



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**An Updated Classic Comes to Manchester:
theatre KAPOW presents *The Burial at Thebes*, September 13 - 14, 2013**

theatre KAPOW presents ***The Burial at Thebes*** by Nobel Prize winning poet Seamus Heaney, September 13 - 14 at the Derryfield School in Manchester, NH. This marks the first time tKAPOW, which normally performs in Derry, is presenting a major production in Manchester.

theatre KAPOW's sixth season features a series of events based upon the theme of "awake." The company will focus on an exploration of awakenings of human consciousness. This season's shows demand of artists and audiences both a sense of heightened awareness not only of what is happening in the world around us but also of what it means to be a human being.

With ***The Burial at Thebes***, Irish Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney delivers an exquisite adaptation of Sophocles' *Antigone*, reviving the Greek tale of love and self-sacrifice for a contemporary audience. As with the original, ***The Burial at Thebes*** centers on the never resolved conflict between a person's individual rights and the demands of the state. The timeless struggle for honor is called into question in the face of challenging authority: to whom does loyalty belong - to one's family and cultural practices or to the law decreed by the state? The story is 2,500 years old, but one need only look to very recent events surrounding the burial of a domestic terrorist to find relevance.

The Burial at Thebes will be directed by tKAPOW co-founder Matt Cahoon. Cahoon has recently returned from the 14th Annual International Symposium for Directors at LaMaMa Umbria in Spoleto, Italy. There Cahoon had the opportunity to study under world renowned theatre artists including the visionary director Ping Chong and Academy Award-winning actress and director Estelle Parsons. "One of the most intimidating experiences for me was directing a scene from the play with Estelle Parsons looking on," Cahoon said. "She was incredibly supportive and I know that my understanding not only of that scene but of the whole show was greatly deepened through my work with her. Perhaps more importantly, I know that being exposed to so many different and exciting approaches to creating theatre during my time in Italy will benefit my work with tKAPOW for years to come."

theatre KAPOW is pleased to be collaborating on ***The Burial at Thebes*** with a local Greek musician, Sandy (Matoula) Theodorou. Sandy plays accordion and laouto, and sings with the Boston-based Greek bands, Rebetoparea ("Rebetika"/Greek urban blues) and Meraki ("Paradosiaka"/traditional Greek music). She has danced with the Boston Lykeion ton Ellinidon Greek folk dance group. Sandy was born in Pireas, Greece, with family roots in Greek villages in

Epiros and the Ionian island of Kefalonia. Sandy's talents will be on display during the choral odes that take place throughout script. "It was amazing how easily Sandy found traditional Greek music that fit so perfectly the themes of the play. When doing Greek shows, the odes are always a challenge, but I think what we have found is a truly rich and interesting way to approach them," Cahoon said.

tKAPOW is proud of the fact that the cast is made of gifted actors who have strong ties to the material. The role of Creon, the newly conferred king of Thebes is played by Peter Josephson, an associate professor of political science at Saint Anselm College. The headstrong and defiant Antigone is played by Carey Cahoon, whose undergraduate degree from St. Anselm is in Classics. Both have studied Sophocles' Antigone several times, but have never performed the play. Six other actors make up the ensemble: Gail Angelis, Rich Hurley, Kelly Litt, Rachael Longo, Mark Marshall, and Allan McPherson. The creative team includes Claire Amirault (Stage Manager), Nat Ward (Sound Designer) and Tayva Young (Lighting Designer).

Performances are Friday, September 13 and Saturday, September 14 at 7.30 pm at the Nancy S. Boettiger Theater at the Derryfield School in Manchester. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students. For tickets or more information, visit www.tkapow.com.

About Seamus Heaney

Seamus Heaney is widely recognized as one of the major poets of the twentieth century. A native of Northern Ireland, Heaney currently lives in Dublin. Heaney taught at Harvard University from 1985 to 2006, where he was a Visiting Professor, and then Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard University (1985-1997) and Ralph Waldo Emerson Poet in Residence (1998-2006). Heaney has attracted a readership on several continents and has won prestigious literary awards and honors, including the Nobel Prize.

About theatre KAPOW

theatre KAPOW (www.tkapow.com) develops ensemble productions of great dramatic literature to explore the human experience and inspire and challenge both artist and audience. tKAPOW places emphasis on the importance of rigorous formal training to develop an ensemble of skilled and dedicated theatre artists.

Now in its sixth season, tKAPOW has established a reputation for presenting important dramatic literature including productions by August Strindberg, Henrik Ibsen, Sam Shepard, David Mamet, Sarah Ruhl, and Tony Kushner. tKAPOW also supports the development of new work through an annual 24 Hour Play Festival and an original performance piece in the spring. The editors of New Hampshire Magazine named theatre KAPOW the Best Contemporary Theatre in New Hampshire for 2013.

theatre KAPOW is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.

Visit www.tkapow.com to learn more.

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Photo Captions:

28: Rachael Longo (Ismene) and Carey Cahoon (Antigone) in theatre KAPOW's production of The Burial at Thebes by Seamus Heaney, September 13 - 14, 2013. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.

69: Carey Cahoon (Antigone), Peter Josephson (Creon) and Rachael Longo (Ismene) in theatre KAPOW's production of The Burial at Thebes by Seamus Heaney, September 13 - 14, 2013. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.

92: Peter Josephson (Creon), Allan McPherson (Chorus), Carey Cahoon (Antigone) and Rachael Longo (Ismene) in theatre KAPOW's production of The Burial at Thebes by Seamus Heaney, September 13 - 14, 2013. <http://www.tkapow.com/>. Photo by Matthew Lomanno Photography.