



Obituary Emmanouil Koutsourelis

It is with deep sorrow that I write to inform that Emmanouil Koutsourelis, passed away on December 15, 2020 after months of fighting cancer.

Emmanouil, aged 62, was an active member of the arts community, both, in Greece and internationally for more than 40 years. He was kind, thoughtful and eager to share ideas and opportunities with colleagues, friends and youth. He will be greatly missed.

Emmanouil Koutsourelis served as President of the Board of the Hellenic Centre of ITI from 2012 to 2018, contributing significantly with initiatives and performing art projects in order to bring out fresh artistic creation in the framework of the Centre's activities.

Emmanouil Koutsourelis was born in Athens in 1958. He studied acting at the Drama School of Pelos Katselis and continued his studies in Directing, at the Hunter College, New York; Dancing, at the Merce Cunningham Dance Studio; Performing arts, with Ping Chong and, Theatrical lighting with Beverly Emons.

While in New York, he collaborated as an actor and as a choreographer with the theatre director Robert Wilson and participated as an actor in three of Wilson's performances at the La MaMa Theatre.



In 1990, he returned to Greece where he worked closely with the internationally renowned sculptor Takis at the Takis Foundation – Research Centre for the Art and the Sciences (KETE) until 1997. Serving as General Secretary of the Board of Directors, he was also responsible for public relations and the organization of KETE's events in Greece and abroad. In 1998, together with two associates, he opened *Bee* -a fashionable restaurant that quickly became popular and meant to change the way restaurants and night clubs operated in Athens.

As a director, he collaborated with the dance groups M. Tseng Dance Projects (New York, London, Athens) and Sine Qua Non (Athens Concert Hall).

From 2000 until today he directed the following theatrical plays: *I Do Not Believe in Your Eyes* by Alexandros Psychoulis (Theatre of Neos Kosmos, Athens); *First Love Playback* by Samuel Beckett (Chora Theatre, Athens; Cairo International Experimental Theatre Festival; Riverside Studio, London; Sibiu International Theater Festival, Sibiu, Romania, winning the 1st Prize), *Indust_RealEvol_ution* by drog_A_tek (Athens Festival), *Insenso* by Dimitris Dimitriadis (Michael Cacoyannis Foundation, Athens; Kiev Academic National Molody Theatre and, World Duo International Performing Arts Festival 2019, Seoul; 15th Saint Muse International Theatre Festival, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, winning the Best Duo Performance Award), *Antigone* by Sophocles (Koleso Theatre Academy, Kiev), *Humanismus* by Vassilis Ziogas and Jonathan Swift (Michael Cacoyannis Foundation, Athens). The play *Humanismus* is to be staged in Kiev in early 2021 by the theatrical group 14ORLOV after the restrictive measures relating to COVID-19 are lifted.

From 2003 until today he was a radio producer of three shows, in the National Greek Radio and Television's *Third Program* (ERT), namely *Double Fantasy*, *True Reality* and *Minimal*. He also contributed to the production of the TV shows *Hotel Triton* and other documentaries, winning awards internationally.

Emmanouil Koutsourelis was also a member of the International Theatre Institute – ITI, International Festival Forum – IFF and, International Dance Committee – IDC. From 2010 to 2014 he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Greek Liver Transplantation Association where he actively contributed to the events, information and dissemination of the work of the Association.

For sending condolences, please write to the following e-mails (brothers and partner):
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With kind regards

Evi Prousalis

General Secretary
Hellenic Centre of the International Theatre Institute