

ANTIGONE



Choreography and Performance by Elena Cerruto.

GRUPPO DANZA SARABANDA Milano ITALY

The choreography investigates the relationship between the two sisters Antigone and Ismene, the former taking sides, determined to sacrifice herself for the right cause, the latter unable to choose the spiral of annulment for the ideal but always ready out of love to support and stand by her sister.

In version 2024, the dimension of connecting with the surrounding reality is deepened. The dancers in the pas de deux are also dancer-therapists working in situations of severe distress. The final scene with Persian music takes into account the manifestations of women in Iran. The boys in the group scene did not participate in the rehearsals but only entered the stage at the dress rehearsal just before the final performance based on directions they received that appealed to their sensitivity about the social injustice that drives revolt.



Nor is there anything more precious than that which is loved, though it be the cause of sorrow.

Sophocles

PREVIOUS PERFORMANCES OF THE PLAY:

1991 Milan: Sarabanda Center. In the form of performance and improvisation.

1991 Milan Mazda Palace (now PalaSharp) on the occasion of the war in Iraq. 1998 Milan: Teatro delle Erbe.

1998 Milan: Garibaldi Social Center

1999 Bresso: Civic Center, on the occasion of Women's Day.

1998 Venegono Superiore (VA) Civic Center: on the occasion of Women's Day.

1998 Milan: Affori Library, as part of City of Milan's *La Biblioteca in giardino* initiative.

2001 Milan: Comuna Baires Agora Club as part of the Rassegna *Sarabanda Danza 2001*

2004 Milan, Rubin Art Gallery and Centro Danza Sarabanda

2014 Alexandria, The Citadel: For Antigone 2014, new revised version.

2023 Milan. Centro Arcobaleno Danza on the occasion of the Day against Violence against Women. With audience involvement in the final act.

2024 Milan. Eco-Theater. With the involvement in improvisation of the young hip-hop dancers group.

From the presentation by the pas de deux Dancers, Monica Massa and Chiara Vender, who bring the Antigone project to the Schools.



We offer a pas de deux excerpted from a choreography that originated in the 1970s and is cyclically re-presented on the occasion of wars or in any social unjust situations:
of the Lead Years (*Sister, give me your dress, give it to me!* From Margarethe von Trotta's film),
of wars (Mazda Palace during the Iraq War).

Who is Antigone today?



We are basically inspired by the text of Sophocles, the tragedian Dancer, his passionate verses can be attributed to the women of Iran, as well as to those of the Lead Years. Love you see love sacrificed and women resist, love but also oppose:

While I live, no woman shall rule. (Creon in Sophocles)



Dancers and audiences alike can get caught up a dance inspired by strong imagery given by Sophocles' chorus, but also by J. Anouilh's elaboration of the characters and their contradictions.



Elena Cerruto's choreography dedicated to Antigone is a recurring theme in her choreographic journey.

The basic theme remains but each time reference is made to topical situations. It provides for a minimum of 2 Dancers (for the pas de deux) and is a work that in its new version is an expansion of the previous ones, the first of which in '91 was freely inspired by Sophocles' Antigone, the film *Anni di Piombo* by M. von Trotta and from her experience with political prisoners in the Opera Maximum Security Prison.

The 2016 choreography, with live music by Marlaena Kessick, was specially created and will be partly reused for the following montages.



The choreography, by Elena Cerruto, has been modified over the years while maintaining its essence, the tragic spirit of Sophocles and highlighting a femininity that is both fragile and strong in its contradictions, as can be grasped in J. Anouilh's version.



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