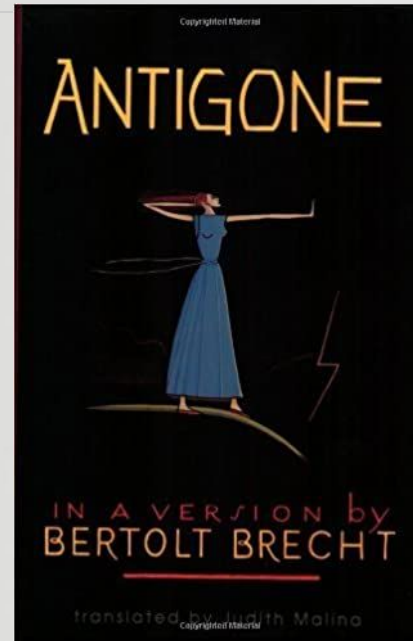
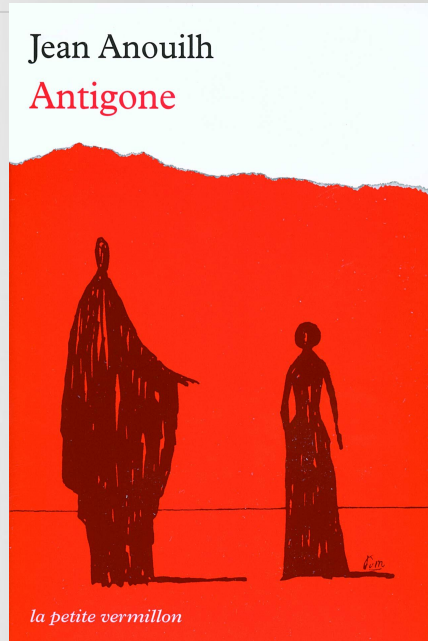


Productions & Adaptations

By: Alicia, Allen, Erik

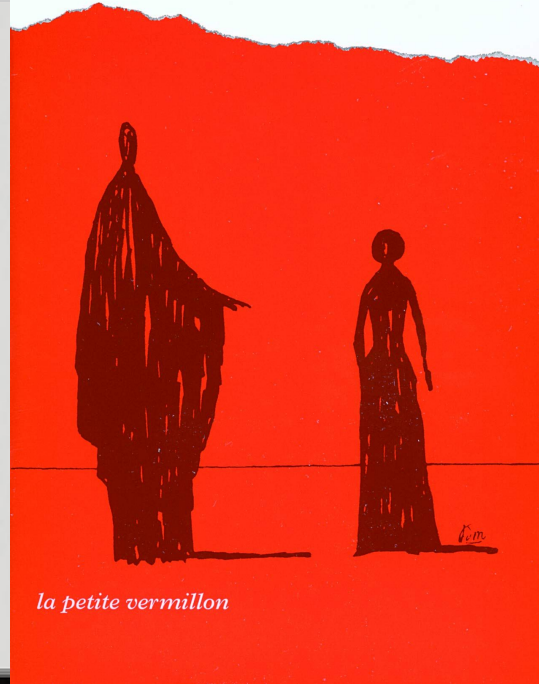
Productions & Adaptations



Anouilh's adaptation of Antigone

February 6, 1944

Jean Anouilh
Antigone

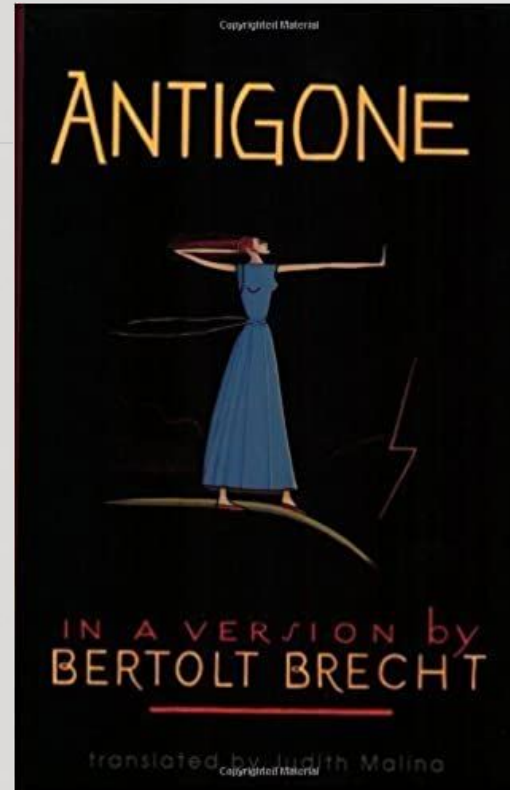


The historical background of Anouilh's play of Antigone:

- Jean Anouilh's play Antigone is a tragedy inspired by Greek mythology and the play of the same name by Sophocles.
- The play was first performed in Paris at the Théâtre de l'Atelier on February 6, 1944, during the Nazi occupation.
- The play was produced under Nazi censorship, and it is purposefully ambiguous in regard to the rejection of authority and acceptance of government control.

Brecht's adaptation of Antigone

1948



The historical background of Brecht's play of Antigone:

- An adaptation by the **German dramatist Bertolt Brecht** of Hölderlin's translation of Sophocles' tragedy Antigone
- First performed at the Chur Stadttheater, the largest theater in Graubünden, **Switzerland in 1948**, with Brecht's second wife Helene Weigel, as the lead role.
- Brecht's Antigone was performed **after World War II**, which ended in May 1945.

What is unique/interesting about this production/adaptation?

Jean Anouilh

- Antigone took role of French Resistance
- Creon took role of Vichy Government
- Symbolising the power struggle present in France at the time
- The play is openly critical about collaboration with the Nazis.

Bertolt Brecht

- Turned Creon into a complete moral despot
- Antigone is transformed into a morally pure figure head to the corruption of the elders and Creon's tyrannical control.

What is significant/important about this production/adaptation?

Jean Anouilh

- Was inspired by an act of resistance during the Nazi occupation of Paris
- Had to make good use of language for his work to be accepted by Nazi censors

Bertolt Brecht

- Cast wear either modern or World War II German costumes, making the parallels more obvious




How was this production/adaptation received/reviewed?

Jean Anouilh

- Most people like this version because Anouilh uses it to symbolize the Nazi occupied France.

Suzanne and other six people like it :D

 Suzanne rated it ★★★★★ · review of another edition
Shelves: classics, favorites, classical-adaptations, plays
May 15, 2015

I'm not usually a fan of adaptions of classical texts, but this was *fantastic*. It keeps all the spirit of Sophocles' original, while being highly relevant to the period it was produced in (Nazi occupied France). Antigone clearly represents the French Resistance and the unthinking Guards Hitler's Nazi followers. What's interesting is the representation of the harsh and unyielding ruler Creon (Hitler). The performance was allowed by the Nazi regime because the portrayal of the king was complex and ambiguous, emphasising the difficulties of ruling and the tough decisions he has to make, rather than portraying him as an outright tyrant. Though I don't know how much of an innovation this is on Anouilh's part; Sophocles' original Creon would have been at least somewhat sympathetic to the Athenian audience. Because his views of citizenship and the duties of the citizens (including putting the polis/state before philoi/loved-ones) were 'right' in the view of classical Athenians. But that's exactly where the tragedy arises in both versions of the play - the conflict between state and family. ([less](#))

6 likes · Like · comment · see review

Bertolt Brecht

- People didn't like it since Brecht portrayed Creon as a warmonger.

David and other four people didn't like it :(

 David Leung rated it ★★★☆☆
Feb 28, 2014

Of the three versions of Antigone, I liked this one the least. My favourite is Jean Anouilh's version and the the original by Sophocles. I guess I like Creon too much and in this version, Creon is protrayed as a warmonger. I liked Anouilh's version where he was just kind of put up to the throne because of circumstances and tries his best to do well. Even Antigone, who's supposed to be protagonist here is hard to like. In Anouilh's version, Creon could arguably be the protagonist and Antigone the antagonist, Antigone is still a stronger character is more forceful and adamant in her views. I didn't think any of the characters were protrayed well in this version. ([less](#))

4 likes · Like · comment · see review flag

Are you interested in this production/adaptation? Why or why not?

Yes, we think that it is quite interesting. These adaptations offer uniquely different viewpoints of a play that was written almost 2500 years ago.

In this manner, the play is timeless.

