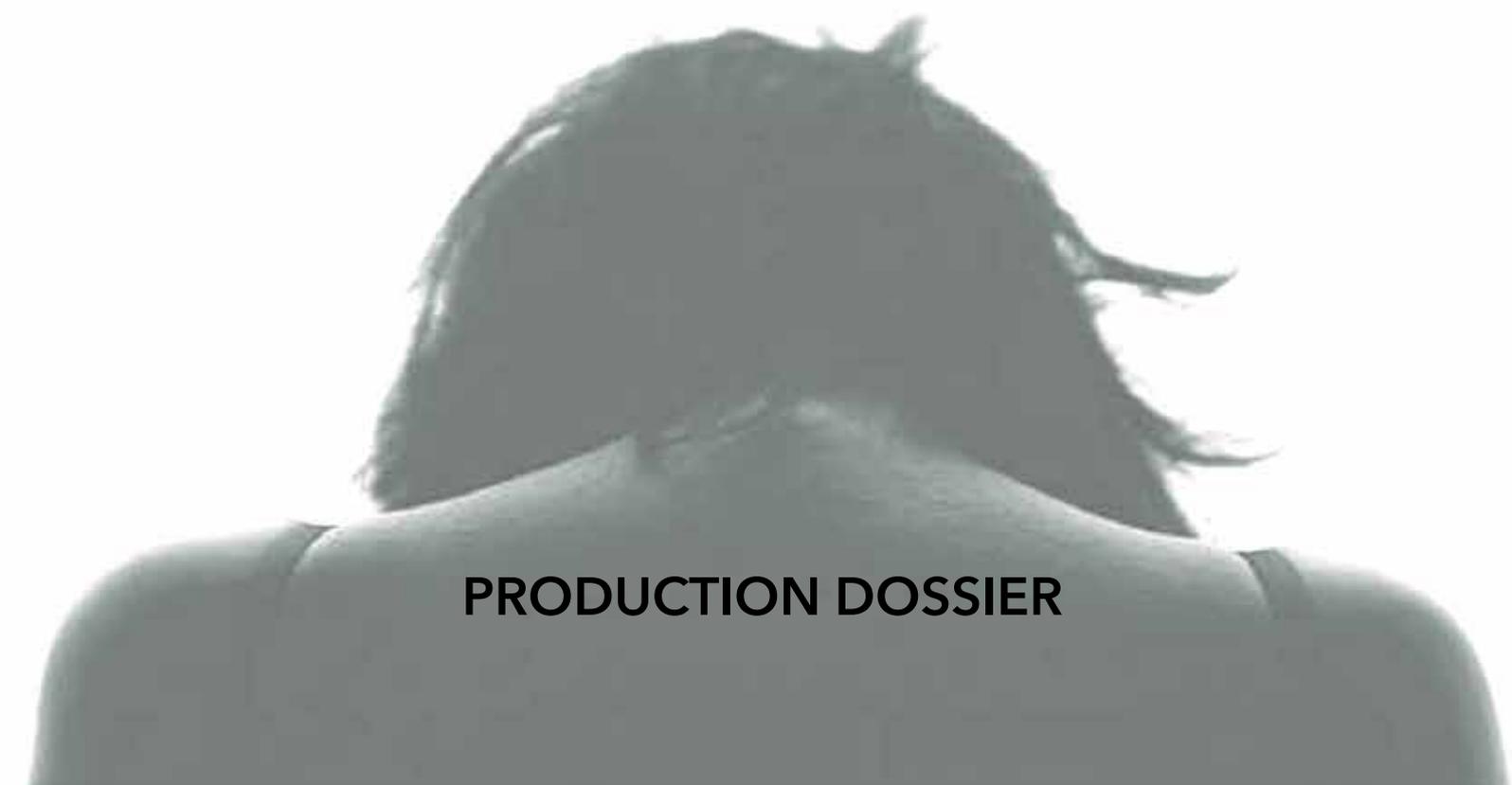


ACTING NOW
THEATRE COMPANY

ANTIGONE: NOW
The woman who challenged the system



PRODUCTION DOSSIER

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Antigone has had enough. Her brother is dead and her uncle Creon has banned his burial. Her fiancé and her sister are no help, so she decides to take matters into her own hands, risking death in the process.

Written by Sophocles in 442 B.C., and presented here in a new adaptation, *Antigone: Now* tells the tale of a young heroine who goes against society to honour the death of her brother. This new powerfully physical version of the play depicts the empowerment of women and the crucial issues modern societies must grapple with today while exploring relationships in the context of war, nationalism and dysfunctional families.

ARTISTIC TEAM

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Director: | Marina Pallares-Elias |
| Performance: | Melina Liddiard Emiliano Miles Troiano Dea Rakovac Nicola Soyza |
| Lighting Designer: | Nashira Martinez |



VIDEOS

shorturl.at/stKU5



Antigone: Now full length

shorturl.at/nvRSW



Antigone: Now trailer

GENERAL INFORMATION & TECHNICAL RESOURCES

Duration of the performance: 70 minutes, no interval

Age suitability of the show: 12 years +

Number on stage: 4

Stage dimensions:

Width: Min. 3m.

Depth: Min. 2m.

Height: Min. 2m.

Set: The performance does not require any props or furniture

Lighting: Basic

Music / sound: Basic. An amplification system

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS



PHYSICAL THEATRE Instead of the English classical interpretation of Antigone, we use Lecoq-based physical theatre principles, putting more emphasis on the power of suggestion, where environments and worlds are created on stage by actors. The human body is at the centre of the storytelling process and the focus is on the dramatic potential that can be unlocked from movement.

ACCESSIBLE ADAPTATION FOR NEW AUDIENCES This contemporary and physical adaptation enables audiences to experience classical literature in a non-conventional form. Physical theatre emphasises the imaginative participation of the audience and their commitment to what is on stage. This show is suitable for people with and without previous knowledge of this piece of universal theatre and is especially powerful to introduce new audiences to Greek mythology and the work of classic playwrights.

A STORY FOR NOW Sophocles' 'Antigone' has been around for nearly 2500 years, yet the themes in the play resonate as strongly today as in the time of Ancient Greece. Gender roles, democracy and justice all come to the forefront when analysing Antigone.

» **Antigone - The feminist role model** - Antigone is regarded as a role model for women and more specifically feminists. In her society, men dominated the political and social spectrum, justifying their authority over women from classical mythology. She stood up to the social norms of Ancient Athens patriarchal society, and followed her conscience in the illegal act of burying her brother which was traditionally done by men, not women.

» **Creon - The inflexible misogynist leader** - Creon is the king and Antigone's uncle. He is the antagonist of the story and seeks to establish unchallenged power, he is inflexible and reacts badly to everyone who challenges him. This leader issues an edict which backfires, demands unquestioning loyalty, values patriotism, reacts emotionally and expects subservience from women.

» **Resistance against fascism** - Antigone firmly disagrees with the way Thebes is being ruled by Creon. Antigone believes that divine law is superior to man's law. Creon on the other hand, is concerned only with maintaining power, which leads him into trying to force Thebes to abide by his laws instead of the God's laws. Though she is only one person, she actively fights against Creon's rulings. She endures her punishment, and ultimately accomplishes all her goals, though she does not live to see it. Through the courage of her convictions Antigone teaches the power of an individual and inspires us to make changes in the world we live in.

Today, the rise of the #MeToo movement and the far right and populist sentiment across Europe lend these themes crucial relevance.

ANTIGONE: NOW - EXPLORING FURTHER

To help build audiences and provide a deeper understanding of the ideas and process behind the making of *Antigone: Now*, we can offer the following activities:

- **Meet the Artist & experts talks**
- **Physical Theatre workshops based on *Antigone: Now*** for professional and/or non-professional actors
- **General Physical Theatre workshops** with a choice of four topics. Recommended 3 to 5 days (shorter and longer programmes available):
 - » Introduction to Lecoq's Pedagogy
 - » The Greek Chorus
 - » Mask work: from neutral mask to larvarian
 - » Applying physical language to a contemporary script
 - » Workshops for kids and young people

TESTIMONIALS

QUOTES FROM PROGRAMMERS

'Antigone: Now premiered to a full house at Hotbed, the Cambridge New Writing theatre festival produced by Menagerie. Passionately performed by a highly committed cast'

~Patrick Morris, co-founder & Associate Artistic Director of Menagerie Theatre Company~

AUDIENCE QUOTES

'This interpretation of Antigone blew me away! Very fresh! Such powerful and strong images. The story flows beautifully whilst emotionally intriguing. It was truly a treat, hope to be able to see it performed again'

~Babette Lind~



'A strong performance of physical theatre at its best. Four actors morphing in and out of male and female characters, on an empty stage where every move, minute or bold, every word, every silence, all powerfully resonate in the audience. Splendid physicality, gripping choreography and stunning light design. In the darkness of the tragedy, a river of white lace unfolds and folds, separates and unites'

~Valerie Fabre~

ABOUT THE COMPANY - ACTING NOW



Acting Now is an international, professional, physical theatre company using theatre as a voice for disadvantaged groups. We work with refugees, youth groups, women, adults with learning disabilities or mental health issues, and for councils, charities, schools, universities and cultural centres, in the UK and abroad.

We put social, political and civic causes at the forefront of our work and devise creative drama projects that breathe life into the important social challenges facing participants and audiences alike.

Our socially engaged theatre projects aim to promote, in their participants, self-awareness, hope for the future and confidence to take action and culminate in high quality plays that are often conceived by the participants themselves. We specialize in using physical theatre methodology to create poetic and emotionally strong worlds where people's stories are told.

Since the company was founded 2014, we've run 20+ projects and have established a reputation for presenting critically well received plays to a diverse audience both locally and internationally. Examples include the play "The rise and fall of Mario Sanchez" (UK, 2015), devised by homeless people; "Love is underground" (UK, 2017), by refugees' communities; "What you don't see" (UK, 2018), by LGTB+ young people; "I Deserve a Better Chance" (UK, 2018), by people with mental health challenges; and "Polyphonic" (UK, 2018), by people for whom English is not their first language (a commission from Cambridge University exploring language and identity).

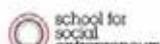
Alongside this, we run physical theatre courses and training programmes, which bring together theatre practitioners, educators, community organizers, charity representatives, social workers, activists and many others who are interested in using theatre as a tool for communication, empowerment and debate.



ACTING NOW IS SUPPORTED BY



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BIOGRAPHIES

MARINA PALLARÈS-ELIAS
Director & Acting Now founder



Marina is a theatre director and applied theatre practitioner, with over 15 years of experience working across Europe and South America using theatre as a tool for social change. She has developed exciting theatre projects with traveller communities, ex-offenders, adults with learning disabilities, people with mental health challenges, women, youth groups and refugees all over the world.

In 2014, Marina founded Acting Now in Cambridge (UK) and has since led the company as Artistic Director. Theatre and movement are her passion and she loves to use them to help participants believe in and express themselves. Her specialism lies within physical theatre (Lecoq studies) and applied theatre, and she is also a professional facilitator of Theatre of the Oppressed. She regularly teaches at Anglia Ruskin University (UK), University of Lille (France), La Casa Encendida and Matadero (Spain).

Over the course of her theatre career, she has directed numerous provocative and empowering performances using personal stories, with people who have never had the opportunity to be heard. Her work has been presented in the UK and internationally, in festivals such as Hotbed Festival (Cambridge, UK); GrAFiTi Theatre Festival (Metz, France) and FiraTàrrega (Tarrega, Spain).

Recent director credits include: "Polyphonic" 2018; "What You Don't See" 2018; "I Deserve a Better Chance" 2018; "Keep holding my hand" 2017; "Up to the sky is where we want to dream" 2017; "Love is underground", 2017; "Complicité" 2017; "The princess castaway and another time machines stories" 2016; "The rise and fall of Mario Sanchez" 2015 or "You, me and the Spanish Civil War" 2015.

In 2018 Marina graduated from the School of Social Entrepreneurs (London) and was awarded a grant by Arts Council England to develop an international theatre project in Mexico with both deaf and indigenous communities in collaboration with CARPA (The Collective of Arts of Participation, Mexico)

"Antigone: Now" is her most personal project to date. She has teamed up with professional actors to bring to life a powerful physical theatre adaptation of a Greek tragedy she has long been fascinated about.



MELINA LIDDIARD
Actress



Born in the UK and brought up in Italy, Melina started her theatrical love affair as a teenager. She joined the LST theatre company in Tuscany taking part in professional workshops led by established actors and practitioners such as the former Odin Teatret member Francis Pardeilhan, Commedia dell'Arte actress Rosa Masciopinto and many others. Melina also performed at the Cantiere Internazionale dell'Arte in Montepulciano (Siena) and at other theatre festivals both in Tuscany and around the country.

Melina then moved to Derby in the UK, where she joined the experimental company Comfortism. Together they performed vanguard pieces in public spaces such as pubs and cafes. As well as performing live, Melina continued to study drama in acting schools such as the East 15 Acting School in London. In 2008 she gained a Degree in Theatre Studies at the University of Bologna in Italy.

The following year she moved to Cambridge where she set up her own theatre company which focused on short impact sketches in public spaces.

Now she teaches drama to young adults with learning disabilities in Cambridge Regional College and runs inclusive music, singing and drama workshops across the County. She is also currently working on opening The Cambridge School of Music and Performance.

EMILIANO MILES TROIANO
Actor



Emiliano has been acting since the age of 15, performing street theatre in Italy. After finishing his basic education, he moved to England to receive advanced training in theatre performance and film studies, at the Cambridge School of Art (Anglia Ruskin University, UK).

He performed in "Hamlet" at the Mumford Theatre, directed by Nigel Ward, and Physical and Dance theatre shows "Stockholm", "Beat the Wall" and live expo performance "Flux'd". He collaborated on the devised contemporary physical theatre performance "Bizarresque", at Cambridge Junction. Emiliano directed, wrote and acted in his commedia-like version of Pinocchio, awarded as the best major project in Drama and Film Studies (Anglia Ruskin University). He acted in the opera piece "The Colour Blue" directed by Simone Spagnolo, presented at the Cambridge Festival of Ideas.



DEA RAKOVAC
Actress



Dea is a multilingual actress exploring body language and physical theatre. She has a background in translation and interpreting and a great passion for languages. She performed for the first time in 2003. Since then, she continued her journey backstage and on stage training with different theatre trainers and directors in Italy, France, Germany and the UK.

As an actor, she has worked in Forum Theatre and devised physical theatre performances directed by Marina Pallares-Elias (Acting Now Theatre Company) such as Polyphonic (2018), The forest (2016), Complicité (2016) or The Rise and Fall of Mario Sanchez (2015). Other credits include the bilingual theatre production "Looking for Pasolini", written and directed by Ludovico Nolfi (Cambridge 2015; Saarbrücken 2015; London 2015) where she participated as an actor and Assistant Director.

She also runs workshops in Europe and beyond, within intercultural projects such as Latitudine zero - "Ecuador in movimento"-, a travelling and cultural exchange project in Ecuador working with local people through theatre (2017).

NICOLA SOYZA
Actress



Nicola graduated from Stella Mann College with a Teaching Diploma in Dance, and has a Foundation Degree in Charity and Social Enterprise from Anglia Ruskin University (Cambridge, UK). She combines her acting career with her work as a charity senior manager.

Recent devised physical theatre performances include "Bloody Cat" at Troopfest, Cambridge Junction; "Eggs with Swimming Horses" (collaboration with Rash Dash) at Cambridge Junction Season Launch and "Complicité" with Acting Now at Corpus Playroom (Cambridge). She is also involved in participatory action research using video: Wicken Cycle Teas (community action); Leicester Youth Arts (video making for disadvantaged young people, and research with schools); Elder Choice (voices of older people as input to national consultation).

She is currently developing "Seeing Things" with Stuff Theatre about hallucinations in dementia and whether any of us can believe what we see. Drawing on previous work commissioning interactive digital art (sound and visual) with Computer Sciences Corporation.

TOURING INFORMATION



Antigone: Now premiered in July 2018 at [Hotbed](#), the Cambridge new writing theatre festival produced by Menagerie Theatre Company, co-produced with the Cambridge Junction, and travelled to Marseille (France) in September for the [Play Mediterranean Europe Festival](#).

Antigone: Now is available to tour in 2019

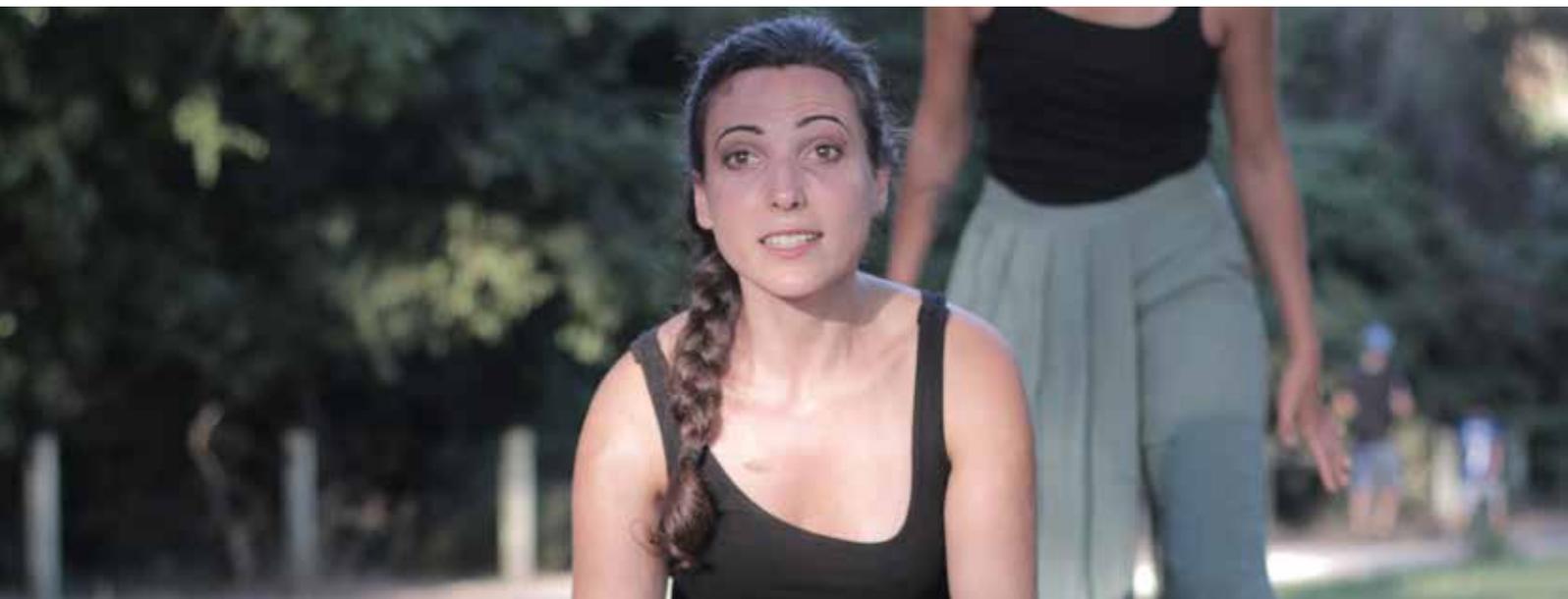
For more information:

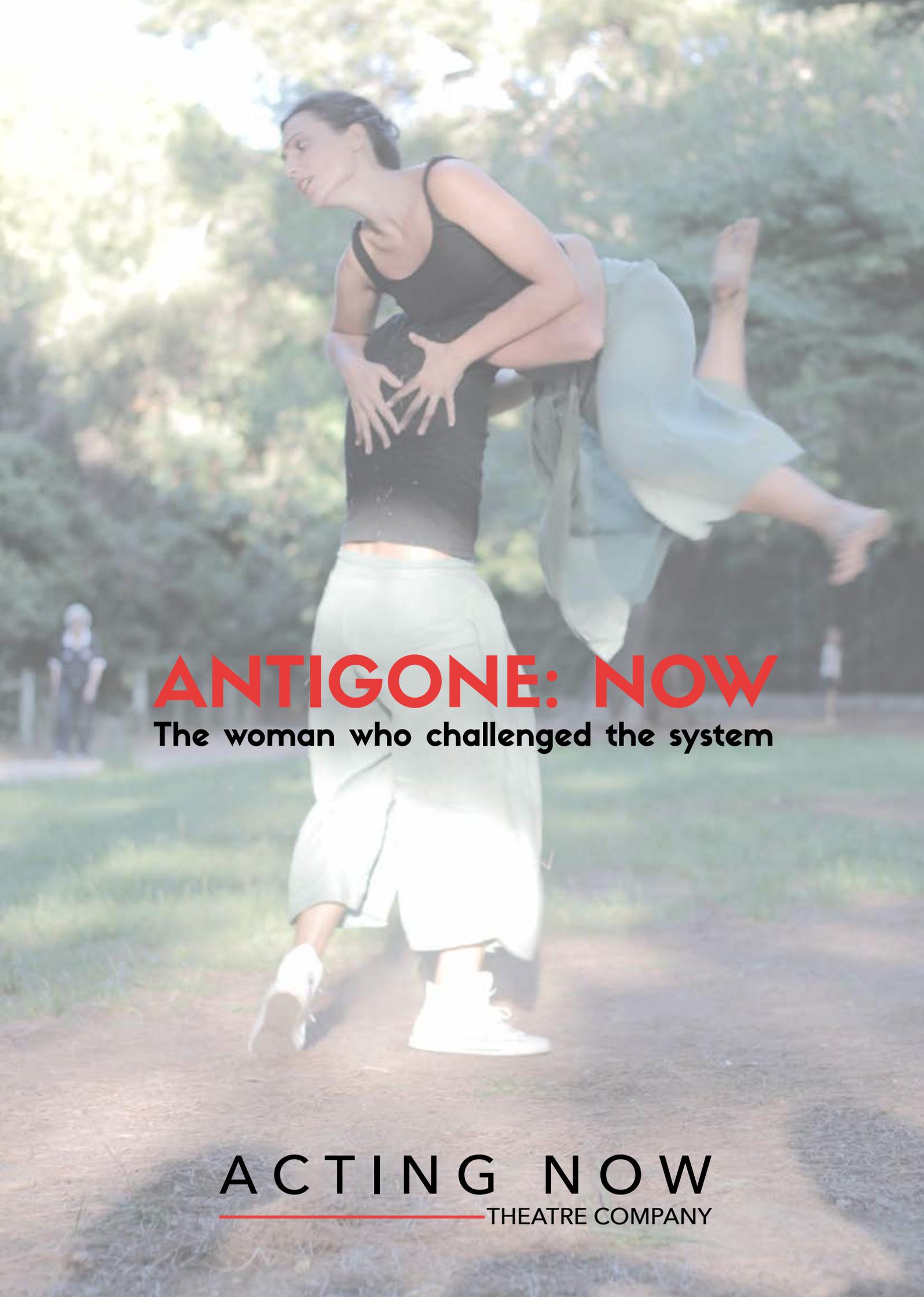
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