

THE ODYSSEY, OEDIPUS, AND OTHERS OR GREEK STORY THEATRE

FOUR PLAYS ADAPTED BY
Stacey Coates and Rosalind Flynn

PlayScripts, Inc.

**THE ODYSSEY, OEDIPUS, AND OTHERS
OR
GREEK STORY THEATRE**

adapted by Stacey Coates and Rosalind Flynn

The Odyssey	6
Oedipus the King	24
Oedipus at Colonus	31
Antigone.....	42

THE ODYSSEY

Cast of Characters

The Chorus

(Also functions as the SUITORS, GODS, MAIDS, and Minor Characters)

CHORUS MEMBER 1

CHORUS MEMBER 2

CHORUS MEMBER 3

CHORUS MEMBER 4

Principal Characters

TELEMACHUS (Tel-LEM-uh-kuss)

PENELOPE (Peh-NELL-oh-pee)

ODYSSEUS (oh-DIS-ee-us)

ATHENA (uh-THEE-nuh)

Minor Characters

NESTOR (NESS-tor)

MENELAUS (men-uh-LAY-us)

HELEN (HELL-in)

HERMES (HER-meez)

CALYPSO (Kuh-LIP-so)

ZEUS (ZOOS)

POSEIDON (poh-SIGH-done)

NAUSICAA (naw-SICK-ay-ah)

ALCINOUS (AL-sin-oh-us)

ARETE (ah-RAY-tay)

PLURYMACHUS (pluh-RIM-uh-kus)

ZERACLES (ZEH-ruh-kleez)

CASSANDRA (kuh-SAHN-druh)

(Players are assembled as if participating in a television game show.)

CHORUS MEMBER 1. I'll take "Greek Words" for 200.

CHORUS MEMBER 2. An extended adventurous voyage or trip.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. What is an odyssey?

CHORUS MEMBER 2. Correct. Drawn from The Odyssey by Homer, an epic recounting the wanderings of Odysseus after the fall of Troy.

(Recurring sound effect suggesting a journey: Drumbeat or?)

CHORUS MEMBER 1. Once upon a time on the Greek island of Ithaca

CHORUS MEMBER 2. in the palace of the long absent king Odysseus,

TELEMACHUS. father of Telemachus,

PENELOPE. and husband of Penelope,

SUITORS. one hundred and eight rowdy young men

CHORUS MEMBER 3. had moved in and proceeded to

CHORUS. eat, drink, be merry,

CHORUS MEMBER 4. and try to date Odysseus's wife.

(The following section may be done as a musical number if you choose. Create your own tune or perform it to a familiar tune.)

A SUITOR (or two or three). Marry me, Penelope!

A SUITOR (or two or three). No! Marry me, Penelope!

A SUITOR (or two or three). Your husband, he is history!

A SUITOR (or two or three). So, marry me, Penelope!

PENELOPE. Telemachus! Telemachus! When will they be done with us?

TELEMACHUS. Mother dear—Not soon, I fear. Your answer's what they want to hear.

A SUITOR (or two or three). Marry me, Penelope!

A SUITOR (or two or three). No! Marry me, Penelope!

A SUITOR (or two or three). Your husband, he is history!

A SUITOR (or two or three). So, marry me, Penelope!

PENELOPE. Suitors, please get off your knees. Odysseus is my main squeeze.

TELEMACHUS. Dad left Mom to fight in Troy, back when I was just a boy.

Your proposals Mom must spurn 'cause she is sure Dad will return.

PENELOPE. He'll be back so stop your sneers. He's just been gone, oh, twenty years.

CHORUS. (*Spoken:*) But Penelope's suitors would not take "No" for an answer.

SUITORS. (*Spoken:*) So we stayed put.

A SUITOR (or two or three). Marry me, Penelope!

A SUITOR (or two or three). No! Marry me, Penelope!

A SUITOR (or two or three). Your husband, he is history!

A SUITOR (or two or three). So, marry me, Penelope!

CHORUS. Meanwhile, up on Mount Olympus,

ZEUS. Zeus called a divine council of the Gods. Hey, Gods.

GODS (the CHORUS). Hey, Zeus.

ZEUS. I am sick and tired of those mortals blaming all their misfortunes on us! It's time they took responsibility for their own greed and folly! Take for example...

ATHENA. Dad! Dad!

ZEUS. Yes, Athena?

ATHENA. Excuse me, but could we talk about poor Odysseus?

ZEUS. Yes, Athena, my lovely daughter and the goddess of wisdom, I have not forgotten wise and wonderful Odysseus.

ATHENA. He has been stuck with that nymph Calypso on her island for years now. All he wants is to see the smoke of his own chimneys back in Ithaca. Can't we take some pity on the poor guy and help him get home?

ZEUS. But remember that Poseidon is really ticked off at him for poking out the eye of his son, one of the Cyclops.

CHORUS MEMBER 4. Yeah, and that was the only eye he had!

ZEUS. So Poseidon has been up to his old tricks again, making it difficult for Odysseus to get home?

ATHENA. I am so sick of Poseidon and his stormy temper.

CHORUS. (*Singing a la "Stormy Weather" tune:*) Don't know why there's no sun up in the sky...

ZEUS. I think we can put some pressure on him.

ATHENA. Excellent. I'll head to Ithaca to deal with Odysseus's son Telemachus.

CHORUS. So Athena disguised herself as an old man and visited Telemachus.

(*Recurring sound effect suggesting a journey: Drumbeat or?*)

TELEMACHUS. Greetings stranger. Want to stay for supper?

ATHENA. Why, certainly.

CHORUS. After dining together, Telemachus complained about the suitors eating and drinking his mother and him out of house and home.

TELEMACHUS. Then he asked the stranger if he knew anything about his missing father Odysseus.

ATHENA. Your father is alive and he will be coming back soon.

TELEMACHUS. Are you a part of the Psychic Greek Hotline?

ATHENA. You bet! And in the meantime, you have got to do something about these gluttons. Call a meeting tomorrow and give them what for. Be a man and kick their buttocks out of your home.

TELEMACHUS. Done! Then what?

ATHENA. Set sail and see what else you can find out about your father. Farewell now.

TELEMACHUS. Farewell and—thanks a lot!

CHORUS. So Telemachus called the meeting and stuck it to the suitors.

TELEMACHUS. I am sick and tired of the whole pack of you—feasting on our livestock and drinking our wine!

SUITOR 1. Then tell your mother to quit stringing us along and make one of us her man!

SUITORS. Yeah! Yeah! Decide! Decide!

TELEMACHUS. Not yet! I need a ship and a crew. I am out of here to learn what I can about my father. If he's alive and on his way home, you moochers have only twelve months left at this "hotel." If I hear of his death, I'm coming back to hold his funeral and then maybe my mother will marry again.

SUITORS. (*Grumble amongst themselves.*)

CHORUS MEMBER 3. Telemachus had a little trouble getting a boat...

CHORUS MEMBER 4. ...until later that evening when the goddess Athena, disguised as Mentor, an old and trusted friend of Odysseus, pulled a few strings for him.

TELEMACHUS. She helped Telemachus prepare for his voyage.

ATHENA and TELEMACHUS. As night fell, they set sail.

CHORUS. Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream. Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily life is but a dream.....

TELEMACHUS. Who are all those people?

ATHENA. They're the Chorus, a vital part of any Greek play.

CHORUS. We tell you things you need to know.
We comment on events
To guide you as you watch the show.
We help it all make sense.

TELEMACHUS. Oh.

(Recurring sound effect suggesting a journey: Drumbeat or?)

TELEMACHUS. At their first stop, they met

NESTOR. King Nestor. Greetings strangers. Want to stay for supper?

ATHENA and TELEMACHUS. Why certainly.

CHORUS. After they ate and drank together, Nestor asked the strangers who they were and what they wanted.

NESTOR. Who are you and what do you want?

TELEMACHUS. I'm sure you remember my father Odysseus. You and he sacked the city of Troy together. Do you know if my dad is dead or alive?

NESTOR. Oh, my boy, you make me recall a time of much sorrow. Nine long years we fought that Trojan War alongside your brave father. All because of that woman Helen!

TELEMACHUS. Yeah, I heard...

NESTOR. We set sail after the sack of Troy. I was in one boat. Agamemnon and your dad were in another. I lost sight of them and that was the last time I saw Odysseus...

TELEMACHUS. Well, thank you...

NESTOR. ...but I can tell you what happened to Diomedes (di-oh-MEED-eez), Neoptolemus (nee-op-TAHL-uh-muss), Philocetes (fih-LA-sit-eez), Idomeneus (id-ah-MEHN-nee-us)...

TELEMACHUS. Maybe another time...

NESTOR. How about Agamemnon? Menelaus? Say, now *there's* someone who might help you fill in some blanks.

TELEMACHUS. Menelaus?

NESTOR. Menelaus might know. Yes, let me call you a chariot and point you in the direction of his palace.

ATHENA. So the next day, Telemachus took a chariot to see Menelaus.

(Recurring sound effect suggesting a journey: Drumbeat or?)

ATHENA. In the meantime, Athena transformed herself into an eagle and flew away.

TELEMACHUS. King Menelaus?

MENELAUS. Greetings stranger. Want to stay for supper?

TELEMACHUS. Why certainly.

HELEN. While they ate, the king's wife, Helen...

CHORUS. Helen of Troy?

HELEN. Yours truly! (*Continuing:*) Helen remarked to her husband, "Doesn't this young man remind you of someone we hung out with back in Troy?"

MENELAUS. Odysseus?

HELEN. Odysseus.

CHORUS. After they ate and drank together, Menelaus asked the stranger who he was and what he wanted.

MENELAUS. Who are you and what do you want?

TELEMACHUS. I believe you knew my father,

TELEMACHUS, HELEN, and MENELAUS. Odysseus!

TELEMACHUS. Yes!

MENELAUS. Why yes, and may I say that you are the spitting image of our old warrior pal.

HELEN. Like father, like son!

(All three weep mournfully and then pull themselves back together.)

TELEMACHUS. Can you tell me about my father? Where's he been since Troy?

MENELAUS. After Troy, I tried to come home, but the gods detained me in Egypt. I remember it well...

CHORUS. And thus Telemachus had to listen to yet another long war story to finally learn that...

MENELAUS. Odysseus is being held prisoner on an island by the nymph Calypso. He has no ship, no sailors, and is bitterly sorrowful...

(Recurring sound effect suggesting a journey: Drumbeat or?)

(Enter CALYPSO leading ODYSSEUS who is sobbing mournfully.)

ODYSSEUS. Booooo Hoooooo! Sniff! Waahhhhh!

(Crying continues in pantomime.)

CHORUS. Meanwhile, back on Mount Olympus... The goddess Athena railed over the plight of pitiful Odysseus.

ATHENA. Father Zeus, listen! Odysseus needs some respect! He was the pride of the Trojan war and now he's stuck with that nymph Calypso. He can't get back home, and wicked people there are plotting against his only son. Can't we give the guy a break?

ZEUS. Hermes—off to Calypso's island. Tell her the party's over!

ATHENA. Yes!

(Recurring sound effect suggesting a journey: Drumbeat or?)

HERMES. So Hermes tightened his signature glittering gold sandals, grasped his magic wand, and swooped down through the sky from Mount Olympus. He alighted on the sea, rapidly skimmed over many a wave and whitecap, until he reached the island and entered a cave...

CALYPSO. ...where the fair nymph Calypso sang as she worked at her loom.

(Song or chant with Calypso beat here. To the tune of "Yellow Bird.")

O-dy-sse-us, yes, I love that mortal so!
It's we. It's us. Together through time we'll go.

HERMES. Time to sing another tune, Calypso!

CALYPSO. Hermes! Long time no see! Want to stay for supper?

HERMES. Why certainly!

CHORUS. After they ate and drank together, Calypso asked Hermes what brought him to her.

CALYPSO. What, ah, brings you here, Hermes?

HERMES. Sorry, Calypso, but Zeus says your lover boy has to go home now—to his wife.

CALYPSO. No fair! Zeus strikes this ship with a lightening bolt, I find a poor creature clinging to a keel awash in my waves. It's the Big O. I feed him, love him, and intend to make him immortal, but Nooooo... the gods are too jealous when we fall for mortals, so now I have to dump him?

HERMES. Either that or deal with what Zeus can produce.

CALYPSO. Fine. Whatever.

HERMES. So Hermes fired up his golden sandals again... (*Exits.*)

(*Recurring sound effect suggesting a journey: Drumbeat or?*)

CALYPSO. ...and Calypso helped Odysseus build a raft, and bid him farewell. (*Waves good bye and sighs.*) Aw, and it coulda been so great.

(*Recurring sound effect suggesting a journey: Drumbeat or?*)

ODYSSEUS. It was smooth sailing for Odysseus until his old nemesis,

POSEIDON. Poseidon, god of the sea, saw him sailing and decided to stir up some trouble for Odysseus once again. (**POSEIDON raises his trident.**) Take that for blinding my boy! And that! And that! Cocky mortal!

CHORUS. (*Sea, wind, storm, and rain sound effects. ODYSSEUS, in slow motion, is thrown overboard, flails underwater, swims, finds and clings to a piece of his raft, and is eventually washed ashore.*)

(*Recurring sound effect suggesting a journey: Drumbeat or?*)

By and by, Odysseus reached another island...where he decided to take a little nap on the beach.

NAUSICAA. While he lay sleeping, the Princess Nausicaa and her maids arrived on the beach to do some laundry and play a little beach ball.

(*They mime playing ball. There is much shouting and laughter.*)

ODYSSEUS. The shouts and laughter of the young girls roused Odysseus. Hi there!

MAIDS. He's naked! (*They scream, run away, turn back for one last look, and run off.*)

NAUSICAA. Greetings stranger.

ODYSSEUS. (*Pause:*) Aren't you going to ask me to stay for supper?

NAUSICAA. It's lunchtime.

ODYSSEUS. Well, then—lunch?

NAUSICAA. Want to stay for lunch?

ODYSSEUS. Why, certainly.

NAUSICAA. But first, would you mind putting on one of these freshly laundered cloaks?

ODYSSEUS. No problem.

NAUSICAA. Thanks.

CHORUS. After they ate and drank together, Nausicaa instructed the stranger on how to reach the palace of her father and mother,

ALCINOUS and ARETE. ...King Alcinous and Queen Arete,

CHORUS. ...who were surrounded by their dinner guests.

ALCINOUS and ARETE. Greetings, stranger. Want to stay for supper?

ODYSSEUS. Why certainly.

CHORUS. After they ate and drank together, Odysseus petitioned Queen Arete.

ODYSSEUS. I humbly beg you and your husband and your worthy guests to help me home to my own country as soon as possible.

ARETE. Stranger, before we go any further—Who are you? Where are you from? And where did you get those clothes?

ODYSSEUS. So Odysseus told them all about being shipwrecked and held a prisoner of love by Calypso who finally let him sail away only to be washed up on their own shore.

ALCINOUS. What a man! Say, you sound like husband material to me. Want to marry my daughter and stay here?

ODYSSEUS. Sorry, I'm already married and I want to go home!

ALCINOUS. ...so Alcinous promised him a magnificent ship and a worthy crew.

ODYSSEUS. But first, King Alcinous and his people were entertained with the story of Odysseus's adventures.

(Recurring sound effect suggesting a journey: Drumbeat or?)

(The following is performed as a slow motion “choreographed” piece in which, during the sportscast-style narration, ODYSSEUS and the CHORUS MEMBERS act out the sequence of adventures.)

PLURYMACHUS. Hi everybody. Plurymachus here with Zeracles. Good to have you with us this evening. You'll recall that up in Troy the final score was Greece 1, Troy 0. A leading player in that crushing—Ithaca's own Odysseus.

ZERACLES. We take you now to the city of the Cicones (sih-CONE-ez). The Greeks are in blue. They are up at the half, but the Cicones rally to regain the lead and send Team Odysseus sailing.

PLURYMACHUS. Through rough waters, the Greeks advance to the island of the Cyclops (SI-clops). There they face the one-eyed

giants led by the infamous Polyphemus (polly-FEE-mus). The Big P says, "I eat Greeks for lunch!" and devours a few key players. But watch how Odysseus besets the big guy for a blinding finish! It's an "in your face" finale for Odysseus!

CHORUS. (*A cheer, performed to the rhythm of "We Will, We Will Rock You." By Queen:*)

Everybody knows that he is the best! He's gonna take and pass the test!

Strap on your sandals, pick up your spear. He's gonna kick you in the...

Everybody...

(Example: *We will, we will rock you [rest] rock you [rest]*)

We are on an od-y-SSEY! Od-y-SSEY!

We are on an od-y-SSEY! Od-y-SSEY!

ZERACLES. Next it's off to the island of Aeolus (EE-oh-lus), home of the wind king. Aeolus hands off a bag of winds to our epic hero. It's looking good for Odysseus until his teammates blow it. They rip open the bag and ohhhhhh, the winds blow the ship off course. I guarantee those guys were hearing about that one all the way to Telepylus (tel-LEP-uh-lus). "Stroke! Stroke! Stroke! Stroke! Stroke! Stroke!"

PLURYMACHUS. The Greeks suffered a few more casualties against their next opponents, fondly known on the circuit as the vicious cannibals. You'll remember the goddess Circe (SIR-see) from last season. Watch as she uses her home court advantage to turn most of this team into swine! Odysseus fights to remain immune to Circe's charms and works it over for the transition finish, redeeming his men. Word has it that Odysseus and Circe met for supper after the game.

CHORUS. Woooooo!

ZERACLES. The third member of our broadcast crew, Cassandra, is standing by right now with Odysseus.

CASSANDRA. Thanks, Zeracles. I'm here with Odysseus. Odysseus, everybody's talking about this exciting odyssy of yours. Can you tell us where you get your motivation and inspiration?

ODYSSEUS. Well, Cassandra, I just got back from consulting with my coach Teiresias (ti-REE-see-us) in Hades.

CASSANDRA. Yes, Teiresias, the blind prophet! What did he say?

ODYSSEUS. He helped my mental game enormously. I've still got a lot of work ahead of me, but Coach Tei is sure I'll return home a winner.

CASSANDRA. Any other fans in Hades?

ODYSSEUS. Yes, I got loads of support from some previously really important people who were always there for me—my mom, (*Into camera:*) Hi, Mom!, Achilles, Agamemnon, Hercules, and a bunch of the old gang!

CASSANDRA. What's your next big challenge, Odysseus?

ODYSSEUS. We're gonna face the Sirens (SI-rents), a really hot all-girl band.

CASSANDRA. Yes, famous for luring ships onto reefs and totally wrecking them. Whoa! That is heavy stuff! Do you have a game plan?

ODYSSEUS. I'm thinking wax.

CASSANDRA. Wax?

ODYSSEUS. Wax. I'll plug my crew's ears with wax so they can't hear the music.

CASSANDRA. And thus avoid the catastrophe! Brilliant! Well, we'll be with you all the way. Back to you, Plurymachus.

PLURYMACHUS. Thanks, Cassandra. Watch now as Odysseus works the wax into his men's ears and lashes himself to the mast as the Sirens make their noise. (*Sound effects—Sirens' music.*) He thrashes, he crashes, he hits the deck and flat out blows through the Sirens' offense!

CHORUS. (*Cheers!*)

ZERACLES. It's been a spectacular odyssey, and he's made it to the final four. His next opponent—Charybdis (kuh-RIB-dis), the fierce whirlpool who's 0 and 21 this year. Stroke! Stroke! and ohhhhhh! Yes! Odysseus vanquishes that vortex, ending its winning streak.

PLURYMACHUS. From here, it's on to face Scylla (SILL-uh) the six-headed monster. Scylla's in red. Scylla snatches six men and takes the lead, but Odysseus drives through and escapes.

ZERACLES. To the sun god's island we go where Team Odysseus slaughters the cows.

CHORUS MEMBER 4. Moooo!

(“Cow” is “slaughtered.”)

ZERACLES. Their coach, Hyperion (hi-PEER-ee-un), is not in a sunny mood after that butchering! But Odysseus advances to the championship round.

PLURYMACHUS. Here he emerges as the only winner against Zeus's thunderbolts. Calypso (kuh-LIP-so) declares the Big O to be in sole possession of first place!

(Applause for the end of Odysseus's tale.)

CHORUS. (A cheer:) He battles on the ocean! He's making history!
He's our epic hero. It's his odyssey!
Let's hear it for our hero! Let's shout it, more or less!
O-D-Y
S-S-E
Uuuuuuu-S!
Odysseus!

ALCINOUS. And since Odysseus was such a great guy as well as a great hero, Alcinous gave him a ship and transported him home to.... (Drum roll:) Ithaca!

(Recurring sound effect suggesting a journey: Drumbeat or?)

CHORUS. (Cheering and applauding:) Yay! End of Odyssey. (They begin to exit.)

ODYSSEUS. Not so fast. There's a lot of unfinished business for me here at Ithaca.

CHORUS. Such as?

ODYSSEUS. Well, remember those nasty suitors? And my son Telemachus? And my loyal wife Penelope?

CHORUS. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

ODYSSEUS. All right then. Let's continue, shall we? We've got some more work to do.

CHORUS. (*Grumbling, they resume their stage positions.*)

ODYSSEUS. Disguised as an aged beggar, Odysseus encounters his son.

TELEMACHUS. Telemachus did not recognize his old man and had to be convinced.

ODYSSEUS. Really, son. It's me! Your dad!

TELEMACHUS. Dad!

ODYSSEUS. Lad!

ODYSSEUS and TELEMACHUS. And the two embraced in a vale of tears!

CHORUS. Awwww!

ODYSSEUS. Enough of this sentimental blubbering! We must get rid of those suitors!

TELEMACHUS. Let's charge in there right now and finish them all off!

ODYSSEUS. Patience, my son, patience. Let's think this through carefully.

TELEMACHUS. So together they hatched a plan.

ODYSSEUS. The next day, Odysseus, still disguised as the old beggar, returned to his palace

SUITORS. ...where the suitors were once again eating his food and drinking his wine.

TELEMACHUS. Now, dad?

ODYSSEUS. Not quite yet. Patience.

TELEMACHUS. Patience.

CHORUS. Odysseus went begging among them. Suddenly, he found himself in a wrestling match. He responded with a body slam.

SUITORS. (*Raucous cheering.*)

PENELOPE. Knock it off and get out of here—all of you!

ODYSSEUS. At long last I see my wife Penelope face to face.

PENELOPE. (*Sighs.*)

ODYSSEUS. What is it, fair queen?

PENELOPE. I have tried to get rid of these guys with tricks, lies, and excuses for almost 20 years now. I told them my son was too young for me to remarry, but now he's a grown man and one of these days I'm going to have to choose a husband from among these losers.

ODYSSEUS. Why?

PENELOPE. Because odds are slim that my Odysseus will ever return. (*Sigh.*)

ODYSSEUS. Don't give up hope, your majesty. I can assure you that your husband is still alive.

PENELOPE. Still alive?

ODYSSEUS. Still alive, and he's almost home.

PENELOPE. Okay then...I'll stall them until he gets here. (*Thinks.*) I'll hold a contest. Each must use Odysseus's bow to try to shoot an arrow through a straight row of twelve axes. I'll announce that I will marry the one who does!

ODYSSEUS. (*Fishing for a compliment:*) Shooting an arrow through a straight row of axes is quite a feat! Is there any man alive who could accomplish such a thing?

PENELOPE. My Odysseus, if he were here...

ODYSSEUS. He's a legend in his own mind... (*Pause.*) I mean, his own time! Madam, your Odysseus will return before any of those nasty suitors can even string his bow.

PENELOPE. (*Sighs.*) I hope so.

TELEMACHUS. We have to wait until tomorrow?

ODYSSEUS. Tomorrow.

TELEMACHUS. So the next day, Mom issued the challenge to the suitors. Each attempted to string the bow and each failed miserably. Then Dad, working *incognito*, asked for a chance to try the bow.

The suitors sniffed indignantly.

SUITORS. Sniff! He's an old man! He's new in town! He's nothing!

PENELOPE. But Penelope granted his request.

(*She exits.*)

TELEMACHUS. (*Sotto voce, as in a golf broadcast:*) Odysseus took the bow, strung it expertly, fit an arrow to it, and swiftly released the arrow through the row of axes.

SUITORS. The suitors' jaws dropped!

TELEMACHUS. Now Dad?

ODYSSEUS. Now son!

TELEMACHUS. Odysseus turned his weapon on them.

SUITORS. Who is this madman?

ODYSSEUS. It is I, Odysseus! And now all of you are history!

TELEMACHUS. Yeah! And with that, Dad used all the suitors for target practice!

ODYSSEUS. Bull's Eye!

CHORUS. When Penelope returned, she was still not convinced this guy was her husband.

PENELOPE. After all, things were a bit bloody and this old guy in rags looks nothing like the man I shared my marriage bed with.

ODYSSEUS. Penelope, c'mere. Remember... (*Whispers.*)

PENELOPE. (*Gasps.*) Honey, it's really YOU! At long last! (*They embrace!*)

ODYSSEUS. What say we head for that bed?

PENELOPE. Uhhhh, would you mind taking a bath and finding some new clothes first?

ODYSSEUS. Of course not.

CHORUS. So Odysseus and Penelope spent the night together. But the next day, Odysseus still had a few loose ends to tie up.

ODYSSEUS. (*Reading a list:*) Drop by Dad's. Tell him I am still alive. Reunite with faithful servants. Mollify relatives of slaughtered suitors. Establish peace in the land. And resume my reign as king. Check. (*Pause.*) Now that's what I call a full day's work. Gods, I'm hungry.

CHORUS. Want to stay for supper?

ODYSSEUS. Why, certainly!

(*Sound effect to indicate end of play.*)

(*Recurring sound effect suggesting a journey: Drumbeat or?... brought to a finish.*)

End of Play

OEDIPUS THE KING

Cast of Characters

The Chorus

CHORUS MEMBER 1

CHORUS MEMBER 2

CHORUS MEMBER 3

Principal Characters

JOCASTA (Yo-KAH-stuh)

LAIUS (LAY-us)

OEDIPUS (ED-uh-puhs)

Minor Characters

DELPHIC ORACLE (DELL-fick OR-uh-kull)

SHEPHERD

MEROPE (Meh-RUH-pee)

POLYBUS (PAH-lih-bus)

SPHINX (SFINKS)

ANTIGONE (An-TIG-uh-nee)

ISMENE (Iz-MAY-nee)

CHORUS MEMBER 1. Long, long ago,

CHORUS MEMBERS 1 and 2. In ancient Greece,

CHORUS MEMBERS 1, 2, and 3. There was a famous poet and writer by the name of

CHORUS. Sophocles.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. He wrote a play called

CHORUS. Oedipus The King.

CHORUS MEMBER 2. A tragedy.

CHORUS MEMBER 3. Why?

CHORUS MEMBER 1. Because it is based on a

CHORUS MEMBERS 1, 2, and 3. sad low-down story. Here's how it goes:

JOCASTA. Jocasta the queen

LAIUS. Was married to Laius the king.

JOCASTA and LAIUS. (*Holding wrapped infant:*) They had a beautiful baby boy.

LAIUS. Coochie coochie coo!

JOCASTA. And they wanted to find out what his future would hold.

LAIUS. So they left their castle in Thebes and went to visit

DELPHIC ORACLE. The Delphic Oracle.

CHORUS. The Delphic Oracle. (*Choir-like:*) Ahhhhhhhhhhhh...

JOCASTA and LAIUS. Tell us what the future holds for our family.

DELPHIC ORACLE. (*Pantomimes the prophecy that their baby will murder his father and marry his mother.*)

CHORUS. (*Choir-like, while ORACLE pantomimes:*) Ahhhhhhhhhh-hhhh...

JOCASTA and LAIUS. YIKES!

LAIUS. You take him!

JOCASTA. No, YOU take him!

LAIUS. Lemme tell you what the oracle told us about our little boy.
It said someday he'd kill me...

JOCASTA. And then he'd marry me!

(They pause, think, and come up with a plan!)

LAIUS. I've got it! I'll nail this kid's ankles together and then we'll give him to a shepherd. He can take him up into the hills, drop him in some bushes, and leave him there.

JOCASTA. *(To audience:)* I know, I know...but survival instinct trumps maternal instinct.

JOCASTA and LAIUS. Oracles! Ha!

JOCASTA. You understand your orders?

SHEPHERD. Yes, your majesty. Abandon the child.

CHORUS. Pierce the baby's ankles. Abandon him to die. Surely that will foil fate. At least it's worth a try.

LAIUS. Who are all those people?

JOCASTA. They're the Chorus, a vital part of any Greek play.

CHORUS. We tell you things you need to know.
We comment on events
To guide you as you watch the show.
We help it all make sense.

LAIUS. Oh. *(Exits with JOCASTA.)*

SHEPHERD. But the shepherd didn't have the heart to abandon the poor child. Coochie coochie coo!
So he gave the baby to

MEROPE and POLYBUS. Queen Merope and King Polybus of Corinth.

POLYBUS. We'll raise him as our own.

MEROPE. He'll never know he was discarded.

POLYBUS. Maybe it was because his ankles are so swollen.

MEROPE. They named him Oedipus!

POLYBUS. Which means "swollen ankles" or "Big Foot!"

MEROPE. Baby Oedipus grew up

(Wrapped infant "exchanged" for grown-up OEDIPUS.)

OEDIPUS. ...and he loved his mom and dad.

MEROPE and POLYBUS. We never told him we weren't the genuine articles!

OEDIPUS. But when Oedipus heard that same prophecy that he would...

CHORUS. ...kill his father and marry his mother.

OEDIPUS. He was upset. What? What! Kill Dad? Never! Marry Mom? Hey, I love her, but not that way! I'm outta here!

CHORUS. He set out for...Thebes!

LAIUS. Meanwhile, back at the castle in Thebes, Laius the king, that is, Oedipus's real dad, decided he too would go for a stroll. Bye honey. I'll be in Corinth.

CHORUS. A date with Fate! Now don't be late! *(Repeat as a chant, if desired.)*

OEDIPUS and LAIUS. They met at the crossroads.

LAIUS. Get out of my way! Don't you know who I am?

OEDIPUS. No and I don't want to know.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. You might have noticed that, being father and son, they had the same kind of temper.

LAIUS. I said, "Get out of my way!"

OEDIPUS. I said, "No!"

LAIUS. Well, I'm not moving.

OEDIPUS. Well, I'm going to have to kill you.

(*OEDIPUS draws sword and strikes LAIUS four times.*)

CHORUS. (*Four stabbing sound effects.*)

LAIUS. (*Exiting:*) I'm dead!

CHORUS. History's first recorded incident of road rage!

(*Hums "Amazing Grace"*)

OEDIPUS. Oedipus continued along the road to Thebes until he met

SPHINX. A sphinx! (*To audience:*) A sphinx is a winged monster with the head of a woman and the body of a lion.

OEDIPUS. Out of my way!

SPHINX. Listen, Mister! The people of Thebes call me a monster because I chew them up!

OEDIPUS. Let me pass!

SPHINX. And you're lunch unless you can answer this riddle.

CHORUS. (*Begin humming a game show theme song.*)

SPHINX. This creature walks on four legs by morn, two legs by day, and three legs by night...

OEDIPUS. Why that's easy...a crawling baby, a walking adult, an old guy with a cane... What is Man?

SPHINX. By gum, I think he got it! (*In surprise:*) Now, I'm dead, too. (*Exits.*)

CHORUS. (*Hums "Amazing Grace."*)

OEDIPUS. Once again, Oedipus continued along the road to Thebes. There he received a hearty welcome for solving the riddle of the Sphinx and freeing Thebes from the munching monster.

JOCASTA. In Thebes, Queen Jocasta mourned the traffic death of her husband Laius. It was a hit and run.

OEDIPUS. But she was comforted by the appearance of the handsome stranger.

JOCASTA and OEDIPUS. They soon became an item!

CHORUS. (*Singing:*) I want a girl just like the girl who married dear old dad!

ANTGONE and ISMENE. And over the years, they raised some offspring!

CHORUS. And then the city of Thebes had some trouble once again. (*Sound effect.*) A pesky plague!

ANTIGONE. To make a long, sad story short...

ISMENE. Mom found out that dad was her son.

CHORUS. GASP!

ANTIGONE and ISMENE. And that his daughters were his sisters.

CHORUS. YIKES!

JOCASTA. In fear and horror, Jocasta hung herself. (*As she exits:*) I'm dead!

CHORUS. (*Begins to hum "Amazing Grace" again, but are cut off by OEDIPUS.*)

OEDIPUS. Not to be outdone, Oedipus took her golden brooches and clawed his eyes out.

CHORUS. Eeeeeuuuuuw! That's messy!

ISMENE. In one afternoon, we lost Mom.

ANTIGONE. And found out who killed Grandpa.

ISMENE. Now Dad's become a blind and bloody wreck.

ANTIGONE. Come with me Dad. No, over here. I'll watch out for you. (*They exit.*)

CHORUS MEMBER 4. We told you it was a sad low down story.

CHORUS. Very sad. Very low. Very Greek.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. So Jocasta and Laius, who tried to escape fate, got theirs.

CHORUS MEMBER 2. And as for Oedipus, his blind date with fate would not be stood up.

CHORUS MEMBER 3. And YOU won't have to read this entire play to understand:

CHORUS. Your date with Fate you can't negate.
The meek, the great can't outwit Fate.
It's always, always too darn late.
It's Fate.

(Repeat as desired.)

End of Play

OEDIPUS AT COLONUS

Cast of Characters

The Chorus

CHORUS MEMBER 1
CHORUS MEMBER 2
CHORUS MEMBER 3
CHORUS MEMBER 4
CHORUS MEMBER 5
CHORUS MEMBER 6

Characters

OEDIPUS (ED-uh-puhs)
ANTIGONE (An-TIG-uh-nee)
THESEUS (THEE-see-us)
ISMENE (Iz-MAY-nee)
CREON (KREE-on)
POLYNEICES (Polly-NICE-eez)
JUDGE
PROSECUTOR
BAILIFF
STRANGER
DELPHIC ORACLE (DELL-fick OR-uh-kull)

CHORUS MEMBER 1. Hundreds of years ago,

CHORUS MEMBER 1 and 2. Make that thousands of years ago,

CHORUS MEMBER 1, 2, and 3. There was a famous Greek poet
and writer by the name of

CHORUS. Sophocles.

CHORUS MEMBER 4. When he was young and not yet challenged
by life

CHORUS MEMBERS 4 and 5. He wrote a play about the early life
of

CHORUS. Oedipus the King.

CHORUS MEMBER 6. But there was more to the story.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. So, at the end of his life, when Sophocles had
seen most of life's challenges

CHORUS MEMBER 1 and 2. He wrote a play called

CHORUS MEMBER 1, 2, and 3. Oedipus at Colonus

CHORUS MEMBER 4. Also known as

CHORUS. Oedipus, The Sequel.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. We hope that you are ready for an Oedipus
Encore.

Remember him, that guy from Greece, who specialized in gore.

CHORUS MEMBER 2. That's right! The Delphic Oracle, the Psychic
Greek Hot Line,

Prophesized that Oedipus would lead a life of crime.

CHORUS MEMBER 3. He'd marry mom and murder dad, and or-
acles don't lie.

His dad grabbed Oedipus and said, "This baby's got to die."

CHORUS MEMBER 4. It wasn't pretty what he did; he nailed him
to a rock

And left him there as buzzard meat. His Fate he tried to mock.

CHORUS MEMBER 6. But Fate's not something you can mock, you
find out much too late.

The boy was found and left outside the King of Corinth's gate.
So Oedipus from Thebes grew up and thought his slate was clean.
His loving parents held good jobs as Corinth's king and queen.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. His picture perfect family would soon re-
verberate
With unexpected news about young Oedipus and fate.

CHORUS MEMBER 2. The boy heard fate expected him to one day
kill his dad.

The plan included sex with Mom. This made him really mad.
"I plan to foil fate," he said. "I've got the inside scoop."
"Murder? Incest? Nope, no way! I'm gonna fly the coop!"

CHORUS MEMBER 3. He traveled south. He killed a man, but that
was no big deal.
At least that's what he thought right then, but time would soon reveal.

CHORUS MEMBER 4. The man he killed turned out to be the man
who gave him life.

His real dad! And later on, he married this man's wife!
His real mom, the queen of Thebes, became his lovely bride.
We're helpless in the hands of fate; there is no room for pride.

CHORUS MEMBER 6. The prophecy became fulfilled, but wait,
there's more to tell.

Their marriage bed, as fate foretold, produced four kids as well.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. Ultimately everyone perceived the naked
truth.

A brother to his kids. His mom—his wife? Ugh, how uncouth!
His wife chose suicide and Oed, well, he gouged out his eyes.
Throughout the city he had ruled, the vote was "Ostracize!"

CHORUS (ALL). His daughter led him out of Thebes. They hoped
to rest in peace.

Without a home these twenty years, they've roamed through great-
er Greece.

CHORUS MEMBER 5. But isn't there a happy ending? Something
about when he accepts that all is lost, then everything is restored...

CHORUS. Shh! You're giving it away! Here they come. Play your
part.

OEDIPUS. Oedipus, blind, frail, and a toy of fate

ANTIGONE. and his daughter, Antigone

OEDIPUS. arrived, in a beautiful grove outside Athens. Wherever we are, and whatever happens is fine by me. Just let me sit down. Oedipus had learned to be content with little.

ANTIGONE. Uh oh, Dad. Someone's coming.

STRANGER. It was a stranger who told him that the Furies guard the Sacred Grove.

ANTIGONE. Look, all we'd like to do is sit down.

STRANGER. Can't you read? The sign says, "Colonus Holy Ground: No Trespassing."

OEDIPUS. His blindness had taught Oedipus patience and manners. I am a bit visually challenged...

ANTIGONE. Dad, it does say "Sacred: Keep Out".

OEDIPUS. The old arrogant Oedipus was gone. A few decades of suffering and humiliation had given him a certain childlike quality. We won't make any fuss. (*Feeling the ground:*) I'm old and nearing my end.

STRANGER. You mean die?! Well, you can't do it here.

OEDIPUS. Just a little bit of refuge?

CHORUS. Aren't you Oedipus, the Cursed—the one who tried to escape the misery of his fate?

OEDIPUS. (*Trying to hear where the rest of the voices are coming from:*) I don't kill people at traffic stops anymore. I wouldn't hurt a flea. They weren't convinced. They started to ask a lot of questions.

BAILIFF. All rise. This court is now in session. The City State of Colonus v. Oedipus. The Question—Did he know that the woman he married all those many years ago was really his mother?

JUDGE. Prosecutor, you may proceed with the witness.

(*The CHORUS arranges itself into judge, jury, and courtroom spectators. The following is spoken in quick patter:*)

PROSECUTOR. Did you know?

OEDIPUS. I didn't know. I really didn't know.

PROSECUTOR. You must have known

OEDIPUS. I should have known.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. He really must have known.

PROSECUTOR. How could that be? You didn't see? You looked just like your wife!

OEDIPUS. She looked to me like what you'd see in every day Greek life!

PROSECUTOR. Did you know?

OEDIPUS. I didn't know. I REALLY didn't know.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. That isn't true. Of course he knew.

CHORUS MEMBER 2. The evidence is clear.

OEDIPUS. How could I know? I loved her so.

JUDGE. You're guilty sir, I fear.

CHORUS. Guilty, sir, I fear!

(End rhythmic patter.)

JUDGE. Who are all those people?

ANTIGONE. They're the Chorus, a vital part of any Greek play.

CHORUS. We tell you things you need to know.
We comment on events

To guide you as you watch the show.
We help it all make sense.

JUDGE. Oh.

ANTIGONE. We told the court all about the years of exile and scorn we'd live through.

CHORUS. Exile and scorn!

OEDIPUS. Twenty years is a lot of exile and scorn.

CHORUS MEMBER 2. So finally, the Furies relented.(*To OEDIPUS:*) You can sit down for a minute because we've sent for the boss.

OEDIPUS. Seated in the Sacred Grove, Oedipus received four visitors.

ISMENE. His daughter, Ismene, first.

THESEUS. Next King Theseus,

CREON. Nasty King Creon, third,

POLYNEICES. And last, one of his sons, Polyneices.

ISMENE, CREON, THESEUS, POLYNEICES. By the time we'd left, Oedipus was a changed man.

CHORUS. What happened?

OEDIPUS. In one short day, all my suffering was transformed. Just watch.

ISMENE. Ismene came racing in, excited by her Big News. Sis!

ANTIGONE. Ismene! (*Hugging her:*) How'd you find us?

ISMENE. Wandering blind people dot com. Dad!

OEDIPUS. (*With gleeful greeting and pride:*) My youngest daughter! That is, my baby sister...

ISMENE. Ismene was bursting. Dad!! My brothers are fighting again. Things are a mess in Thebes. But everything is going to change. The Delphic Oracle has spoken again and

ANTIGONE. ...updated the prophecy?

OEDIPUS. I don't want to know. Last time, every miserable detail came true.

ISMENE. Wait! Listen! It's good news this time. Dad, you're going to be Mr. Popularity! The Delphic Oracle said:

DELPHIC ORACLE. Oedipus! Your blindness has given you sight. You have come to see that all is in the hands of the Gods. Thus your power is restored. Won back by your humility. From now on, who-

ever welcomes you will be granted peace, prosperity, and success in war.

CHORUS. Ahhhhhhhh!

OEDIPUS. No more exile?

ISMENE. No more exile!

ANTIGONE. No more scorn?

ISMENE. No more scorn!

OEDIPUS. No more laundromats and homeless shelters?

ISMENE. Dad, I heard it say: Power and publicity... Oedipal Celebrity!!!

CHORUS. Woooooooo!

ANTIGONE. (*Shaking her head:*) Lady Luck is at Dad's door?

ISMENE. Yes! Dad, this has completely changed how people feel about you.

OEDIPUS. Even my ex-brother-in-law Creon?

ISMENE. Yes! Remember how Uncle Creon exiled you from Thebes?

CHORUS. Out!

ISMENE. Well, now that the Delphic Oracle has smiled down on you, he wants you back at the palace. You're like an insurance policy: guaranteed success in battle.

ANTIGONE. Doesn't that just sound like Uncle Creon!

ISMENE. Well, he is the bad guy in this play. Then Ismene told her father the disturbing news about his two sons. Polyneices and Eteocles are fighting for the throne of Thebes.

OEDIPUS. They never could share their toys.

ISMENE. Creon's coming to see you. He's going to try to cash in on your reversal of fortune. (*ISMENE and ANTIGONE chat between themselves, catching up on palace doings.*)

THESEUS. Theseus, king of Athens, was the next visitor.

OEDIPUS. Theseus not only welcomed Oedipus, but treated him with honor.

THESEUS. My man! Oedipus!

ANTIGONE. And that was pretty impressive because he didn't know the Oracle had made Dad "The Guy To Know."

THESEUS. I hereby make you an honorary citizen of Athens. This card entitles you to two free amphoras of wine down at the Acropolis Tavern. (*He claps OEDIPUS on the back and they wander off to trade war stories.*)

OEDIPUS. How hospitable!

CREON. With that, Creon arrived, made a pest of himself trying to persuade Oedipus he wasn't slimy and when he failed, announced, "I'm going to abduct Antigone and Ismene!"

ANTIGONE and ISMENE. Why us?

CREON. Because then I can get your father to move back to Thebes and bring me some of that good luck.

(*Exaggerated chase scene sequence. CHORUS adds sound effects.*)

CREON. I chase the girls and make them cry.

THESEUS. But Theseus was standing by
And with a loud Greek Battle Cry... ahhrrrgh!!!

ANTIGONE and ISMENE. He saved the girls and made them sigh...ahhhhhh!!!

CREON. Old Creon's plans are roundly foiled.

ANTIGONE and ISMENE. The girls return just slightly soiled.

OEDIPUS. Oedipus hugs them and he cries,
It's love and pain that make you wise.

Kids, I'm getting pretty wise with all this love and pain.

POLYNEICES. Polyneices, son of Oedipus, was the last visitor. He was on the way to battle his brother for the throne of Thebes.

(Bowing elaborately and finally kneeling in front of his father in earnest supplication.)

Dad, the Delphic Oracle says you're the guy to have on my ticket.
How about it? Would you be my running mate?

OEDIPUS. *(Stepping downstage for soliloquy to audience)* Isn't this an interesting turn of events? I haven't seen my son since he drove me into exile. And now he wants to chat? You know, my life is never boring.

ANTIGONE. At first Oedipus wouldn't talk to my brother. *(Going downstage to persuade)* Dad, remember, you're still working on your temper. At least listen to him.

POLYNEICES. But Oedipus was not in a forgiving mood. In fact he was in a cursing mood.

OEDIPUS. I'm in a cursing mood.

CHORUS. *(As the actions are pantomimed by the rest:)*

His curses fly from bitter tongue.
He won't forgive his eldest son.
That son soon left but not before
He begged for just one favor more.
He asked this of his sister dear
Though he'd not called for twenty years...

POLYNEICES. If I should die in bloody fight,
Please bury me with funeral rites.

ANTIGONE. Bury you? Okay. I do keep my promises you know.
Bye.

*(She waves to him as he exits. Pause, then: Large thunder clap.
OEDIPUS, ANTIGONE, and ISMENE scurry about.)*

OEDIPUS. Daughters. I hear the Sound calling me. Round up Theseus for me. He will be the heir of my restored powers.

ANTIGONE and ISMENE. Theseus!

OEDIPUS. *(To ANTIGONE)* Daughter, you were once my guide. Now I will guide you. *(To both)* Come on. Over here. This way. *(Enter THESEUS)* Theseus, my man! Follow me. *(THESEUS looks puzzled.)*

OEDIPUS. Follow me, girls.

ANTIGONE. What's he talking about?

THESEUS. Hmmm... You know how they say the last shall be first and the first shall be last? He looks like he knows what he's doing. I'm right behind you, fella.

(*They all exit.*)

CHORUS MEMBER 2. (*Playing the role of a TV anchorman:*) Good evening ladies and gentlemen. We had four visitors to the sacred grove of Colonus this evening and the weather held! News 4 has heard, folks, that the fates and time intend to wrap it all up pretty soon.

CHORUS MEMBER 3. Yes, and apparently, we can anticipate a happy ending. Tonight, the gods were heard to say, "Many were the sorrows that came to him without cause; but in requital a just god will lift him up!" Sounds promising! And now a word from our News 4 Weather Center.

CHORUS MEMBER 4. Good evening to all of you out there. Some odd goings on, tonight. We're reporting strange outbreaks of thunder followed by flashes of light. We're seeing some unusual cloud formations up on Mount Olympus tonight as well. Folks, I'd advise you to keep those umbrellas handy.

(*A big roll of thunder.*)

Did you hear that? That makes the second. Two of the biggest claps of thunder we've got on record here at the weather center. It's quite a night.

CHORUS MEMBER 2. With three rolls of thunder, the Gods decreed that the suffering of Oedipus should stop.

CHORUS MEMBER 3. They decreed him purified by patience.

CHORUS MEMBER 6. He was lifted up.

CHORUS (ALL). Death, for Oedipus, was a triumph. Mystically illuminated, he walked towards the light.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. And we have an eye witness account.

MESSENGER. I saw the whole thing. There was blind old Oedipus leading King Theseus up the mountain. Lots of thunder and lightning. The girls were crying and then I heard him turn around and yell: "Love makes everything worth it!" It was just like a Hallmark moment!

CHORUS MEMBER 2. And yes, folks, Hallmark Cards are the Sponsors of News 4's late night coverage. We'll end our broadcast from Colonus with some footage of our final interview with Oedipus' daughter, Antigone.

ANTIGONE. (*To a reporter:*) And it all just made me realize, I'm going to have to go back to Thebes and see if I can't do something to prevent my brothers from KILLING each other! Towards the end, Dad was really gung ho on this love thing... And I did promise my brother... (*She wanders off.*)

CHORUS MEMBER 1. Well folks, I guess that's it from Colonus. Catch our broadcast from Thebes next week as we cover the Polyneices-Eteocles face off. For now, from all of us at News 4, Goodnight!

End of Play

ANTIGONE

Cast of Characters

The Chorus

CHORUS MEMBER 1
CHORUS MEMBER 2
CHORUS MEMBER 3
CHORUS MEMBER 4

Principal Characters

CREON (KREE-on)
ANTIGONE (An-TIG-uh-nee)
ISMENE (Iz-MAY-nee)
HAIMON (HAY-muhn)
MINOR CHARACTERS
ETEOCLES (EE-tee-oh-kleez)
POLYNEICES (Polly-NICE-eez)
GUARDS
BOY
TEIRESIUS (Tie-REES-see-us)
EURYDICE (You-RID-uh-see)
ZEUS (Zoos)

CHORUS. The tragedy of (*Pause – sound effect:*) Antigone!

(ANTIGONE *revealed.*)

CHORUS MEMBER 1. The third play in the Oedipus cycle by

CHORUS. Sophocles.

CHORUS MEMBER 2. Jocasta and Laius begat Oedipus.

CHORUS MEMBER 3. Oedipus and Jocasta begat Antigone.

CHORUS MEMBER 4. They also begat her lovely sister Ismene.
And her quarrelsome brothers

ETEOCLES. Eteocles

POLYNEICES. and Polyneices.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. With Oedipus and Jocasta dead, the children
were raised by their Uncle Creon. But brothers will be brothers...

ETEOCLES. It's my year to rule Thebes!

POLYNEICES. Then we'll trade off every year! (*High five in agreement.*)

CHORUS. One year goes by.

POLYNEICES. Now it's my turn to rule Thebes!

ETEOCLES. Is not!

POLYNEICES. Is too!

ETEOCLES. Is not!

CREON. Now, boys...

ETEOCLES. Stay out of this, Uncle Creon.

POLYNEICES. I must attack!

(*They fight one another and then both die.*)

CREON. Now I'll rule Thebes!

CHORUS. Long live King Creon!

CREON. Bury my nephew Eteocles with high honors and a state funeral! Leave my other nephew's body here to rot in the open air as food for the birds of prey. Serves him right for attacking his own city!

CHORUS MEMBER 2. Hey! That's breaking a heavenly law!

ANTIGONE. That's right. Creon's a creep! Heavenly Law 742 says that without a proper burial, Polyneices's soul will never rest. I'll bury my brother myself!

ISMENE. Antigone, don't defy Uncle Creon! You'll get in big trouble.

ANTIGONE. Ismene, when there's a choice between human law and sacred law, I go with the gods! Besides, I'm no wimp!

ISMENE. And I am?

ANTIGONE. Well...?

CHORUS. What the uncle had decreed,
the stubborn niece refused to heed,
and though her sister disagreed,
Antigone performed the deed...
in a sandstorm!

ISMENE. Who are all those people?

CREON. They're the Chorus, a vital part of any Greek play.

CHORUS. We tell you things you need to know.
We comment on events
To guide you as you watch the show.
We help it all make sense.

ISMENE. Oh.

GUARD. Later that day at the palace, a guard informed Creon that his edict had been disobeyed.

CREON. Bring me the man who buried the traitor or I'll string you up alive!

GUARD. Yes sir! Right away sir!

CHORUS. (*Spelled, as in a cheer:*) A-N-T—I-G-O-N-E! A-N-T—I-G-O-N-E! A-N-T—I-G-O-N-E!

GUARD. Here's your man, sir, and her sister too!

CREON. Antigone?

ANTIGONE. Yes, it was me.

CREON. And Ismene?

ISMENE. Not me. Not me.

CHORUS. Not she. Not she. It was just Antigone!

CREON. Then I decree...

ANTIGONE. Death for me?

CREON. Death for thee!

ISMENE. But wait! Uncle Creon, don't you remember that Antigone is to be your son Haimon's bride?

CREON. Not any more! Take them away! Lock them up! (*Exit.*)

HAIMON. Dad? Dad? What's this I hear about you sentencing my fiancée to death? C'mon Dad, give her a break.

CREON. No woman makes a fool out of me!

HAIMON. Hey, everybody makes mistakes. Look at Uncle Oedipus! Let's just chalk this one up to experience and move on, okay?

CREON. Lovestruck adolescent! Your woman will be sealed alive in a cave with a small amount of food and left there to die. You will never see her again.

HAIMON. And you'll never see me again! (*Exits.*)

CHORUS. Stop in the name of love, before you break his heart. Think it over. Think it over.

CREON. No!

GUARDS. The guards sealed Antigone in the cave.

ANTIGONE. O stone cold tomb! Here I shall soon be with my own again—Mom, Dad, Polyneices...

BOY. Right about then, the blind seer Teiresias came into town.

TEIRESIAS. Creon! Creon!—

BOY. Over there.

TEIRESIAS. Creon, you crazy fool. You're too darn proud. Bury that corpse and release his sister or you'll be facing bad times, mister!

CREON. Are you sure?

TEIRESIAS. Have I ever been wrong before? (*Exit.*)

CHORUS. (*Begins a whispered chant:*) Trouble, trouble, trouble...

(Continues chanting underneath the following dialogue:)

CREON. Creon raced out to bury his nephew and free his niece.

ANTIGONE. Meanwhile, however, Antigone made a noose of her veil and hanged herself.

HAIMON. Haimon discovered his dead fiancée and lamented loudly. Woe is me!

CHORUS. Woe is he!

CREON. When Creon arrived at the tomb, Haimon spat at his face.

HAIMON. Haimon tried to kill his father with his sword.

CHORUS. (*Sound effect.*)

CREON. But he missed.

CHORUS. (*Sound effect.*)

HAIMON. So he killed himself.

CHORUS. (*Sound effect.*)

EURYDICE. And, as if that wasn't enough, when Creon's wife Eurydice heard what happened, her grief led her to stab herself in the heart!

CHORUS. (*Sound effect.*)

CREON. Oh! I have been rash and foolish! My wife and son are dead! Let me die, too!

CHORUS. Uh, uh, uh! Not so soon!

CREON. Servants! Lead me away from here. Now I know. I am the lowest of the low.

(*CREON exits, aided by two CHORUS MEMBERS.*)

(*Chorus Finale – Rap style:*)

CHORUS MEMBER 1. This ends the story of a niece who lived in Greece and wanted peace

CHORUS MEMBER 2. So she buried the deceased against a law made by a man,

CHORUS MEMBER 3. A man who had a plan for keeping order in his land.

CHORUS MEMBER 4. The girl decided Heaven had the top designer laws

So she sided with the gods and she stood up for her cause

CHORUS MEMBER 1. Although she would be facing quite a gruesome consequence.

CHORUS MEMBER 2. You break the laws of State and it's a capitol offense!

CHORUS. Defy the State? [*rest, rest*]

Don't violate! [*rest, rest*]

You'll pay the price. [*rest, rest*]

Big sacrifice! [*rest, rest*]

CHORUS MEMBER 3. The girl had lots of pride and her uncle had the same.

So he stuck by his edict and he later took the blame.

CHORUS MEMBER 4. For failing to respect the gods and backing down too late.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. His punishment was personal, designed to devastate.

CHORUS. And yes, we are confessing that the gods don't like you
messing
With their laws and that's because they are divine and they outshine
Any rules made by a man.

CHORUS MEMBER 2. So if you choose to disobey
Hey, you better start to pray, cause you're gonna have to pay!

CHORUS. Defy the gods? *[rest, rest]*
Don't play those odds! *[rest, rest]*
If you dissent, *[rest, rest]*
You will repent! *[rest, rest]*

CHORUS MEMBER 3. So there's the message of the drama—state it
clear and state it loud:

CHORUS MEMBER 4. Think hard about your actions and do not
become too proud.

CHORUS MEMBER 1. But if you learn a lesson through a punish-
ment or two,
You will be a little wiser in your earthly point of view.

CHORUS. Defy the gods? *[rest, rest]*
Don't play those odds! *[rest, rest]*
If you dissent, *[rest, rest]*
You will repent! *[rest, rest]*

End of Play