

Excerpts from reviews

"... A production filled with theatrical wealth, humor and grace, rebirthing Aristophanes from the ashes of his volcanic poetic spirit... An ideal theater ensemble, rare in today's theatrical system of protagonists of the One or of the no one... From the productions of Wealth that I have seen -and not seen-, in Greece and abroad, this one is undoubtedly the best." (Paris Takopoulos, playwright and critic, Anti-criticism, ILIAIA monthly magazine).

"... A fresh, imaginative and joyful production with a tense but not banal political dimension... A spectacle that entertains and makes you think... An equal group – a beehive of actors..." (Leandros Polenakis, playwright and critic, I AVGHI daily newspaper)

"... A juicy, lively, folk Aristophanes that swept an attentive and euphoric audience. Angeliki Kassola directed the project with gusto, giving the whole work an air of folk theater that says what it wants to say with simplicity and clarity... Peiragma theater group performed like the theater caravans of older times, evoking to the viewer a unique and moving emotion, reminding us of those brave and committed actors and actresses who despite their fear of daily pay, had a strong belief in their offer to the community as they rambled the theater-thirsting province; playing in cold coffeehouses

improbable combinations of scenes or full plays and introducing the magic of theater to the isolated villages of the Greek region. When there was no TV to teach the world its own cheap choices. This is why I talked in the beginning of my report about innocence: A left glance without screams and sophistication. With humor and attention. Without betraying the text with easy allusions to the present. Yet our present was there in living dialogue with the Aristophanic text. "We are Thirsty for the sky!"..." (Maro Triantafyllou, critic, I EPOHI daily newspaper)

"...One of the main ingredients of the production is the interaction and dialog between actors and audience ... The directing is ingenious, the performance of the text flooded with the aristophanic juices..." (Panayiotis Frountzos, critic, HOTDOC. By-weekly magazine).

"... In the ancient Athenian society that it shows us, we see our own. This timeliness is successfully supported by peiragma theater group's production. Angeliki Kassola's stage direction succeeds in offering us a genuine Aristophanes' play, from which nothing is lacking, neither the rumpus, nor the moans and quarrels neither the joys and songs. What ultimately constitutes human life ..." (George Dokopoulos, theaterologist, THEATROGRAFIES, a magazine of the Greek theater studies)

"... a performance that has stolen the limelight, as it is a genuine staging of Aristophanes, with an innovative look. A difficult combination, that if successful –and in this case it certainly has been" the achieved result is truly impressive..." (Anastasia Andonopoulou, critic, www.exelixeis.gr)

The production has been forging an exceptional path in our theatrical scene in the last two years. A path which I have been following with great interest as it is one of the unexpected successes that seem to have come from nowhere ... The performance begins with the triumphal entry of the chorus members, comprising of protesting elders with the slogan "bread, cheese, wine, work," and as the comedy overflows the room in a modern Aristophanic version that has nothing to do with the self-centered director's ways we are used to, it brings joy by introducing novelties that trigger aesthetic euphoria in the auditorium!" (Anna Sabatakaki, theater critic, owner Theatro-Live.blogspot.com).

ANGELIKI KASSOLA

Stage director and writer, was born in Greece in 1972. She studied "Theater, Film and Television Studies" at the University of Glasgow (M.A. Honors, 1990-1994), as well as English Literature and Classics (1990-92), as part of her degree. She was the recipient, after competition, of the University of Glasgow's **"International Directing Fellowship 1994-95"** representing it in international university festivals with her play: **"Trust Me!"** in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Mexico and Greece. With the same play she represented Greece at Berlin's **"Young European Theater Writers Interplay 1997"**, after national competition. She has also been a recipient of the **"United World College of the Adriatic" Study Scholarship** (1988-90). Recently she has been awarded for her experimental direction in **peiragma theater group's** production **"Wealth"** by Aristophanes the prestigious **"Commendation for Ancient Drama 2012"** by the **Greek Theater and Music Critics Association**. She was artistic director for the **"First International Festival of University Theater of Britain I.F.U.T. 1995"** at the University of Glasgow under the auspices of Sean Connery. From 2000 to 2003 in collaboration with film director Dimitri Spyrou she founded and run the **"International Meeting of University Theater of Ancient Olympia"** under the auspices of A.I.T.U. hosting theater and workshops from around the world. She has been assistant director of Nikos Koundouros and Tassos Psarras in the cinema, tv and opera with important Greek and global artists. She has collaborated with production companies in the running of productions of around 160 theater, dance, opera, classical music productions and festivals in Greece, Glasgow and New York.

She has lived in Italy, Scotland, New York for 15 years and returned to Greece in 2004. She has been directing, teaching and writing for the theater. She is founding member and artistic director of **Peiragma theater group** and the group's laboratory and research space **Studio 20/21** that focuses on the study of the 20th century theatrical avant-garde. She was chief editor of the last five editions of the theatrical magazine "Fouagie" in 2008. She is member of the Greek Directors Union.

Previous directions: **"Wealth"** by Aristophanes, peiragma theater group, (*Gialino Music Theater, Athens 2012-13, 2011-12*), **«City of the Lost Fairy-tales»**, by A. Kassola – I. Mela, peiragma theater group, (*Gialino Music Theater, Athens 2012-13*), **«The Mayoress»** by Georgios Sourris (Eleftheri Ekfrasi Theater, Athens 2010-11), **«Play it Again, Sam"** by Woody Allen, peiragma theater group, (*Gialino Music Theater, 2009-10 και 2010-2011*), "An Evening with Mr. Valentin", 6 short plays by Carl Valentin (*Municipal Theater of Kropia, September 2010*), **«THE DAY THAT THE EARTH STOPPED TO TURN"** by A. Kassola (*«Devised theater Festival» Neos Kosmos Theater, Athens, May 2009*), **«Revival of the Ancient Heraia Celebrations"**: a multi-spectacle with 160 participants from the city of Pythagorion in Samos, (Samos Heraia-Pythagoria Festival 2008), **«Plato's Symposium Revisited"** adapted by A. Kassola (Rethymnon Odeon, Krete, September 2005). **"Plato's Symposium"** adapted by A. Kassola (*Eleftheri Ekfrasi Theater, Year of Socrates, Athens 2001*), **"Before the Thermopylae"**, *5 one act plays by Paris Takopoulos (Theatro tis Imeras, Athens, 1997)*, **«Trust Me!»**, by A. Kassola (*"Interplay 1997" - Berlin, Aliko Theater Athens, Studio Theatre - Glasgow, Edinburgh Fringe Festival - Scotland, Amnesty In Action Freedom Festival, Cottier Theater – Glasgow, International University theater festivals, 1994-95*) **«An Accidental Death of an Anarchist"** by Dario Fo, (*Studio Theatre, Glasgow 1993*), **«The bald primadonna"** by Eugene Ionesco (*StudioTheatre, Glasgow 1991*).

IRENE MELA

Irene Mela is a versatile actress who has enjoyed important comic and tragic roles in her career. She has worked with notable Greek actors and directors in theater and television. She has stopped free-lancing as an actress since the creation of **peiragma theater group** in 2008 of which she is a founding member. She has been performing in the group's productions as well as writing, translating and directing for the group. She has been the artistic director of **peiragma theater group's children's scene** "a fairy tale travels" for the past 4 years and her adaptation and stage direction of the play for children "The Gardener of the Sky" has been playing successfully for the past three years. She has also co-written and do-directed with Angeliki Kassola "The City of the lost fairy-tales" which has just completed its first year's run. She teaches theater games, acting and improvisation in the group's laboratory "studio 20/21". She has received numerous reviews for her appearance as "Hunger", "Old Woman" and "Priest", in the group's production of Aristophanes' Wealth, as well as received

commendation for her translation of the play from ancient Greek. "Wealth" is a production which received the prestigious "**Commendation for Ancient Greek Drama 2012**" of the **Greek Theater and Music Critics Association**.

YIANNIS KAROUNIS

Yiannis Karounis is an actor who specializes in the "narrativity" of the role and the communication of actor and spectator through the use of acting forms deriving from the Greek popular/folk theater tradition. He has worked with a number of Greek directors, actors and theater groups. He has been a central member of the theater group "parabasis" from 1996 to 2003 playing roles in plays by some of his favorite writers (Shakespeare, Arrabal, Kiphardt, Fassbinder, and Greek writers Bost and Ziogas). He is founding member as well as legal representative and producer of **peiragma theater group** and has been exclusively acting for its productions since 2008. He teaches theater games, acting and improvisation to actors and non actors at the group's laboratory "studio 20/21". He has received a rave review for his acting as Cario in the group's production of Aristophanes' "Wealth". He is also a radio producer, at the radio station 105,5 STO KOKKINO presenting "off Broadway", a program that has hosted nearly 200 experimental theater productions in the last three years.