

## **Background**

I intend to study women in theatre through a two part project: a compilation of research and a theatrical production of *Antigone* written by Sophocles and adapted by Bonnie Roberts. It will be a study of women in theatre, specifically, female directors. Since I am a young female director, I find both inspiration and a desire to carry on the heritage to the audiences of the present and future. Being a female director has always been and continues to be an uphill battle, but one worth tirelessly pursuing. Every artistic endeavor should have a thesis, in order to create thought provoking art. A thesis is supposed to present a question and then answer it, the question I am presenting is timeless, but someone finally gave it a name in the latter half of the nineteenth century: 'The Woman Question.' The question is: "what are we going to do about women?" (Hurley) 'The Woman Question' has been a way for society to silence women but I believe it can be an out-cry. I believe that if we, as women, take ownership of what we are going to do with ourselves, it places the control of our lives and bodies back into our hands and that's a message today's audiences need to receive. I want to reach our University of West Florida and Pensacola community and hold a mirror of the oppression women have suffered and continue to suffer.

## **Method**

In addition to the research required to direct, I intend to research the history of the treatment and oppression of women in theatre with a focus on female directors and their correlation to female characters from the plays we study, and how that effects the society and culture surrounding these women.

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Spring 2019

I will be doing a studio workshop production of Antigone written by Sophocles and adapted by Bonnie Roberts. I believe Antigone is be a strong choice because it has such a focus on the politics of democracy, in addition to the treatment of women. My concept for Antigone is to see the action take place in a contemporary United States Courtroom with the chorus as the jury. I think this could help us return to the purpose of a chorus, they would represent the people and the people's commentary on the world. I see this in a three quarter thrust stage, audience would be seated mixed in with the jury members for a surrounding environmental theatre effect. The actors, designers, and stage managers I will be working with are my peers in the UWF Theatre Department. It is my hope that by directing this I can foster an appreciation for relevant politically charged theatre. I hope to raise the voices of generation against injustices that we feel oppressed by either governmental or social norms. I have held auditions and am in the callback stage of this process. We will start rehearsals in March, putting the performance at the end of the spring 2019 semester. We will have a full rehearsal process and will run this show like the regular season productions at the University of West Florida.

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Works Cited

Lesley Crawford Hurley, *Gender and Realism in Plays and Performances by Women*.  
Peter Lang Inc., International Academic Publishers (October 3, 2003)