

Ephemeral Body

Valasia Simeon



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Trailer : <https://vimeo.com/861264565/a89a7be1df?share=copy>



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“Ephemeral Body” is an autobiographical dance performance that outlines a journey of recovery and the quest for the body identity of the performer, who experiences now, as a dancer and a choreographer, mobility impairments.

Using the concept of her folded stage object as a metaphor for the bodily changes she experiences, the performer unfolds aspects and fragments of her personal experience with disability through her relationship and living history with a folded object she had been associated with in the past.

Penetrating the materiality of the object, she elicits memories by transforming the object into live moving images punctuated by moments and experiences.

Therefore, the matter-as-fold acquires a form through the inner world of the performer and becomes the ground for the unfolding of her psychic world, as mentioned by Gilles Deleuze in his book on the fold.

Employing the material object as a carrier of memories and emotions, as well as a building material, the body constructs, fuses, develops, and re-creates spaces where dipoles such as “movement – stasis,” “human – non-human” coexist and converse, calling through fragments another life to resurface, while at the same time, redefining its very self.

Read more at <https://www.onassis.org/whats-on/m-power-festival/ephemeral-body>

Bio



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Valasia Simeon is a dance artist, choreographer, and movement educator for people with and without disabilities, who lives and works in Thessaloniki, Greece.

She is a graduate of the National School of Dance (2009) and the School of Mechanical Engineering of the Technological Educational Institute of Central Macedonia (2005). In 2009, as a scholar of the “Koula Pratsika” foundation, she attended the postgraduate program “Home of Performance Practices” at the ArtEZ University of the Arts in the Netherlands, with a major in choreography, where she researched the relationship between the object and the body and the latter’s potential transformations, with an emphasis on space design.

Approaching movement as design and design as movement, she is inspired by the invisible movements inherent in things we usually perceive as static (e.g., objects, architecture, materials, sculpture) and creates dance theater performances that incorporate elements from both performing and visual practices.

Bio

In 2009, she created the work “Daidalus,” a choreographical study on space, which was presented at the Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Arts in Berlin.

In 2011, in collaboration with Dansatelier in Rotterdam, she choreographed the project “These Little Nothings,” with which she participated in the Punch Festival of rising choreographers in Amsterdam. Other works of hers have been presented at the Greek Choreographers Festival in Athens, as well as in other European cities.

In recent years, due to a health problem, she has been experiencing mobility problems. As such, she researches mobility capacities within disability, developing a series of sensory practices that aim to articulate and unfold her personal experience with disability.

In the framework of this research, she curates, devises, and supervises mobility workshops for people with or without disabilities all around Greece, to promote the idea of integration and collaboration between all identities.





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CONCEPT & RESEARCH

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ART DIRECTION**

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ONASSIS STEGI

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ONASSIS STEGI'S "OUTWARD TURN"
CULTURAL EXPORT PROGRAM**

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Onassis Stegi's Outward Turn Program

Touring Support and Outreach Our Mission

Fostering and supporting artists on a constant and long-term basis lie at the core of the existence of Onassis Stegi. Our mission through the “Outward Turn” program is to strengthen the presence and status of artists in every corner of the world and throughout Greece, and at the same time forge innovative networks tightly intertwined with the nexus of the international scene, with and for the artists.

Onassis Stegi boosts the prominence and visibility of contemporary Greek works of dance, theater, music, and visual arts on an international level, helping artists unleash their full potential. In practice, this is achieved with the coordination of international and national tours for the Onassis Stegi productions; the realization of co-productions in collaboration with cultural institutions across the world; the participation of artists in international networks; the support in furthering the artists’ capacities and learning pathways as they expand their audiences; and the enhancement at large of their interpersonal contacts with international programmers.

With the support of the “Outward Turn” program, Greek artists turn their gaze outwards. In the last decade, more than 80 Onassis Stegi productions have been celebrated across hundreds of performances hosted by cultural venues all over the world.

The program is tailored to each production and offers its support to works of artists and groups who live and create in Greece primarily and on the condition that they have been included in the programming of the Onassis Stegi.

For more information about the touring grant offered by the Onassis Stegi's “Outward Turn” Cultural Export Program please contact:

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Read more about the program at : <https://www.onassis.org/onassis-stegi/onassis-cultural-export-program>