



Antigone NOW

By Fitzmaurice Lead Teacher [Margaret Kemp](#)

When it was clear that COVID 19 would impact our campus, I was moved to consider how we could allow this moment in history to positively impact our learning community and our intended production of Antigone. As an artist and instructor at UC Davis, my call to action is to model collaboration, research, creativity, and community engagement through performance and theatre-making practices. For me, this is the soul of the value of theatre and dance at an R1 Institution. Our hybrid approach to Antigone, which is now called Antigone NOW answers the call.

The outcome will be a radical new performance film of Sophocles' Antigone, devised from the translation by Seamus Heaney. Our logline is "a world in strife, a nation in fear, a woman stranded in grief".

Award-winning Irish director and the University of California Davis, Granada Artist in Residence Sinéad Rushe, will co-direct with UC Davis, Associate Professor Margaret Laurena Kemp, a ground-breaking contemporary response to the classical play, Antigone. Made collectively between the USA and the UK using mobile phones, iPads and video, this all-female cast and creative team will create a stunning new film that confronts the isolation of our moment. A culturally diverse ensemble of female-identifying actors, each in seclusion, will evoke the breadth of Antigone's defiance against devastating loss.

We aim to project the film on the sides of buildings throughout campus during scheduled the performance dates May 14, 15and 16. Additional dates and locations to be announced.

This production is part of Kemp and Rushe's ongoing creative exploration of character through polyphonic vocalization and collective composition. Additionally, Kemp is exploring authorship, spatial politics, and witnessing. They posit that character, like a place or a country or a nation-state, is not a point of departure but a construct or result, the assumption of an ever-contested role.