



PRESS RELEASE

ENGAGED SCENOGRAPHY

27/06/2024, 17.30 | PUBLIC TALKS: WHAT IS SCENOGRAPHY TODAY?
29/06/2024, 20.00 | PERFORMANCE NADIA BEUGRE – QUARTIERS LIBRES
03/07/2024, 20.00 | PERFORMANCE YORGOS SAPOUNTZIS - URBAN LONGING
05/07/2024, 20.30 | PERFORMANCE NEFELI PAPADIMOULI - PARTIAL STARS, TRANPOSED
CARTOGRAPHIES

Free Admission

As part of the **Engaged Scenography project**, in parallel with the artistic workshops for professionals who have already signed up, the French Institute of Greece and Goethe-Institut Athen present a one-day public talks program with the participation of acclaimed artists who are based in France, Germany, and Greece, on June 27, in order to raise awareness among the general public and stimulate debate and reflection on the topic: **What is scenography today?**

What is Scenography Today? aspires to explore recent approaches to scenography. The program includes presentations by **Samuel Valensi**, **Adonis Volanakis**, and **Ralph Zeger** (Szenografie-Bund), followed by a roundtable discussion with a panel consisting of **Mario Banushi**, **Nadia Beugré**, **Sotiris Melanos**, and **Yorgos Sapountzis**, and chaired by **Despina Zefkili**.

The public will also have the opportunity to attend public presentations-performances of the workshops by **Nadia Beugré**, **Yorgos Sapountzis** and **Nefeli Papadimouli**, with the participation of the persons who have attended these workshops.

Engaged Scenography focuses on scenography in the performing arts sector. It aims to establish a platform of exchange, experimentation, creation, and networking between professionals active in the expanded field of scenography. Local and international artists from different disciplines enter an exchange about contemporary practice and theory of scenography. With ecology and identity issues in focus, the project includes workshops, meetings, and field research for professionals, as well as a program of talks and performances that engage the broader public and provoke conversations and reflections on the path to a new world.

Συνδιοργάνωση | Co-organization



Με την υποστήριξη / With the support of



PROGRAM

PUBLIC TALKS: WHAT IS SCENOGRAPHY TODAY?

THURSDAY JUNE 27, 17.30

French Institute of Greece – Auditorium Theo Angelopoulos

31 Sina Street, Athens, free Admission

PRESENTATIONS

SAMUEL VALENSI : “HOW FICTIONS CHANGE THE WORLD”

At a time of ecological, technical, and political crisis, artists, like all citizens, are wondering what they can do. Can they help politicians? Is that their role? What better interlocutor than an artist to imagine how things might turn out? By drawing on our popular culture and exploring the role of stories and artists in social change, these are the questions we will try to answer.

Language: French, translated into Greek and English

ADONIS VOLANAKIS: “SPACE COMPOSING AND SOCIAL WEAVING”

Adonis Volanakis’s presentation focuses on community-based expanded scenography showcasing one of his socially engaged projects. *Graces Kneading*, *No One is a Stranger* created a platform for an intergenerational group of women to knead bread, exchange knowledge and share wishful imaginations for their city.

Language: Greek, translated into English and French

RALPH ZEGER (SZENOGRAPHIE BUND): “SUSTAINABILITY IN SET DESIGN”

Ralph Zeger’s input introduces the audience to designing and producing sustainable sets. The focus is on the two key issues: knowledge of material and circular thinking. Explaining theory but also showing best practice examples will illustrate the topic.

Language: English, translated into Greek and French

ROUNDTABLE

WHAT IS SCENOGRAPHY TODAY?

The artists MARIO BANUSHI, NADIA BEUGRE, SOTIRIS MELANOS and YORGOS SAPOUNTZIS will discuss their approach to scenography and the societal and environmental issues involved.

Moderator: **DESPOINA ZEFKILI**, art critic, director of *Athinorama*

Language: English, French, Greek with simultaneous translation.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS – PERFORMANCES

SATURDAY JUNE 29, 20.00 – 21.00

NADIA BEUGRE – QUARTIERS LIBRES

Eleftherias Park Art Centre, Free Admission

WEDNESDAY JULY 3, 20:00

YORGOS SASPOUNTZIS - URBAN LONGING

I. and R. Duncan Dance Research Centre, Free Admission

FRIDAY JULY 5, 20:30

NEFELI PAPADIMOULI - PARTIAL STARS, TRANSPOSED CARTOGRAPHIES

French Institute of Greece – Terrasse, Free Admission

INFORMATION ON THE PARTICIPANTS

Mario BANUSHI is a director and performer. As an artist, he is interested in photography and visual arts.

Nadia BEUGRÉ is a choreographer and dancer. Her choreographic works relate to freedom struggles, conversations around gender identity, and the fight for equality. Her practice merges traditional folk dances, contemporary experimental dance, and urban/hip-hop influences.

Sotiris MELANOS is a set and costume designer.

Yorgos SAPOUNTZIS is known for his interdisciplinary approach to art. He creates works in which video, sound, sculpture, installation, and performance come together to form complex spaces that explore how we interact with our environment. His artistic vocabulary includes coloured textiles, aluminum tubes, newspaper, and plaster sculpture casts combined to produce temporary structures.

Samuel VALENSI is an author and theater director. He plays an active role in the French think tank “The Shift Project” reports, where he researches and documents the ecological transition in culture.

Adonis VOLANAKIS is a visual artist. His practice is a collaborative amalgam of human relationships and aesthetics, poetry and politics, visual and performing arts. Establishing safe spaces for exchange and creativity is part of his artistic focus.

Ralph ZEGER is a set and costume designer. He is member of the board of Szenografie-Bund and author of the guideline for sustainable designing and producing, Grüne Bühne. He further holds a certificate as Transformation Manager in Sustainable Culture. Ralph teaches and gives lectures and workshops.

With a background in architecture and the visual arts, **Nefeli PAPANIMOULI** works across media, from participatory actions in public space to sculpture, photography, drawing, costume design, moving image, installation, and performance. Inspired by phenomenology, feminism, and contemporary political theory, her proto-architectural approach explores spatial configurations of distance as essential elements in processes of social conflict, negotiation, and equilibrium.

Organization: **French Institute of Athens** and **Goethe-Institut Athen** with the support of the **Franco-German cultural fund**

Co-organization: **Vyronas Municipality, OPANDA**

Venues for workshops and performances: **I. and R. Duncan Dance Research Centre, National Theatre of Greece, Athens Epidaurus Festival, Eleftherias Park Art Centre, Latraac Café, Rabbithole.**

With the support of: **Just Go Zero, Neotextile and PCAI**

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