

KOMM*N*ACT
Platform for young
international creation



THE DIVINE COMEDY

VASISTAS theatre group

VASISTAS theatre group
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A SPIRITUAL ROAD TRIP

A spiritual road trip. An existential show. A theatrical experience with three stops: Hell, Purgatory and Heaven. For the first time, a Greek theatre company tackles the finest work to come out of medieval Europe.

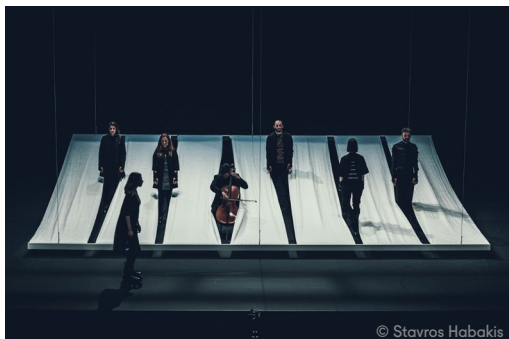
VASISTAS theatre group will present *The Divine Comedy*, Dante's monumental "visionary autobiography", his imaginary journey through the kingdom of the dead.

Faced with the sheer volume of Dante's trilogy, VASISTAS create a highly concise version of Dante's text by selecting those sections that convey its deeply personal qualities: the difficult journey made by one individual, from the dark ordeals of the everyday, through times of painful crisis, to life's light-filled moments of escape; from immersion in a world of shadows, to an exit towards the light.

On stage, a tight, core group of performers will take on the narration by expanding the codes developed over recent years by VASISTAS, who place the expressive power of the body and the musical dimensions of choral forms at the heart of their practice.

Adding to its musical explorations, the performance will feature a string quartet, integrated in the scenic action.

Minimalism and electronica will interact live, with the use of modern means, thus contributing to the concoction of this particular theatrical experience: *The Divine Comedy* road trip.



The team

Stage direction Argyro Chioti
Dramaturgy Nikos A. Panayiotopoulos*, VASISTAS
Stage set Eva Manidaki
Costume design Christina Calbari
Sound design Jan Van de Engel
Musical supervision Markellos Chrysikopoulos
Director's assistant Geli Kalampaka
Dramaturgy assistant Artemis Chrysostomidou
Assistant to the set designer Myrto Megaritou
Costume designer assistant Ifigeneia Daoudaki
Roller-skating coach Konstantinos Martzekis
Production Geli Kalampaka
Production assistant Vassiliki Georgiopolou
Artistic associate Ariane Labeled



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Actors Efthimis Theou, Eleni Vergeti, Fintel Talampoukas, Evdoxia Androulidaki, Antonis Antonopoulos, Yiannis Klinis

String quartet Alexis Karaiskakis Nastos (cello), Phaedon Miliadis, Angeliki Kasda (second violin), Yiannis Romanos (viola)

The text of the performance is based on Kostas Kairofyllas' translation of the Divine Comedy, revised by Nikos A. Panagiotopoulos.

The performance includes poems from Edgar Lee Masters' Spoon River Anthology, translated in Greek by Spyros Apostolou and published by Gutenberg editions as well as Ezra Pound's "Cantos XIV and XV", translated in Greek by Giorgos Varsos, published by Patakis editions.

Production mentions

A project by VASISTAS theatre group

Production Onassis Cultural Centre - Athens

Coproductions Le Théâtre (Gymnase - Bernardines) - Marseille, KOMM'N'ACT - Platform for young international creation - Marseille (ongoing production)

International distribution Platform for young international creation - Marseille

Argyro Chioti, stage director of VASISTAS theatre group and of the show, is an artist supported by Les Théâtre (Gymnase - Bernardines) for the five coming years.

International production and distribution

KOMM'N'ACT-Platform for young international creation- Marseille (France)

Contacts

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PREMIERE : from 22th April to 7th May 2017 on the main stage of Onassis Cultural Centre-Athens

*The poet and translator Nikos A. Panagiotopoulos is a profound connoisseur of medieval tradition and literature and an important figure of contemporary Greek literature scene. Since late 1985, he was exclusively dedicated to the writing of his opus incertum, a long narrative of free lines, intitled « Syssimon or the chapters ». At the same time he is involved in the formation of Greek contemporary theatre through important collaborations with Lefteris Vogiatzis, Michael Marmarinos or the young artist S.Kakaklas. His personal study, his point of view, his connexion with psiritualities who formed the interior life of greek people (D. Karambelas, Eleftherotypia, 2009) and his translations of Greek tragedies and writers who defined the spiritual landscape of world's literature, made of him the ideal partner for the study, the treatment and decoding of this text for its first stage direction in Greece.

VASISTAS theatre group

The theatre group, based in Athens, works between Greece and France, creating theatrical performances that encounter contemporary life and aim to research and experiment on stage's action. Searching for dramaturgies that are not defined by a text-based logic or in a linear story-telling, and with little use of technical means, the group orchestrates «moving images» in detail, creating a rhythm for an experience, like a music choreography in present time.

The team of VASISTAS is now composed by Argyro Chioti (co-founder of the collective and artistic/stage director), Ariane Labed and Naima Carbajal (co-founders of the collective), Efthimis Theou, Eleni Vergeti, Antonis Antonopoulos, Georgina Chriskioti, Evdoxia Androulidaki.

VASISTAS theatre group received for Spectacle the honors distinction of National Association of Critics of theatre and music, (for innovating theatre play) (December 2011). Argyro Chioti received the Price "Eleftheria Sapoutzi" for her artistic work (September 2013).

"Collecting its texts from the world of tales, myths, literature, science but also the theatre, the research of VASISTAS develops methodically with a clinical precision around the form of a polyphonic choreography which is reminiscent of Brecht's epic model: the choral form makes us move from dialogue to narration, from performing actor to witness."

Revue Théâtre /Public - Katia Arfara

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VASISTAS projects, directed by Argyro Chioti

Apologies 4&5 - 2016 (on tour)

Production Athens & Epidauros festival 2016 | Coproductions VASISTAS theatre group, KOMM'N'ACT | **Support** NEON, Theatro Technis (Athens)

Théâtre de La Bastille, Paris, 10-14 May 2017

Comédie de Reims (France), 7-8 February 2017

Festival Parallèle —7, Marseille (France), 24 & 26 January 2017

Premiere at Festival of Athens, June 2016

SANGS (EMATA) - 2014 (on tour)

Production Centre Culturel Onassis, Athens

Festival of New Dramaturgies, Bydgoszcz (Poland), September 2016

Reims scène d'Europe, Comédie de Reims (France), 2 février 2016

Festival Parallèle, Théâtre du Jeu de Paume, Aix-en-Provence (France), January 2016

Festival Dimitria, Thessaloniki (Greece), September 2015

Théâtre des Abbesses (Chantiers d'Europe), Paris, June 2015

Théâtre Municipal de Patras (France), April 2015

Premiere in Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens, October 2014

DOMINO - 2013 (on tour)

Coproductions KOMM'N'ACT, Open Latitudes (3)-european project, Théâtre des Bernardines, MIR festival | **Residencies** Le Théâtre des Bernardines – Marseille (France), French Institute of Greece - Athens

Nouveau Théâtre de Montreuil (France), 28th February to 3rd March 2017

São Luiz Teatro Municipal, Lisbonne, December 2016

Comédie de Reims (France), February 2016

Theatre Roes, Res Ratio Network, Athens, November 2015

Culture O Centre, Abbay de Noirlac, France, October 2015

Les scènes du Jura (France), May 2015

La Villette, Paris, March 2015

Le Phenix as part of festival NEXT, Valenciennes (France), November 2014

Elaiourgeio, Eleusina (Greece), July 2014

Latitudes Contemporaines, Lille, June 2014

Festival Parallèle 04 at Théâtre Joliette-Minoterie, Marseille (France), January, 2014

Premiere at the French Institut of Greece, Athens, September, 2013

First version presented as part of MIRfestival, Athens, December 2012

Spectacle - 2011

Supports Ville de Marseille | **Residency** La Caldera, dance and scenic arts creation centre

- Barcelone, June 2011

VASISTAS received for *Spectacle* the honors distinction of National Association of Critics of theatre and music, for innovating theatre play, December 2011

IETM Athens, Romantso, October 2013

Théâtre des Bernardines, Marseille (France), December 2011

Bios, Athens, November 2011

Premiere at Festival of Athens - EMST-National Museum of Contemporary Art, July 2011

Phobia: un spectacle - 2010

Coproduction National Theatre of Greece

The various steps of creation Berlin (Phobia : 1), Santorin (Phobia : 2), Marseille (Phobia : 3 / residency at Eolienne in association with Théâtre des Bernardines).

National Theatre of Greece, Athens, May 2010

Silence - 2008-09

Théâtre des Bernardines, Marseille (France) , March 2010

Santorin - Boutari's amphithéâtre (Greece), February 2010

Dubrovnic, Split, Zadar (Croatie), June 2009

104 Art Centre, Athens, December 2008 and October 2009

L'Eolienne, Marseille, December 2008

La petite au chaperon rouge - moi et mon loup - 2008-2009

Bios, Athens, April 2008

Les Informelles de 'Les Bernardines', Marseille (France), October 2007

Le Point de Bascule, Marseille (France), June 2007

Théâtre Amore, Athens, May 2007

Get over it (Phedres) - 2006-07

Le Théâtre Comedia, Aubagne, January 2008

Le point de Bascule, Marseille (France), June 2007

La Distillerie, Aubagne (France), February 2006

Bios, Athens, June 2006

Festival Parallèle 01, Théâtre Antoine Vitez, Aix-en-Provence (France), 2006

Press review

> APOLOGIES 4&5

"Stripping the couple of its symbols to turn the characters into ethereal researchers of a forsaken "Self", the company VASISTAS offers a subtle play with muted violence: that of clashing times."

I/O Gazette - Jean-Christophe Brianchon

"Once again here is the impeccable work with overwhelming precision by Argyro Chioti, with her company VASISTAS, which made quite an impression: a poetic text with absolute eeriness and density. It is a beautiful show, with no tricks and bewitching with preserved mystery."

Zibeline - Marie Jo Dho

"Efthimis Filippou's "Apologies 4&5" will surely go down as one of the strongest performances at this year's Athens Festival. Why? Because the way in which VASISTAS theatre group and Argyro Chioti have worked upon the piece is an exemplar of how one can theatrically approach such a difficult, abstract, and tragically timely text. It is no coincidence that, after the performance, we all had the feeling we had taken part in some mystic cult ceremony of introspection, and felt the need to redefine our positions and personal boundaries within the social order."

tff.gr - Georgia Ikonomidou

> DOMINO

"Enrolled bodies, submitted bodies, withered bodies but also rebellious or loving bodies... From one scene to the next, the one-hour show makes us feel all these sensations live, with beautiful moments of poignant intensity."

theatredublog.fr - Mireille Davidovici

"Twelve individuals march in step. A collective movement, programmed wandering. Seconds seem to elapse normally but some insidiously disappear. Acceleration, something doesn't work any more. One of the individuals falls and the collective fails. Dominos. Individualisation, decomposition; what is left for us to live together, right before the end? It is the downfall of bodies, of values. We try to catch the odd one out or we reject them. We try to contain the intimate and its urge or we give in. The images are strong, the message is right, relentless. The work of the Greek company VASISTAS, by Argyro Chioti is accomplished, brilliant..."

Marseille l'Hebdo - Caroline Peletti

> EMATA (SANGS)

"Going beyond the prison of conventions, of an order which no longer brings answers, SANGS denounces the absurdity of modern times. The actors of the company VASISTAS perform an almost surreal piece with unrivalled panache."

Zibeline - Marie Jo Dho

"The allegory proposed by Argyro Chioti and the company VASISTAS is as wild as fierce, at the crossroads of voices and genres for an absurd and decadent painting of the world."

Théâtrorama

Projects in association with VASISTAS

Faust of Goethe for National Theatre of Greece in Athens, experimental project of collective staging – Blitz, A.Xafis, V.Mavrogeorgiou, G.Gallos and A.Chioti, 2009

Kassandra by Benedetto Marcello, cantata with the baroque ensemble Latinitas Nostra et Beggar's opera, 2009

Control freak, performance, 2010 for Lowbudget festival, Kakoyiannis fontadion, Athens, December 2010

Arpagi, performance *in situ* as part of the exhibition "Future starts here" Stefanos Tsivopoulos in Eleusina, June 2012

Faethon, spatial installation – stage reading of *Faethon* of Dimitris Dimitriadis at Onassis Cultural Center, October 2013

This!, multimedia performance in collaboration with Via Negativa (Ljubljana, October 2013) Bios cultural center (Athens, 2014).

