

Activities

Cyprus Centre of ITI (Europe)



Play / Play On! Stage reading in the context of the project

Activities 2014 (since November)

34th World Congress of the ITI

The Cyprus Centre of the International Theatre Institute (CCOITI) participated at the World Congress of the ITI in Yerevan, Armenia. Seven members of the Centre were elected to various Committees of the ITI and Apostolos Apostolides was elected as a member of the Executive Council and as Treasurer of the Board of the ITI.

Honouring Nikos Pantelides, a pioneer of theatre in Cyprus

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary since the death of Nicos Pantelides who is considered as the “father” of theatre in Cyprus, the CCOITI, the Actors Union and the director Alexis Kleanthous organized two screenings of the documentary “Our dear Nicos”, on November 1-2 at the Zena Palace Cinema, in Nicosia.

Presentation of the edition *Two Voices*

Four theatre plays of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot playwrights, December, Goethe Institut / German Cultural Centre in Nicosia

The CCOITI presented its new edition *Δύο Φωνές/ İki Ses (Two Voices)* which includes two plays of contemporary Turkish Cypriots playwrights, Imrahim Altioğ, *My Murderer my Victim* and Leyla Ullubatlı, *Paris’ Choice*, as well as two Greek Cypriot plays, by Adonis Florides, *Yahari Tuhari* and by Yiannis Agisilaou, *Kardash, My Brother*. The edition has been sponsored by the Representation of the European Commission in Cyprus.

Publications:

Twelfth International Symposium on Ancient Greek Drama

The CCOITI published the practical elements and the papers of the speakers at the “Twelfth International Symposium on Ancient Greek Drama” which was held in Nicosia, July 6-8, 2012. The topic of the 12th Symposium was “Wisdom from suffering? Pain, frenzy and their treatment in Ancient Greek Drama”. The Symposium was organized by the CCOITI and the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Activities 2015

Play On!

PLAY ON! is a continuation of PLAY, the successful collaboration between CCOITI and the Cyprus Theatre Organization (THOC), aimed at stirring up the waters of the playwriting field in Cyprus and achieving more staged productions of Cypriot contemporary plays. The two partner-bodies could not ignore the success of the first PLAY edition (2012-2013) and the much needed action in playwriting development voiced by all relative bodies. Thus, CCOITI and THOC continued with PLAY ON! The project succeeded in strengthening the bonds between Cyprus theatre production and Cypriot playwrights. The long-term goal is to see these plays, shown in staged readings under PLAY ON!, produced on Professional Cypriot theatre stages.

Within the framework of the project, the organizers addressed an open call receiving new Cypriot plays or playwriting samples. A team of coaches and trained professionals, studied the plays and gave comments to the playwrights, also undertaking coaching with selected plays.

On the February 14-15, the CCOITI and THOC presented staged readings of the four plays which were considered complete without needing a coaching procedure.

The seven plays chosen to undergo a coaching procedure were presented as staged readings on May 9 and 10.

With the aim of stimulating further debate on the usual problems faced by playwrights the two partner bodies invited Chrysa Spelioti from Greece to lead the playwriting workshop “Contemporary Cypriot Dramaturgy: Keys for playwriting”. The workshop, which was attended by 40 participants, took place as a parallel event of PLAY ON! on May 8.

The project was extremely well-received and successful.

Celebration of World Theatre Day 2015

In the context of the celebrations honoring World

Activities

Cyprus Centre of ITI (Europe)

74



The official opening night of the “2015 International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama” with Euripides’ tragedy *Medea* (produced by Theatro ENA in collaboration with VERSUS Theatre, Cyprus) at Paphos Ancient Odeon
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Theatre Day 2015, the CCOITI organized a one-day conference under the title “On Reading Playwriting” on 28 March in Nicosia. The conference was part of a series of initiatives, meetings and workshops open to theatre and performing arts professionals, aiming to support the dialogue within the theatre community. The conference aimed to shed light to the scientific dimension of direction, which is based on methodology and to open a creative dialogue between theatre people.

International Dance Day 2015

The CCOITI translated the international message and widely publicized it to the performing arts’ community of Cyprus.

2015 International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama

July 1-30: The theatre map in Cyprus was enriched during July with performances of ancient Greek drama in the context of the nineteenth organization of the “International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama” which is organized by the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the CCOITI and the Cyprus Tourism Organization. The programme of the Festival included: *Medea* by Euripides (produced by Theatro ENA in collaboration with Versus Theatre, Cyprus), *Antigone* by Sophocles (produced by the National Theatre in Belgrade, Serbia), *Peace* by Aristophanes (produced by Yiolanta Christodoulou Theatre Group, Cyprus), *Hippolytus* based on Euripides (produced by Induo Teatro Producciones, Spain) and *Electra* by Sophocles (produced by the Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv, Israel). The performances were presented in

open-air amphitheatres such as the Ancient Odeon in Paphos, the Curium Ancient Theatre in Limassol and the “Skali” Amphitheatres in Nicosia. All foreign language performances were sur-titled in English and Greek and all Greek language performances had English surtitles.

The “International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama” has been recently honored with the EFFE Label 2015/2016, as one of the Europe’s finest festivals. Since 2014 all the performances of the Festival have been included in the official program “European Capital of Culture – Pafos2017”.

The “2015 International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama” was dedicated to the memory of the unforgettable Christakis Georgiou, a special man, writer and theatre critic, who served the CCOITI as a founding member and as the President of the Board of Directors since 1983 until 2011.

EFFE Label Ceremony

July 2, 2015 at the Paphos Ancient Odeon
The CCOITI, the Cyprus Hub of EFFE, organized a ceremony for the Cypriot EFFE Label 2015/2016 receivers, in order to celebrate the nomination of eleven Cypriot festivals. Mr. Hugo De Greef, EFFE Co-Director, honored the ceremony with his presence.

New Cypriot Theatre Voices

Staged Readings of Cypriot theatre plays in Athens
In cooperation with the Embassy of the Cyprus Republic and House of Cyprus in Athens, the CCOITI organized a series of staged readings of Cypriot

Activities

Cyprus Centre of ITI (Europe)

theatre plays in Athens under the title "New Cypriot Theatre Voices". The activity was launched on October 26 with the staged reading of *Hungry* by Charalambos Giannou, which was awarded with the Greek National Award of Playwright 2014, and was one of the plays presented in the PLAY ON! project.

Conference "21st Century Theatre in Cyprus"

December 15, at the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Athens

The CCOITI, the Embassy of the Cyprus Republic, House of Cyprus in Athens and the Faculty of Theatre Studies at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, with the support of The Greek Play Project platform and the Hellenic Theatre Studies Association, organized a conference entitled "21st Century Theatre in Cyprus". At the conference, which was held at the House of Cyprus in Athens, academics and theatre practitioners discussed the Cyprus Theatre Play and the Cyprus Theatre in the 21st century. The conference was attended by academics, directors, actors, theatrologists, playwrights, theatre scholars and others from Cyprus and Greece.

Publications:

Theatre in Cyprus 2011-2012

The bilingual yearbook, in Greek and in English language, "Theatre in Cyprus" is one of the most important publications of the CCOITI. The edition Theatre in Cyprus 2011-2012 includes the Cypriot professional theatre and dance performances, which were presented in Cyprus during the period 2011-2012.

Activities 2016 (until May 2016)

PLAY ON! – the third edition

With the conclusion of the PLAY ON! project in May 2015, the Cyprus Center of the International Theatre Institute has spared no efforts to visualize, design and organize the next phase of PLAY ON! After the decision of THOC to depart from the collaboration, CCOITI decided to continue, develop and reinforce PLAY ON!, aiming at furthering the development of contemporary playwriting in Cyprus, building on previous formats.

"New Cypriot Theatre Voices": Staged Readings of Cypriot theatre plays in Athens

In the context of the series of stage reading of Cypriot theatre plays in Athens "New Cypriot Theatre Voices", the CCOITI in cooperation with the Embassy of the Cyprus Republic in Athens, House of Cyprus in Athens, organized on January 25th 2016, at the House of Cyprus in Athens, the second staged reading of the play *Nitsa* by Giorgos Trillides, which was presented in the PLAY ON! project.

New Website www.ccoiti.com

The CCOITI has a new website that is being enriched on a regular basis with old and new material, concerning the activities of the CCOITI on national and international level.

theatreCY NETWORK (Connecting Creativity)

The CCOITI inaugurated the theatreCY NETWORK (CONNECTING CREATIVITY), an online network that will offer to theatre practitioners in Cyprus a shared space for discussion, exchange of ideas, presentation of proposals, seeking assistance and promoting their artistic work. The network is hosted in the new website of CCOITI.

Celebration of World Theatre Day 2016

To mark World Theatre Day 2016, the CCOITI and the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture organized a lecture on "Translational reading of Neo-Hellenic works – Greek contemporary theater approaches" by Professor Constantin Bomba, Head of Roman, Slavic and Oriental Studies of the University Lille 3. The lecture was held at the Kastelliotisa Hall in Nicosia, on March 29.

Week of Cyprus Theatre Play in Athens 2016

In order to promote the Cypriot theatre plays abroad, the CCOITI, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Cyprus Republic in Athens and House of Cyprus in Athens will organize the fourth edition of the „Week of Cyprus Theatre Play in Athens,“ during the third week of May (12-22 May 2016) at Michael Cacoyannis Foundation. Three selected Cypriot productions of Cypriot plays will be presented in Athens.

2nd Monodrama Platform 2016

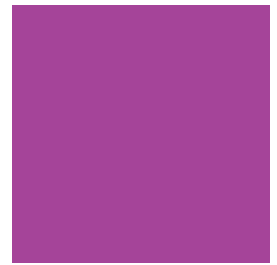
May 24 – 31, in Paphos

In 2015, the European Capital of Culture Pafos2017 presented the First International Monodrama Showcase in Cyprus for the first time with important plays from abroad, in the Paphos Ancient Odeon. This pilot programme aimed at introducing the audience of Cyprus to this theatrical genre which has rapidly developed globally in recent years. After the culmination of the First Monodrama Showcase in 2015 and the positive response of the audience, the European Capital of Culture Pafos2017 organized the first national Monodrama Showcase for Cypriot or foreigner creators residing in Cyprus, called as the Second Monodrama Showcase 2016, under the auspices of the CCOITI.

Publications:

Theatre in Cyprus 2012-2013

The bilingual edition, in Greek and English language,



Activities

Cyprus Centre of ITI (Europe)

76



The ceremony for the Cypriot receivers of the EFFE Festival Label 2015/2016

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Theatre in Cyprus 2012-2013 includes the Cypriot professional theatre and dance performances, which were presented in Cyprus at the theatrical period 2012-2013.

13th International Symposium on Ancient Greek Drama

The CCOITI published the practical elements and the papers of the speakers of the "Thirteenth International Symposium on Ancient Greek Drama", which was held in Nicosia on July 7 and 8, 2014. The topic of the 13th Symposium was "Dramatic and Scenic Space in Ancient Greek Drama". The Symposium organized by the CCOITI and the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, was under the auspices of Androula Vasiliou, Member of the European Commission.

International Participations and Co-operations of the CCOITI

EFFE - Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe Platform (www.effe.eu) Coordinating body: European Festivals Association (EFA)

The CCOITI participates in the project "EFFE – Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe", a new European platform, a festival community that was created to function as a meeting space for festivals that are deeply committed to the arts, interact with their communities and act as a European and global actor. EFFE is a gateway into Europe's festivals specializing in everything cultural. It intends to broaden awareness of developments in the festival world and to promote excellence and innovation.

EFFE platform is a European Festival Guide that gives the opportunity for festivals active in the 28 Member States to be recognized at EU level. Launched by the European Festivals Association (EFA), the new pilot project of the European Commission is funded by EU. Eleven festivals organized in Cyprus are already included in the first generation of festivals that were honored as EFFE Label recipients 2015/2016, festivals that were recognized for their artistic quality, their

community involvement and their European and International character. The CCOITI was selected as a Festival Hub in Cyprus, acting as the contact point for artists, festivals, policy-makers and local audience.

The Greek Play Project: www.greek-theatre.gr

The CCOITI joined forces with the Greek Play Project, a dynamic platform that was created with the aim to promote Greek theatre to the wider public, in a cooperation that seeks to introduce Cypriot playwrights to the public of Greece.

Initially the Greek play project included in its website four Cypriot playwrights who represent different generations and trends of Cypriot playwriting: Giorgos Neophytou, Andreas Koukides, Charalambos Giannou and Melina Papageorgiou. Dr Andri Constantinou initiated the academic dimension of this effort by presenting her theoretical text on contemporary Cypriot dramaturgy. This first group of playwrights will be reinforced and gradually complemented by the inclusion of more Cypriot dramaturges. This is just the beginning of a cooperation that will strengthen the cultural, social and artistic bonds between the CCOITI and The Greek Play Project.

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