



THE CENTER FOR ANCIENT DRAMA



THE GREEK PLAY

THE MABEL K. WHITESIDE GREEK THEATRE

ANCIENT DRAMA IN PERFORMANCE CONFERENCE

cad.go.randolphcollege.edu

August 1, 2025

To the Principal:

I have the pleasure of inviting you and your students to attend—at no cost—the 2025 Greek Play at Randolph College. We thought you might like to know about this opportunity for further enrichment of your study of the ancient world, and we hope you'll enjoy the chance to introduce your students to Greek drama. Please share this information with whichever classroom teachers you think may be interested—there are clear connections to SOLs in various subjects.

This year our production is ***Antigone* by Sophocles**. Sophocles' *Antigone* pits the title character against Creon, the current ruler of Thebes. Antigone's brother Polyneices has died while attacking Thebes to regain the throne from his brother Eteocles, who also dies in the conflict. Creon decrees that Eteocles may be given a proper burial, but that Polyneices must be left for the birds and dogs, since he raised an army against his hometown. Antigone defies the order and buries her brother, and Creon condemns her to death. Their actions set in motion many unintended consequences. The play dramatizes the conflicts we still have between public and private, male and female, law and religion, state and family.

Randolph College will host two special performances for schools: on Wednesday, October 1 at 9:30 a.m, and on the same day at 1 p.m. Although you are most welcome at the public performances (October 3, 4, and 5 at 4 p.m.), the cast and I will be available after the schools' shows to answer questions, explain the costumes and the masks to students, and discuss the songs and dances.

The 2025 Greek Play is a Greek tragedy, but it contains no nudity, no adult language, and no on-stage violence. There is one instance of innuendo ("There will be other fields for him to plough.") and the word "hell" is used twice to mean the Underworld. The deaths of Antigone and Haimon are described by the Messenger, and several other deaths are mentioned. We realize that elementary students will benefit from the experience in different ways than older students, but we believe that the experience is enriching for all ages. If you have concerns about the appropriateness of *Antigone* for your students, please call to discuss them.

I encourage you to visit our website, www.randolphcollege.edu/greekplay, where we will post teaching materials (including SOL information) to help you prepare your students for the play. I will also happily provide a study guide that discusses the play and Greek drama in general to any teacher who requests one. Don't hesitate to be in touch with me with any questions: acohen@randolphcollege.edu or (434) 947-8117.

The details about arranging your visit are attached. I look forward to seeing you and your students.

Sincerely,

Amy R. Cohen
Professor of Classics and of Theatre

DIRECTOR

AMY R. COHEN

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The Details

2025 Randolph College Greek Play: *Antigone* by Sophocles. October 1 at 9:30am or 1pm.

To reserve seats for your students, fill out the form linked below.

Our schools liaison is Skyler Teague, and she's your first point of contact. Her number is **(336) 598-2652**, and her email is **steague@randolphcollege.edu**. She will confirm your reservations, and she can also answer questions and facilitate arrangements.

- The morning performance of *Antigone* on Wednesday, October 1, will begin at 9:30am and end by 11:15am.
- The afternoon performance of *Antigone* on Wednesday, October 1, will begin at 1pm and end by 2:45 p.m.
- Plan to arrive *at least* 15 minutes before the performance.
- Please do not plan to attend if you cannot stay for the whole performance.
- The production will be outdoors in the Mabel K. Whiteside Greek Theatre (The Dell) on campus.
- There is **no charge** for admission, but we do ask that your students dress appropriately for the weather and stone seating, and that they bring water in case of high heat.
- We have a limit of 600 attendees for each performance, and we'll take reservations on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Please let us know on or before **Monday, September 15**, if you plan to attend.
- When you make your reservation, you'll be asked to provide a contact name with phone and email, school name, any accessibility needs, grade(s) of students attending, and the total number of attendees. Please give the person(s) we should reach with last-minute information.
- Prof. Cohen will always help: **acohen@randolphcollege.edu**.
- **In case of rain:** we have two indoor spaces: Houston Memorial Chapel and Smith Hall Theatre, and we'll choose the rain location depending on the number of attendees and the capacities of the theatres.
- Rain call will be made by **three hours** before the performance. Please make sure we have a phone number or an email address we can contact at that time if rain is definite or possible. Consult with us if your travel time requires a different window.
- You can also call our switchboard at 947-8000 the day of performance—they will know if the show is going ahead as planned.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

The Center for Ancient Drama at Randolph College

cad@randolphcollege.edu

(434) 947-8117

to reserve: **bit.ly/SchoolReservation** or scan

