**Ancient Future Solo**

Educational dance workshop for adolescents by Marianna Kavallieratos

**The 8 original dance solos will be uploaded
at greekfestival.gr
starting on Monday, February 8th**

*A Festival workshop? It is certainly liberating; it can teach you a lot, but not in a school-like manner. You learn a lot; it is very open; nothing puts a limit on us except for the limits we put on ourselves!*

**Melina**

*AFS participant*

## For the first time in its history, the Athens and Epidaurus Festival has expanded its activities during the winter season through a series of research initiatives and collaborations, available for the public free of charge, as part of the new OPEN PLAN platform.

## *Ancient Future Solo*, the Festival workshop run by dancer and choreographer Marianna Kavallieratos and her team, not only showcases the creative style of contemporary dance, but also helps one realise how invaluable this Festival initiative is, especially for adolescents hungry for art, and even more so in these difficult times.

## A field of creative interaction between youngsters and artists, with the latter paving the way for the former, urging them to push themselves and teaching them how to approach ancient texts in an experiential manner through dance and music, rather than as a stale educational process, *Ancient Future Solo* effectively contributes to the dialogue on the significance of artistic education, both as a concept and as an initiative: not only in terms of fostering growth in each participant, but even more importantly in the sense of shaping active, creative individuals.

*What is the meaning of ‘transcendence’? Which actions are heroic?*

*How can faith in an idea and determination for action affect the body?*

*What is the meaning of ‘responsibility’ and ‘personal cost’?*

*What is the rebelling body like?*

*What is the resisting body like?*

Using Euripides’ *Helen* and Sophocles’ *Antigone* as a starting point, taught at the Gymnasium (Junior’s High) and Lyceum (High School) curricula respectively, the eight adolescents (ages 13-17) who participated in *Ancient Future Solo* had the opportunity to discover Ancient Drama from the perspective of the body and physical movement. Each participant created his / her own individual choreography under the instructions of Marianna Kavallieratos and her assistant Areti Athanasopoulou. Furthermore, each participant collaborated with composer Giorgos Mizithras, working on the sound of their solos, and with theatre researcher Paraskevi Tektonidou, building the dramaturgy of each piece.

The instructors helped the participants explore the motives of their characters, exposing them to the possibility of multiple readings of the classical texts. They provided them with tools in terms of movement and dramaturgy in order to help foster their individual expression and develop new, purely movement-based works in dialogue with Ancient Drama. Participants and instructors jointly explored the relationship between sound, music, and the dramaturgy of a choreographic work.

The young dancers worked passionately and methodically. Starting on **Monday, February 8th and for eight days we will be uploading an original dance solo per day at the Festival website,** composed and performed at Hall B of Peiraios 260 by the participants.

Safety measures against COVID-19 were strictly observed during the filming of each video. The workshop meetings, which began on 24 October, were conducted online for the most part.

**ATHENS AND EPIDAURUS FESTIVAL DANCE ADVISOR**

Ilias Hatzigeorgiou

**INSTRUCTORS**

Marianna Kavallieratos, choreographer

Giorgos Mizithras, composer

Areti Athanasopoulou, assistant to the choreographer

Paraskevi Tektonidou, dramaturg

**DANCERS**

Angeliki Beveratou

Ioanna Emmanouil

Ariadni Koropouli

Yvonni Melissa

Melina Sakkoula

Eleni Sarasiti

Pablo Soto

Nikos Vlachogiannis

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*Taking off from the tragedies* Antigone *and* Helen, *this workshop aimed to help children how to discover, investigate, and try things, how to* *perceive the multiple facets and inexhaustible possibilities of the human body and art overall.*

*The children’s enthusiasm, perseverance, passion, and faith in whatever was happening in each class was absolutely moving.*

*It is a blessing to be able to work with open-minded, clear-minded, young people.*

**Marianna Kavallieratos**

## *Dancer – Choreographer*

*Contact with texts was the concrete stimulus that helped foster a much deeper artistic dialogue, capable of motivating young people interested in conducting research and discovering new things about the world, others, and their own selves.*

*Each adolescent participant’s solo piece is a revelation, regardless of the result.*

## Ilias Hatzigeorgiou

## *Athens and Epidaurus Festival Dance Advisor*

## *Project Manager*

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Grand sponsor

 