

Antigone

Slavoj Zizek

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While it is common practice in contemporary theatre to re-contextualize a piece of work, the riskier - and Slavoj Zizek would argue more faithful - approach might be to change the actual story itself. Zizek's *Antigone* not only re-positions Antigone as a revolutionary political figure, it alters the narrative of the play itself. As Zizek puts it himself in the introduction to the play, 'Only one thing is sure: sticking to the traditional letter is the safest way to betray the spirit of the classic'.

Philosophers have long been preoccupied with *Antigone* - Kierkegaard, Hegel, Plato and Judith Butler to name but a few - but never before has a philosopher had the audacity to throw fidelity to the wind and rewrite one of the most classic plays in the history of theatre. This lack of fidelity is, of course, precisely the point: not only is this a fascinating new play in its own right, it is a political work calling into question our ideas of reverence to the canon, fidelity to the text and the notion of what 'faithfulness' might really mean.

A brilliantly funny, moving and political play for those who are interested in reading and watching *Antigone* in a new way.



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