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Of Mere Being

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Antigone Review
by Cindy Gardner

This year's fall production, *Antigone*, by French playwright Jean Anouilh, was a great success. It is the story of a teenage girl, Antigone, who wants to bury her dead brother. A bitter civil war has just ended, leaving her two quarreling brothers dead. Her uncle, Creon, who is now king, decrees that one brother lie unburied. He must stay where he was killed in battle, left to be eaten by wild animals. But Antigone is a rebellious teenager “confronting conformity, compromise, and corruption of power,” according to the play’s director, Carmela Lanza-Weil. She will not have her brother left without a burial, even though she knows the payment for such a thing is death.

The most impressive performances were by Marshall Coy as Haemon, Antigone’s fiancé, and Zach Davis as a prison guard. Marshall was very convincing as a distraught boyfriend trying to take care of his irrational wife-to-be. Zach was hilarious as the sympathetic guard, trying to keep his emotions out of his job.

The set by Gary Cotter was great — simple yet effective. There were only some stairs and a few pillars for the most part, so it did not take away from the acting. Ms. Lanza-Weil did an excellent job of making this play entertaining. It could easily have become one of those all-too-familiar Greek plays that are impossible to understand or keep track of the characters. But my attention was held, and I didn’t have to feel like I was in Humanities class (not that I don’t like Humanities!). Plus, it really did make me question right and wrong. I pondered what I would do in Antigone or Creon’s situation, and I had to evaluate ethics and morals.

The main characters — Dmae Roberts as the Greek Chorus, Sarah Rondemen as Antigone, and Paul Palazzolo as Creon — did a fine job as well. Dmae Roberts is obviously a very talented and experienced actress; however, I felt her role could have been better. It needed something — perhaps a better costume, or maybe just a different style.

There was even a special guest appearance by Concordia graduate Neill Twigg as guard. I also enjoyed Allison Arnold as Antigone’s sister, Ismene, and Christine Weiler as the nurse. Ten-year-old Carly Birkley was super as the page.

The attendance could have been better, so I hope you are all convinced to see the spring play, the musical *Godspell*. If it’s anywhere close to the production of *Antigone*, it should be quite a show.