**Athens Epidaurus Festival**

**THEATR – INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTION**

**Nowy Teatr - Krzysztof Warlikowski**

**Odyssey. A Story for Hollywood**

**17-18-19 September, 20:00**

**Peiraios 260 – Hall D**

*Where would we like to return to?*

*And what about us being remembered?*

*Is it worth bothering anyone with our stories?*

Nowy Teatr

A woman’s Odyssey during World War II; a modern-day Penelope who risked her life to ensure her husband’s return home; a story that could very well inspire a Hollywood movie, as the title suggests, and which now comes alive in a new production by celebrated Polish director Krzysztof Warlikowski. The acclaimed artist returns to the Athens Epidaurus Festival with a brand-new performance, written and directed by him.

Drawing inspiration from Homer’s epic, the international co-production is based on Hanna Krall’s reportage *A Tale of Hollywood* and her novel *Chasing the King of Hearts*, both of which narrate the titanic struggle of Izolda, a Jewish woman who fought to save her husband’s life during WWII.

Warlikowski masterfully composes a mosaic of surprising, unexpected encounters, a journey of free associations through strikingly original landscapes and characters, adapting for the stage a work built upon two colossal conflicts, the “first world” of humanity, the siege of Troy, and WWII.

**Krzysztof Warlikowski**

World-renowned, award-winning theatre and opera director Krzysztof Warlikowski has staged over 40 plays and operas in Poland and other countries around the world, including Germany, Italy, France, Netherlands, Israel, and Greece. In 2008, he founded the Nowy Teatr company in Warsaw. Under his helm, Now Teatr has flourished, becoming one of the most distinguished European theatre companies. Over the years, he has directed Ancient Greek Drama (*Electra, The Bacchae*), Shakespeare (*Hamlet, Macbeth, Twelfth Night*), and plays by contemporary dramatists, such as Bernard-Marie Koltès and Sarah Kane. His performances have been presented at the most prestigious festivals across the globe (Festival d'Avignon, Edinburgh International Festival, Santiago International Festival). Several of his works have been presented at the Athens Epidaurus Festival, including *Krum* (2008), based on Hanoch Levin’s play of the same title; *A Streetcar* (2010), based on Tennessee Williams’ *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *(A)pollonia* (2011), based on texts by Euripides, Aeschylus, Krall, Jonathan Littell, J. M. Coetzee et al. (2011), and *We Are Leaving* (2018), based on Hanoch Levin’s *Suitcase Packers*.

*With Greek and English surtitles*

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**Directed by** Κrzysztof Warlikowski

**Written by** Krzysztof Warlikowski, Piotr Gruszczyński

**With** Adam Radecki

**Collaboration in text** Szczepan Orłowski, Jacek Poniedziałek

**Artistic collaboration** Claude Bardouil

**Dramaturgy** Piotr Gruszczyński

**Dramaturgical collaboration** Anna Lewandowska

**Set and costume design** Małgorzata Szczęśniak

**Music** Paweł Mykietyn

**Lighting design** Felice Ross

**Video - Animations** Kamil Polak

**Director of photography of the “Interrogation” scene** Paweł Edelman

**Cast** Mariusz Bonaszewski, Stanisław Brudny, Agata Buzek, Andrzej Chyra, Magdalena Cielecka, Ewa Dałkowska, Bartosz Gelner, Małgorzata Hajewska-Krzysztofik, Jadwiga Jankowska-Cieślak, Wojciech Kalarus, Marek Kalita, Hiroaki Murakami, Maja Ostaszewska, Jaśmina Polak, Piotr Polak, Jacek Poniedziałek

**Also featuring** Maja Komorowska, Krystyna Zachwatowicz-Wajda

**Co-production** Nowy Teatr, Athens & Epidaurus Festival Festival, Comedie de Clermont-Ferrand, La Colline théâtre national-Paris, Printemps des Comediens-Montpellier, Shauspiel Stuttgart

**Co-funded by** the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union

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