

Panagiota KALLIMANI

CONTREPLONGÉES



A choreographic work for 4 dancers
created in 2014 at Centre culturel Onassis, Athens - Greece

CONTREPLONGÉES

This project is about climbing inside our own interior labyrinth. Channelling the grave economic crisis currently affecting Greece, this piece focuses on an overpowering sensation of claustrophobia, closing in, the loss of certain senses and the rediscovery of identity.

Anyone walking through the streets of Athens cannot help but see the major changes imposed upon the city by the worsening economic crisis. The homeless people now filling the streets of Athens are different, they're "normal" people we would never have imagined would be facing the loss of their homes.

So it was in the street that I met a pair of sixty-year old lovers: without any work or families to support them, they had begun living in the street. I gave them both disposable digital cameras and asked them to take pictures of "what they would like to have," and "what would make them happy." The cameras also circulated among other homeless people they knew, and the images I saw were astonishing, completely different from the conventional stuff I'd expected. Of course I did find photos of comfy beds, fancy shoes in store windows and hot meals, but these amateur photographers who were drifting around the city "like tourists" also brought me images of pigeons and some tender portraits.

In order to survive in the streets, the homeless do not

allow themselves to truly fall asleep; their senses, especially their hearing, must always be "on." What happens to their sense of smell, of taste? How does the sense of touch change when you're obliged to wear layers and layers of clothing to protect your body from the cold and from sexual attacks? We are told that the homeless have refined their senses, sharpened them to match those of the dogs who frequently accompany them. This brings out in me: feelings of claustrophobia, the labyrinth and its Minotaur (a creature half-human, half animal).

However this piece is not about seeing lives of the homeless in a different way. My encounter with them brought about explorations claustrophobia, hope and my own wish for happiness.

How do you recover your physical and moral capacity when you also are feeling lost ?

What do you expect?

How do you deal with the inevitable obstacles?

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Choreographic notes

This is about creating an imaginary labyrinth in order to invent a kind of dance.

A dance seen from below (contreplongée is a kind of low-angle shot in photography, painting and film) with bodies seemingly lost and minuscule and always on the ground. The three dancers who are not particularly tall face a fourth character: a very tall actor. Like a wall. This fourth character is part of the labyrinth where the dancers find themselves. Physical interactions are possible between the three dancers and the tall man; his presence is nonetheless a confrontation. There are lost bodies whose movements are compressed, squeezed together. The contreplongées of the dancers will angle their faces so that we almost never see them from the front.

The movements will sometimes seem grotesque, deformed, monstrous.

Broken bits of bodies which evoke certain kinds of x-rays.



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Design notes

With the set designer Heike Schuppelius (with whom I have worked before), I plan to construct a black space so that color will become priority. Everyday furniture (bed, dresser, table) will not be of realistic sizes. This not-to-scale set will also compel the performers to move somewhat differently.

I plan on finding inspiration in the work of other artists such as the Japanese artist Chiharu Shiota, the photographer Roger Ballen, the American artist Jean Michel Basquiat as well as the French new realist installations of Arman.

I would like also to expand into spaces beyond the stage, to exhibit the photographs taken by the homeless. Audiences will be able to see them before or after the performance.



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Credits

Choreographer : Panagiota Kallimani

Dancers : Laurie Young or Mai Ishiwata, Emilio Urbina and Panagiota Kallimani

Actor : Alexandros Siatras

Sets : Heike Schuppelius, assisté de Kalomamas Byron

Music : Stavros Gasparatos

Costumes : Penny Calle et Nella Ioannou

Lighting : Sakis Birbilis

Technical Director & stage management : Anne-Claire Simar

Photography exhibition & maquettes : Giorgos Loukrezis

Production: Les productions de la Seine.

Diffusion : Florence Francisco

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Production déléguée : Les Productions de la Seine

Coproduction : Centre culturel Onassis Athènes – Greece

Artistic residency : CCN Roubaix Nord-Pas-de-Calais

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Rehearsals 2013-2014 : Centre culturel Onassis Athènes (Greece), Théâtre Paris – Villette (France), Ménagerie de Verre – StudioLab (France), Centre national de la danse Pantin/île de France.

Running time : 50 minutes

BIOGRAPHIES

PANAGIOTA KALLIMANI

Having first studied at Rosella Hightower's Centre de Danse International (1995- 1996), she continued her training at the CNDC in Angers - Centre National de Danse Contemporaine (1996- 1998).

From 1998 to 2005, she danced with the Compagnie L'Esquisse, dancing in several creations by Joëlle Bouvier and Régis Obadia, among them *Opening* (R. Obadia); *Les chiens* (J. Bouvier/R. Obadia); *Fureurs, L'oiseau loup and De l'amour* (J. Bouvier).

She also participated in the creation of *Topo*, *Expérience Harmaat* (2002), *Togué* by Carlotta Ikeda (2003), *Sorrow love Song* by Kubilaï Khan Investigation (2004), *Péplum* (2006) and *Comedy* (2008) by Nasser Martin Gousset, *Asobu* (2006) and *Cherry Brandy* by Josef Nadj.

Panagiota Kallimani created her first solo *Tavla* in 1998 at the CNDC d'Angers (touring in France and in Colombia). She became the artistic collaborator to J. Bouvier for the solo *Face à Face* (touring in France and abroad). In 2009, she created The Plant Collective with Laurie Young and Filipe Lourenço and the piece *Trente* presented at the Athens Festival. In 2011 and 2013 she choreographed along with three other members of The Plant Collective, Rafael Pardillo, Emilio Urbina and Filipe Lourenço, the piece *Double Take* whose first performances were at the Centre National de la Danse – Pantin/Ile-de-France (January 2014).



HEIKE SCHUPPELIUS

Heike Schuppelius studied architecture and set design at the Hochschule der Künste in Berlin, at the Association d'architecture and at the Centrale Saint-Martins in London. Her studies on the cities of Marseille, New York and Cairo were awarded several prizes. Since 1999, she has worked with Sasha Waltz as her set designer and directed various video pieces for the PE KÖRPER (Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz) and MEDEA (Staatsoper de Berlin). In 2004, she was awarded the Rom Villa Massimo Prize, the most important award for an artist based in Germany. The following year she was asked to conceive and create a new conference room, the "German room" for the FAO of the United Nations in Rome. Her most recent projects were shown at the Autumn Festival in Warsaw, at the Dresde Hellerau and the Natural History Museum of Berlin. She collaborated with The Plant Collective on their first creation *Trente* at the Athens Festival in 2009 and on *Double Take* (2011). Heike Schuppelius currently lives and works in Berlin.

STAVROS GASPARATOS

He is a composer and digital sound artist, who lives and works in Athens, Greece. He mainly composes music for dance, theatre and cinema, but he is also frequently working on solo projects.

His music has been performed in all major Greek theatres

and concert, (including the ancient Epidaurus theatre, the Onassis Cultural Centre – Athens, the Megaron Concert Hall, ect.) and also in the UK, France, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Bulgaria, USA and China. He is a frequent collaborator of the National Greek Theatre and he is considered as one of the most important composers of the new Greek generation.

In 2009, he composed the music the opening ceremony of the New Acropolis Museum in Athens directed by Athina Tsagari.

Awards - 2009, he received the "Young artist distinction" by the union of Greek theatre and music critics. 2013, he received the Hellenic Film Academy Award for Original Score for the Movie "My blood" by D. Karanastasis. And he received also the Theatrical Audience Award for his music for Brecht's "Saint Joan of the Stockyards" by N.Mastrorakis.

News - *PIANO élargi* - new solo project of Stavros Gasparatos at EMPAC – Troy NY (USA), premier on 2014 november 7th. A - opening at Sani Festival with Tropos Quartet, performing Live the soundtrack of Stavros Gasparatos. *FROGS* - by Aristophones (National Theater) tour at the Epidaurus Theater last august. *SEVEN* - new album by Ad Noiseam Berlin (ALL), performed in live at Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens and at Municipal Theater of Piraeus.

LAURIE YOUNG

Laurie Young was born in Toronto, Canada. From 1992 to 1996, she worked with the research group Le Groupe Dance Lab. Through them she met Sasha Waltz and in 1996 she moved to Berlin to work with her on *Allee der Kosmonauten*. Since then Young has been a member of the company Sasha Waltz & Guests, as a guest. Between 2000-2003, she was also a member of the Collective Schaubuhne am Lehniner Platz.

Young has also danced with Meg Stuart, Constanza Macras, Benoit Lachambre, Emio Greco, Eszter Salamon, Animal Farm Collective, Grayson Millwood and Nasser Martin Gousset. She also created her own work, the solo *Brand New Bag* (Schaubuhne am Lehniner Platz, 2000), *OmU* (Radialsystem V Berlin) and her most recent solo, *Natural Habitat* (Natural History Museum of Berlin, 2011). In 2007, she did a residency at the Fabrik Potsdam. In 2009, she founded The Plant Collective with Panagiota Kallimani and Filipe Lourenço and created *Trente* (Athens Festival). She has also collaborated with artists such as the director Bruce laBruce, the fashion director Mody Al Khufash, Discoteca Flaming Star, Benny Nemerofsky Ramsay and Heike Schuppelius. Her collaborative work with Janet Cardiff and George Burres Miller (*Alter Bahnhof Video Walk*) was presented at Documenta (13) in Kassel, Germany.

EMILIO URBINA MEDINA

Emilio Urbina began his dance career in the early 90s in Madrid with Carmen Werner and participated in several creations of the Provisional Dansa company. In 1992, he went to France to study at the Centre National de Danse Contemporaine in Angers, and joined the compagnie L'Esquisse (Bouvier/ Obadia). He later participated in the creation of several pieces by Joëlle Bouvier, as both assistant and dancer. He has also danced with, among others, Bernardo Montet, La Camioneta, Block & Steel, Kubiläi Khan Investigation, Lionel Hoche, Sylvain Groud and Fabrice Ramalingom (R.A.M.A), with whom he still works. Beginning in 2005, he also danced frequently with Catherine Diverrès. At the same time, Urbina continued his choreographic collaboration with Rafael Pardillo (creating three pieces), as well as with The Plant Collective on the project *Double Take*.

PEDAGOGICAL ACTIONS & EXHIBITION

WORKSHOP

- Mini warm-up based on breathing and the fluidity and volume of the body. Breath drives the movement. Games are played on the floor and standing, relating to time, space, direction and the initiation of each movement.

- Improv. I give each participant a disposable digital camera and ask him/her to photograph "a space where they are used to being." Based on these images, they begin physical research on everyday actions. This exploration leads them into transforming these movements, creating unreal, poetic images. Can we transcend reality into the imaginary?

EXHIBITION PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

Exhibition of the residents' photographs – selected images by members of the Athens homeless community, from a collection of 250 images : sort of invitation to an unexpected trip from Athens.



CONTACTS

ARTISTIC DIRECTION

Panagiota Kallimani

giota.kallimanis@gmail.com // M : +33 6 07 97 44 53

PRODUCTION - TOURING

Les Productions de la Seine

Florence Francisco

francisco.florence@orange.fr // M : +33 6 16 74 65 42