Maria de Fátima Silva
Susana Hora Marques (eds.)

Tragic Heroines on Ancient and Modern Stage
Throughout the twentieth century Sophocles’ *Antigone* was an inspiration to six Portuguese playwrights albeit born at different times and with different personalities. Curiously, four of these plays were written between the 1930s and the 1950s by men during troubled periods in Portuguese politics, and the last two by women in the 1990s. This discrepancy of time as well as the distinction between male and female productions seems somehow reflected in the message prevalent in each of the plays. Men underline political issues by voicing the contemporary political context, as well by the natural connection between man and power (a main element in ancient Greek tragedy too); women on the other hand more emotional by nature (in the same way as in the Classical plays) put the emphasis in

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1 I would like to thank Mr. Júlio Gago, the present director of TEP, for all the information he kindly gave me, as well as for the images that he provided; I would like to thank also Prof. Carlos Morais for his enlightenments about António Pedro’s *Antigone* new production in 2003.


5 João de Castro Osório’s *Antigone*, a play not very close to the Sophoclean paradigm, is “a recreation of the myth under a Christian perspective” (Morais, C. 2001a: 9).