

East Productions in association with Pleasance Theatre Trust and Seabright Productions presents
the Nottingham Playhouse and Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse Production

OEDIPUS

By **Steven Berkoff** after **Sophocles**. Directed By **Steven Berkoff**.

Cast includes **Steven Berkoff** as Creon, **Anita Dobson** as Jocasta and **Simon Merrells** as Oedipus
3 - 29 August (not 9, 10, 17 or 24). Pleasance Courtyard, 13:20 (100 mins)

PRESS PERFORMANCE 13.20 PM SATURDAY 6 AUGUST

Steven Berkoff returns to the fringe for the first time since the acclaimed *On The Waterfront* in 2008. This new version of *Oedipus*, with an 11-strong cast including Berkoff, sees him reunited with **Simon Merrells**. The show recently won national acclaim during successful seasons at Liverpool and Nottingham Playhouses.

Thebes; the Gods are angry and have put a terrible curse on the city. Condemned by his own arrogance – his refusal to even contemplate anyone else's point of view – truth and fate conspire as Oedipus unwittingly sets his own downfall in motion. It soon becomes clear that his only success will be in sealing his own fate.

'The bravest, most exciting and moving Greek tragedy in years. Shows that rewriting in a harsh, edgy modern language can still make you feel the heat and passion of its power.' **** Sunday Times

Celebrated writer, actor and director **Steven Berkoff** brings his distinctive style to a new production of Sophocles' greatest Greek tragedy, *Oedipus*. He adapted and directs the piece and will play Creon for the Edinburgh run. The co-production of the show premiered in Liverpool and Nottingham earlier this year to critical and audience acclaim with its highly charged performance style and charismatic ensemble of actors, led by **Simon Merrells** as the eponymous king. Berkoff directed Merrells in 2008 in his acclaimed adaptation of *On the Waterfront* (Nottingham Playhouse, Edinburgh & West End).

Anita Dobson will play Jocasta. She first shot to national fame as Angie Watts in *EastEnders*. Anita has performed extensively on stage and screen and her West End credits include *Calendar Girls*, *Hello Dolly*, *Hamlet*. She was nominated for a Best Actress Olivier Award for the National Theatre's production of *Frozen* in 2003.

'Taking him as visionary director and choreographer I am at Berkoff's feet: it is a remarkable piece. Properly thrilling, and hurls the full pity and terror of the original at us across 25 centuries.' The Times

Following *Metamorphosis*, *The Trial* and the *Fall of the House of Usher* Berkoff's adaptation of *Oedipus* gives Sophocles a modern edge yet remains true to the power of classical Greek tragedy. Performed in verse with a traditional Greek Chorus the production uses modern language and a modern setting to explore the family dynamic and how big ideas of gods and fate affect real people.

The ensemble is: **Anthony Barclay**, **Sean Buckley**, **Michael Fenner**, **Christopher Hogben**, **Alex McSweeney**, **Anthony Ofoegbu**, **Alister O'Loughlin** and **Jonathan Sidgwick**. Designed By **Michael Vale**. Lighting Design by **Mike Robertson**. Composer/Sound Designer **John Chambers**. Assistant Director **Matthew Cullum**.

LISTINGS INFORMATION – OEDIPUS 3 - 29 August (not 9, 10, 17 or 24). 13:20 (100 mins).

Fringe Venue 33: Pleasance Courtyard. Sub-venue: Grand – Tickets £10-£17.50

PLEASANCE: 0131 556 6550 / www.pleasance.co.uk or FRINGE: 0131 226 0000 / www.edfringe.com

For all press enquiries and ticket requests, please contact Festival Highlights:

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FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

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