

Direction: history

A devised theatre performance whose documentary material mines the news for headlines that shocked the nation, as well as stories that slipped by unremarked.

“Family tragedy: man 91 and wife 80 found dead with gunshot wounds to the head in their Athens seaside flat, shot with an old pistol from the 1940s.” Along with inconsequential but amusing events recorded by inhabitants of the blogosphere, this headline from last December about the double suicide of an elderly couple who “didn’t want to be a burden to their children” becomes the lived material of a production whose mosaic-like depiction of Greece is made out of news stories great and small. Grotesque scandals, crimes explicable and inexplicable, brave deeds, incredible adventures, meaningless achievements and bizarre tricks of fate can all find themselves in the limelight when they grab the attention of the journalists who record our daily lives. Reflecting the contemporary trend for theatre-documentaries, the company dipped into the fertile waters of the Greek printed and electronic press and netted major and minor stories published over the last sixty or so years. The documentary style filters the production’s aesthetic, but the tales of everyday folk remain centre-stage, and laughter is intertwined with tears. Combining the funny and the frightening, the trivial and the important, the comic and the tragic, *Direction: history’s* three director-performers present us with their own potted history of recent decades.

CREDITS

Conceived, directed and performed by **Ilias Voyiatzidakis, Myrto Panagou, Natasa Papandreou**

Dramaturgy: **Panagiota Konstantinakou**

Sets & Costumes: **Evangelia Katechi, Leda Dokoumetzidi**

Lighting design: **Nikos Vlassopoulos**

Video: **Olga Boura**

Assistants to the director: **Yuli Karnaxoriti, Maria Lyberopoulou**

Assistant dramaturge: **Georgia Psychogiou**

Photographs: **Michalis Kyriazidis**

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Ilias Voyiatzidakis is a graduate of the University of the Aegean (Department of Social Anthropology and History) and Nelli Karra's "Archi" Drama School. Myrto Panagou graduated from the National Theatre of Greece Drama School and is in her last year at the University of Athens (Department of English Language and Literature). Natasa Papandreou is also a graduate of the National Theatre of Greece Drama School. All three acted in and co-directed a 15-minute performance of Allen Ginsberg's *The Ballad of the Skeletons* (page 31 Festival – Camp!, 2012) and *Baby octopuses and other stories*, a production based on short stories by M. Karagatsis, Kostas Tachtsis, Marios Hakkas, Dimitris Hadzis and Dinos Christianopoulos at BIOS (2012-2013). Panagiota Konstantinakou is a graduate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Theatre Department), and has a post-graduate diploma in Theatre Research from Glasgow University. She has contributed as a dramatist to over 15 productions, most recently *Baby octopuses and other stories*.