**Athens Epidaurus Festival 2021**

**OPERA – PERFORMANCE**

**Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė - Vaiva Grainytė - Lina Lapelytė**

**Sun & Sea**

**1 & 2 September, 20:00 – 22.00**

**Peiraios 260 (Hall D)**

A sunny day on a dreamy beach. Towels, toys, and a mosaic of bodies sunbathing, singing, telling their stories. Children’s voices and beachgoers’ laughter are mixed up with the rhythmical sound of waves. As curator Lucia Pietroiusti puts it: “The crinkling of plastic bags whirling in the air. Their silent floating, jellyfish-like, below the waterline. The rumble of a volcano, or of an airplane, or a speedboat. Then a chorus of songs”.

At the crossroads of theatre, music, and visual arts, the opera-performance *Sun & Sea* by Lithuanian artists Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė, and Lina Lapelytė has won over audiences and critics alike thanks to its simultaneously humorous and powerful approach on topics pertinent to the future of our planet, such as climate change and the consequences of excessive consumerism.

The mesmerising scenery, the visually stunning space design, and captivating music jointly compose a seemingly carefree environment. However, the light Chorus becomes increasingly ominous. According to Vaiva Grainytė, who wrote the libretto: “This ‘soup’ of stories might appear at first sight like a mundane and carefree buzz, however, in this simultaneously liturgical, poppy, and synthetic ocean of songs, one can feel an impending threat throbbing. The picture of enjoyable holidays belies the consequences of this inertia – planetary resources being extracted as if sipping a fizzy Piña Colada”.

The performance represented Lithuania in the 2019 Venice Biennale, where it won the Golden Lion for Best National Participation.

**The artists behind *Sun & Sea***

**Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė** is a theatre and film director. Keen on investigating the distance between objective reality and fantasy, her works provide a scathing yet also light commentary on the anthropocentric way of thinking. Her latest film, *Acid Forest*, received accolades at the 2018 Locarno International Film Festival.

**Vaiva Grainytė** is a playwright and poet. Combining poetics and irony in her work, she examines individual and collective memory, everyday routine, and various social issues.

**Lina Lapelytė** is a multifaceted artist, musician, and composer. Her artistic work focuses on musical performances, tackling issues of pop culture and gender stereotypes.

*Running time 1 hour.*

*The performance is accompanied by the libretto in Greek and English, available for reading online at the Athens Epidaurus Festival website.*

**Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė - Vaiva Grainytė - Lina Lapelytė**

**Sun & Sea**

**1 & 2 September, 20:00 – 21.00 & 22:00 – 23:00**

**Peiraios 260 (Hall D)**

**Concept and development** Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė, Lina Lapelytė **Director and set designer** Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė

**Translator** Rimas Užgiris

**Lyrics** Vaiva Grainytė

**Composer and music director** Lina Lapelytė

**Curator** Lucia Pietroiusti

**Tour producer** Aušra Simanavičiūtė

**Tour coordinator - Stage manager** Erika Urbelevič

**Technical director** Lique Van Gerven

**Visual identity** Goda Budvytytė

**Catalogue and vinyl concept and design** Åbäke

**Sound engineer** Romuald Chaloin Galiauskas

**Live soundtrack** Salomėja Petronytė

**Singing performers** Marco Cisco, Nabila Dandara Vieira Santos, Auksė Dovydėnaitė, Saulė Dovydėnaitė, Sandro Hähnel, Artūras Miknaitis, Yates Norton, Vytautas Pastarnokas, Eglė Paškevičienė, Kalliopi Petrou, Ieva Skorubskaitė, Svetlana Statkevičienė

**Performers** Raminta Barzdžiukienė, Ilona Grainienė, Vincentas Korba, Jonas Statkevičius and other beachgoers

**Founding producer** Neon Realism

**Co-producers** Nidos Meno Kolonija/ Vilniaus dailės akademija, Akademie Schloss Solitude, Goethe-Institut, Münchner Kammerspiele, Nacionalinė dailės galerija - Vilnius, Staatsschauspiel Dresden, The Momentary, Arkansas

**Sponsor** JCDecaux

**Commissioner** (Sun & Sea (Marina), Venice, 2019) Rasa Antanavičiūtė

**Founding Patrons** (Sun & Sea (Marina), Venice, 2019) Lithuanian Council for Culture, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Laurenz Foundation in Basel, Vilnius City Municipality

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**Tickets:** VIP 40€ • ZONE Α 30€ – STUDENTS / 65+ / ARTIST UNIONS 24€ • ZONE B 20€ – STUDENTS / 65+ / ARTIST UNIONS 16€ • PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES / UNEMPLOYMENT CONCESSIONS / ART SCHOOL STUDENTS 5€

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