



# Apologies 4&5

VASISTAS theatre group

VASISTAS theatre group  
[info@vas.eu.com](mailto:info@vas.eu.com)  
[www.vas.eu.com](http://www.vas.eu.com)

Production - Diffusion :  
KOMM\*N\*ACT / Lou Colombani  
with Maxime Kottmann  
+33 (0)4 91 11 19 33  
+33 (0)6 83 14 24 26  
[lou.colombani@komm-n-act.com](mailto:lou.colombani@komm-n-act.com)  
[www.komm-n-act.com](http://www.komm-n-act.com)

# Apologies 4&5

**A biographical stage poem based on true events.**

**An informal trial.**

*" For all the the restless spirits, those who do not cease to wonder about their relationship with themselves and the world " .*

"I do not do all this for me.  
I could make a good evaluation and you would  
not have any sanction.  
And we would sleep all calm this night.  
Is that what you want? To not be punished?  
Is that all?"

One judge. An undefined metaphysical leading figure who borrows elements from a school examiner a police investigator and a psychoanalyst.

Two examinees. A woman and a man at the same age. In the middle edge of their lives. They become voluntarily subjects examined either for social inclusion or exclusion. In an empty space and an undefined time they review all the key turning points that determined their lives until now. It is a moment of redefining and reviewing their past. A moment of reckoning with their memory. Always in relation with the overall matching set.

The basic demand: who will achieve to join the women's choir, - ultimate witness and judge of the trial, who sings the same polyphonic song, again and agin, throughout the entire performance.

The new theatre play of Efthimis Philipou is a lyrical and poetic text which attempts to wander about the internal geography of two people. A precipitation in the details that compose their lives.

**Argyro Chioti**



Festival Parallèle © Isabelle Schneider



Festival Parallèle © Isabelle Schneider



Festival Parallèle © Isabelle Schneider

## THE TEAM

**Text** Efthimis Filippou

**Stage direction** Argyro Chioti

**Assistant director** Antonis Antonopoulos

**Scenography** Babis Chiotis

**Musique and chorus** Henri Kergomar

**Costumes** Christina Calbari

**Lighting** Elisavet Alexandropoulou

**Artistique collaboration** Ariane Labeled

**With** Evi Saoulidou, Efthimis Theou, Fidel Talamboukas and Betta (a dog)

**Chorus** Argyro Chioti, Eleni Vergeti, Georgina Christkioti, Matina Pergidouaki, Evdoxia Androulidaki

**Production** Athens & Epidaurus festival 2016

**Coproductions** VASISTAS theatre group, KOMM'N'ACT, supporting creativity NEON, Theatro Technis (Athens)

**Diffusion** KOMM'N'ACT, Plateform for young international creation

## 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 Chriskiote, 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).

+ info

[www.vas.eu.com](http://www.vas.eu.com)

[info@vas.eu.com](mailto:info@vas.eu.com)

## EFTHIMIS FILIPPOU

Born in 1977. He has co-written the screenplays of the feature films *Dogtooth* (2009), *Alps* (2010), *L* (2011), *The Lobster* (2014) and *Chevalier* (2015). He has collaborated with weekly and monthly magazines as a freelance writer. He has written the books *Someone is talking by himself while holding a glass of milk* (2007 MNP Publications) and *Scenes* (2011 MNP Publications).

*Dogtooth* was awarded the "Un Certain Regard" prize at the 2009 Cannes film festival and was nominated for **Best Foreign Language Film** at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Academy Awards. The screenplay for *Alps* was awarded the “Osella” prize for **Best Screenplay** at the 68<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film Festival and the screenplay for *The Lobster* was awarded, before the completion of the movie, with the “ARTE International Award” as **Best CineMart Project** for 2013 at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rotterdam International Film Festival. *The Lobster* also received the **Price of Jury** at Festival of Cannes 2015.

## VASISTAS PROJECTS, DIRECTED BY ARGYRO CHIOTI

### **Apologies 4&5, 2016** -on tour-

**Production** Athens & Epidaurus festival 2016

**Coproductions** VASISTAS theatre group, KOMM'N'ACT, soutien à la créativité NEON, Teatro Technis (Athènes)

*To come : Comédie de Reims, 7th to 8th February 2017*

*To come : Festival Parallèle —7, Marseille, January 2017*

*Premiere at the Athens & Epidaurus festival, Athens, June 2016*

### **BLOODS (EMATA), 2014** -on tour-

Onassis Cultural Centre production, Athens, Greece

*Prapremier Festival, Bydgoszcz, Poland, September 2016*

*Reims scène d'Europe, Comédie de Reims, 2nd February 2016*

*Festival Parallèle, Théâtre du Jeu de Paume, Aix-en-Provence, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016*

*Dimitria Festival, Thessaloniki, September 2015*

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

*Théâtre Municipal de Patras, April 2015*

*Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens, October 2014*

### **DOMINO, 2013**-on tour-

*To come : Nouveau Théâtre de Montreuil, Paris, from February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>d</sup> 2017*

*To come: São Luiz Teatro Municipal, Lisboa, December 2016*

*Comédie de Reims, France, 4th February 2016*

*Theatre Roes, Res Ratio Network, Athens November 2015*

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

*Les scenes du Jura, France, May 2015*

*La Villette, Paris March 2015*

*Le Phenix, Valenciennes November 2014*

*Elaourgeio, Eleusina July 2014*

*Latitudes Contemporaines, Lille, June 2014*

*Festival Parallèle 04 Théâtre Joliette-Minoterie, Marseille, January 2014*

*First version presented in MIRfestival, Athens, December 2012*

*Premiere on the roof of the French Institute in Greece, Athens, September 2013*

### **Spectacle, 2011**

*Premiere in Athens Festival in the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens, EMST, June 2011*

*IETM meeting in Greece, Romantso, November 2013*

*Bios, Athens, November 2011*

*Théâtre des Bernardines, Marseille, December 2011*

### **Phobia : un spectacle, 2010**

**Coproduction** with the National Theatre of Athens

**Creation steps:** Berlin (*Phobia : 1*), Santorin (*Phobia : 2*), Marseille (*Phobia : 3 / in the space l'Eolienne* en and in collaboration with le Théâtre des Bernardines

*Contemporary Theatre of Athens (National Theatre), Athens, May 2010*

## Silence, 2008-09

*Théâtre des Bernardines, Marseille, March 2010*  
*Santorini (Boutari's amphitheatre), Greece, February 2010*  
*Croatia (Dubrovnic, Split, Zadar), June 2009*  
*104 Center of Art, Athens, December 2008 and October 2009*  
*L'Eolienne, Marseille, December 2008*

## Little Red Riding Hood - me and my wolf, 2007-08

*Bios, Athens, April 2008*  
*Les Informelles of 'Les Bernardines', Marseille, October 2007*  
*Le Point de Bascule, Marseille, June 2007*  
*Amore Theatre, Athènes, May 2007*

## Get over it (Faedras), 2006-07

*Le Théâtre Comedia, Aubagne, January 2008*  
*Le point de Bascule, Marseille, June 2007*  
*La Distillerie, Aubagne, February 2006*  
*Bios, Athènes, June 2006*  
*Festival Parallèle 01, Théâtre Antoine Vitez, Aix-en-Provence, November 2006*

## OTHER COLLABORATIONS OF VASISTAS

***Faust*** by Goethe (for the National Theatre of Greece, experimental project of collective direction – Blitz, A.Xafis, V.Mavrogeorgiou, G.Gallos and A.Chioti) (2008-2009)

***Kassandra*** by Benedetto Marcello (cantata with the ensemble Latinitas Nostra) (2009)

**“ARPAGI”** Performance in situ: as part of the exhibition of Stefanos Tsivopoulos “Future starts here” in Eleusina (June 2012)

***Faethon***, of Dimitris Dimitriadis | stage reading in the Onassis Cultural Center (October 2013)

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

## PRESS REVIEW

### > APOLOGIES 4&5

"Let us sit entranced a little longer by this revelation of choral action, melodicy and otherworldly beauty brought before us by this company. True beauty!

[...] There is no doubt that this work by Efthimis Filippou, this performance by Vasistas stands in the first rank of contemporary Greek theatre. And through it, foreign audiences will pinpoint our place within the texture of the international arts scene.

Above all, it expresses a powerful new perspective that urges the text to pour through a performance. This is why, when these "Apologies" travel beyond our borders, they will no doubt become one of the darkest and most eloquent of our emissaries."

**Grigoris Ioannidis, *Efimerida ton Syntacton***

"Deeply reactionary, this text by Efthimis Filippou seems to enjoin both actors and audiences to activate the gaze of childhood. A child's way of seeing — the look of that brazen and uncanny being we all once were — haunts and, at the same time, elevates this endeavour of considerable dramatic weight and directorial gravity.

Within this Kafkaesque aesthetic universe, with its austere geometry and dazzling uniformity that leaves room for neither rift nor dissent, we are brought face to face with the existential drama of stultifying uniformity incubated by neofascist notions under the wings of globalisation."

**Iliana Dimadi, *Athinorama***

...it is now clear that the Vasistas company are capable of unlocking the (non-) texts of Efthimis Filippou — deeply sarcastic, dark, ambiguous and poetic, with sporadic outbursts of latent realism — and thus enter into direct dialogue with our dystopian here and now. [...] They delineate a theatrical form that draws upon the ancient Greek chorus and its tragic nature, upon music and the musicality of the texts, and upon the need to expose the existential angst of humankind. What we have here, in fact, is a fateful coming together of forces that, in the case of the "Apologies", have proven themselves mutually complementary.

**Stella Charami, [spirto.net.gr](http://spirto.net.gr)**

"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 the Vasistas company 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."

**Georgia Ikonou, tff.gr**

"“Apologies 4 & 5” — Efthimis Filippou and Argyro Chioti's second collaboration (after “Blood”, presented at the Onassis Cultural Centre) — is an ideal embodiment of the new Greek theatre, where text and its performance are inextricably linked and must be approached as a single entity.

The director and her team of actors give the performance exceptional structure, in a manner directly connected to ancient Greek tragedy (a connection not limited to structure — episodes and choral interludes — but also apparent in the existential system it recalls), and display uncommon technical excellence."

**Irini Moundraki, greek-theatre.gr**

"Through his very particular writing style, Efthimis Filippou has managed to deliver a work pervaded by an unmitigated ideology against societal repression of the individual by instruments of power, and the transformation of the individual into a mouthpiece, without ever seeking to argue either for or against some viewpoint or other, leaving audiences to watch the consequences unfold and interpret them freely. There is humour to be had in “Apologies 4 & 5”, and an intense self-mockery lurks there too.

The most important element, however — beyond the work's overarching socio-political and philosophical goals — is that it manages to be both personal and pertinent at the same time.

Following on from their terrific work on “Blood”, Argyro Chioti and the Vasistas company have shown they can decode Efthimis Filippou in unique ways."

**Iota Dimitriadi, texnes-plus.blogspot.gr**

Even hours later, the performance leaves in you such powerful emotions — a choked-up feeling lodged just below your chest that you fear might burst forth at any moment in sobs.

[...] A universe so severely concrete and stiflingly dystopian that only the infernal, subversive humour of Efthimis Filippou can manage to ground it in reality and make it believable — and therein lies the true terror and sense of constriction.

[...] This is the densest and most complete work Vasistas and Chioti have produced to date. A universe that wraps around itself suffocatingly tight, and a collaboration with Efthimis Filippou that proves irresistible.

**Manolis Vamvounis, monopoli.gr**



"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."

**Jean-Christophe Brianchon, I/O Gazette**

"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."

**Marie Jo Dho - Zibeline**

## > 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."

**Mireille Davidovici - theatredublog.fr**

"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..."

**Caroline Peletti - Marseille l'Hebdo**

## > 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."

**Marie Jo Dho - Zibeline**

"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**