

Horse Me

Sofia Mavragani & Janis Rafa



@Pinelopi Gerasimou

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Trailer : <https://vimeo.com/1082504939/617434253b?share=copy>



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Running Time

The running time is approx. 50 minutes without intermission.

Touring Company

7 to 9 People in Total

Essential:

- 1 x Choreographer
- 3 x Performers
- 1 x Musician / Sound Technician
- 1x Light Designer
- 1 x Soprano

Optional:

- 1 x Assistant
- 1 x Art Director

Touring Freight

2 x Suitcases 23Kg each

5 x whips of the following lengths

(70cm,87cm,102cm,107cm,185cm)

Main structure of the show (Barrel base & Barrel) can be transferred or made & found locally



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Neighing, galloping, falls, sadistic bonds, torture, worship. The horse serves as a symbol of social status, beauty, and freedom, as well as a model of taming and ‘assimilation’ by humans.

“Horse Me” is the result of a creative partnership between choreographer Sofia Mavragani and visual artist Janis Rafa. The sarcastic, political world of the choreographer merges with the multidimensional and animalistic universe of the visual artist.

Whips and snaffle bits intertwine in a bizarre sensual arrangement. Buttocks and tails vibrate over arias and electropop tunes. Paradox texts speak of the jockey’s triumph, while a list names the causes of death of twenty-three racehorses. Deft movements respond to violent commands implying the animal’s disobedience.

“Horse Me” explores human fantasies, desires, and cravings to tame and dominate other bodies. The work, by subverting gender stereotypes, hierarchies, and preconceived notions, raises concerns about the joys and pains that animals and human beings can share. By paying tribute to the creatures who have offered their lives in the service of humans, the performance finally appeals to the body’s right to remain unexplored, undefined, and untamed.

Read more at <https://www.onassis.org/whats-on/onassis-dance-days-2025/horse-me-sofia-mavragani-janis-rafa>

Bio



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Sofia Mavragani is a choreographer and director whose work explores the intersection of body, voice, and socio-political contexts. She is known for blending dance with music, theater, and visual arts, and her creations have been showcased at international festivals and unconventional venues, including FIBA2023 (Buenos Aires), National Theatre of Greece, Athens Epidaurus Festival, documenta14, Kalamata International Dance Festival, Arc for Dance, MIRfestival, and even unique spaces like traditional cafés, nail studios, and strip clubs.

Mavragani is a founding member of the international art network Fingersix and its Athens-based dance company.

Janis Rafa (née Rafailidou) is based between Amsterdam and Athens. She is a visual artist and filmmaker whose work brings together various media, from feature films to video installations and sculptures. Her work examines the relationship between humans and animals, focusing on seemingly contradictory schemes such as love and dominance, seduction and consent, but also mortality and loss.

Rafa holds a PhD in Fine Art (2012) and has received art residencies from the Rijksakademie (2014), Artworks/Stavros Niarchos (2020), and Onassis AiR (2024). Her work was part of the 59th Biennale di Venezia (2022). In April 2025, she will present her solo at the EMΣT Athens. Recent solo shows include VOX Centre de l'image contemporaine, Montreal (2025), Eye Filmmuseum and Utrecht (2019).



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CONCEPT & CO-CREATION

SOFIA MAVRAGANI, JANIS RAFA

CHOREOGRAPHY

SOFIA MAVRAGANI

ART DIRECTION

JANIS RAFA

ORIGINAL MUSIC

THALIA IOANNIDOU

PERFORMANCE & MOVEMENT

MATERIAL CREATION

MARIA VOUROU, KONSTANTINA
BARKOULI, PAGONA BOULBASAKOU

SOPRANO

LITO MESSINI

ASSISTANT TO THE CREATORS

YORGOS KYVERNITIS

DRAMATURGY

IOANNA VALSAMIDOU

COSTUMES

CHRYSANTHOS CHRISTODOULOU

STAGE DESIGN

JANIS RAFA, FILANTHI BOUGATSOU

LIGHTING DESIGN

THODORIS MICHPOULOS

SPECIAL OBJECT CONSTRUCTION

MANOS VORDONARAKIS

COSTUME MAKING

EIRINI ANDROULIDAKI, ODYSSEAS
SAMPALIS

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

GIORGOS KALANTZIS

LINE PRODUCTION

FINGERSIX/ATHENS

WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF

THE HELLENIC MINISTRY OF
CULTURE

SUPPORTED BY

THE ONASSIS STEGI TOURING
PROGRAM

“**Horse Me**” by Sofia Mavragani & Janis Rafa was first presented in Athens as part of the Onassis Dance Days 2025

Onassis Stegi's Touring 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 Touring 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 Touring 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 Touring Program please contact:

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