

**Excerpt from Splendid Productions' 'Antigone'**  
**By Sophocles**  
**adapted by Mal Smith & Kerry Frampton**  
**Prologue by Ben Hales**



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**Prologue**

- Clown 1** Ladies and Gentlemen, we present a very fast version of the first two plays...
- Clown 2** On your marks...
- Clown 3** Get set...
- Clowns** NOW!
- Clown 2** The first two plays concern Antigone's father, Oedipus. Here he is...
- Clown 3** *(as Oedipus)* Hello! My name is Oedipus!
- Clown 1** When Oedipus is small...
- Clown 2** ... he hears a prophecy that he's going to
- Clown 1&2** ... kill his father...
- Clown 3** *(as Oedipus)* What?
- Clown 1&2** ... and marry his mother.
- Clown 3** Eewww! Well, he doesn't fancy that so he goes travelling to a city called 'Thebes'. With a 'b'. *(Waving offstage)* Goodbye, my adoptive parents!
- Clown 1** On his travels he gets into a fight with a bearded bloke...
- Clown 2** *(as bearded bloke, to Oedipus)* Yer Mum!
- Clown 3** *(as Oedipus, killing beardy bloke)* Die!
- Clown 2** *(as beardy bloke)* Oh. I am dead.
- Clown 1** He solves a complicated riddle...
- Clown 3** *(as Oedipus)* Ta Da!

**Clown 1** ... and as a prize, he gets to marry the Queen, Jocasta.

Clown 1 becomes Jocasta, links arms with Oedipus.

**Clown 3** *(as Oedipus)* Very nice!

**Clown 2** He is then crowned King of Thebes.

Clown 3 is presented with the balloon crown.

**Clown 3** *(as Oedipus)* Bonus! So powerful!

**Clown 2** Then a plague comes to Thebes...

A small choral moment depicting the plague.

**Clown 1** ...and Tiresias the blind prophet says:

**Clown 2** *(as Tiresias)* It's because the death of the previous king was never avenged!

**Clown 1** So Oedipus says he's going to find the murderer and banish them.

**Clown 3** *(as Oedipus)* I'm going to find the murderer and banish them!

**Clown 2** But, of course Oedipus IS the murderer! The beardy man was his dad! Oedipus had murdered his father, and married Jocasta...

**Clowns** *(appalled realisation)* ... his mother!

A choral moment of horror and disgust.

**Clown 1** Once they've figured this out...

**Clown 2** Which takes a whole play, by the way.

**Clown 1** ... Jocasta kills herself *(as Jocasta, kills herself)*.

**Clown 2&3** Horror!

**Clown 3** Oedipus puts out his own eyes *(as Oedipus, puts out own eyes)*

**Clown 1&2** Horror!

**Clown 2** And that is the end of the first play.

**Clown 1&3** That was quick!

- Clown 2** But it's not over yet, he's had all these children. Two girls and two boys.
- Clown 3** In time, Oedipus's two sons...
- Clown 2** *(becoming Polynices)* Polynices!
- Clown 3** ... and...
- Clown 1** *(becoming Eteocles)* Eteocles!
- Clown 3** *(pulls down crown to become blindfold)* ... turn against their old blind dad and drive him out.
- Clown 1&2** *(as Eteocles and Polynices, driving Oedipus out)* Get out you big pervert! Begone!
- Clown 3** So Oedipus goes wandering around the desert as a beggar, accompanied by his loving daughter...
- Clown 2** *(as Antigone)* Antigone. Rough and ready, but full of heart!  
*(She leads the blind Oedipus.)*
- Clown 1** *(as Ismene, looking royal)*. While the other daughter, Ismene, stays in the palace at Thebes, being all posh and royal.
- Clown 3** The two brothers meanwhile argue about who gets to be king.
- Clown 2** *(as Polynices)* I would like to be king!
- Clown 1** *(as Eteocles)* I am going to be king!
- Clown 3** They agree to a power-sharing arrangement... which ALWAYS works... where Eteocles will rule for a year...
- Clown 1** *(as Eteocles, triumphant)* Get in!
- Clown 2** ... and then Polynices will return to take the crown.
- Clown 1&2** *(as Eteocles and Polynices)* Deal!
- Clown 3** The trouble is, these two have both been...
- Clowns** Cursed!
- Clown 3** ... for banishing their dad.
- Clown 1** So it's no surprise that when Polynices returns to take the crown, Eteocles and the next-in-command...

**Clown 3**     *(as Creon)* Uncle Creon!

**Clown 1**     ... refuse to let him have it.

**Clown 3&1** *(as Creon and Eteocles)* We refuse to let you have it.

**Clown 2**     So Polynices recruits the army of Argos to take Thebes by force!

Clown 2 attacks the others with a balloon sword. It is not effective.

**Clown 1**     But, like everything you get from Argos, their army is a bit rubbish and Thebes...

**Clown 3&1** *(as Creon and Eteocles)*... Wins the battle!

**Clown 3**     The two brothers, of course, meet on the battlefield...

**Clown 2**     *(as Polynices, as if they had met in the street)* Eteocles!

**Clown 1**     *(as Eteocles)* Polynices!

**Clown 3**     ... and kill each other!

Eteocles and Polynices kill each other.

**Clown 3**     That's how it is if your family's been...

**Clowns**     ... cursed!

**Clown 3**     And so today...

**Clown 1**     ... the day of the party, and the day after the battle...

**Clown 3**     ... the day on which our play...

**Clown 2**     ... the third play...

**Clown 3**     ... begins...

**Clown 1**     Oedipus is dead.

**Clown 2**     Antigone has returned home...

**Clown 3**     ... and her uncle, Creon is about to be crowned king.