

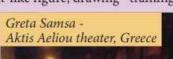
Ioanna Katsarou presented her play Raving Reason in early December, for one weekend LaGuardia Performing Arts Center. The play Bacchae and was an idea that was conceived with award-winning Greek playwright, Penny boyfriend, an almost cult-like figure, drawing training, and was admitted into the National Fylaktaki, who wrote the play. Raving Reason her into his irrational is a fascinating exploration into the extreme world of sensuality forces of human nature - the sensual, and Bacchanalian instinctual world versus the world of reason pleasure to shake up and rationality. Ioanna brought us a the structure that beautifully composed play with subtle Harmony and her projections of multimedia expression, where father Evan work so she, as the director, brings us deep into that hard to defy. world of extremity, where the influence of A d d i t i o n a l technology is portrayed as having a profound and invariable affect on our human nature, Tiresia, portrayed by alienating us from our natural world, Chrysi Sylaidi and suppressing our intuition and feeling, and Asymmetes by Isaias funneling it into a rigid and rational sphere of Badilla. existence.

The characters are faced with an inner the National Theater struggle and conflict. The main cast of of Northern Greece. characters is centered around a scientific Though she didn't researcher Harmony Hunt, portrayed by grow up in a theatrical

Ioanna is a graduate of

Actor, director, writer, and theater educator Anthoula Katsimatides, Luna Hunt, family, or a family that had any real interest in Harmony's daughter portrayed by Rebecca the arts, Ioanna's passion for theater began at Wood, and Evan Hunt, Harmony's rational the age of 16, when her high school history only, as part of the Rough Draft Festival of the minded father, played by Demetri Bonaros teacher invited her to see the Killing Game by who can be seen as a metaphor for Pentheus in Ionesco. This experience was an eye-opener draws inspiration from Euripides' The the story of The Baccahae. Along comes the for her. Drawn to the power of theater as an art Dionysian element, as projected through Luke form, she decided to take on the very and developed by Ioanna who collaborated Wilcox in the character of Mike, Luna's challenging entrance exam, with intensive

Theater of Northern Greece, with only 10 out of 300-400 candidates being accepted annually. She's come a long way since then, as Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Eclipses Group Theater New York (EGTNY), a 501 (c) (3) non-profit theater company that explores Greek, world classic and modern plays with the goal of presenting them to American and international audiences through collaborations with universities, schools, and other institutions.







International Cairo Festival - Privatopia

performance/worksh op that was presented as part of the Open Street program in Astoria, Queens. Selections from ancient Greek tragedies, like The Trojan Women, and epic historical narratives, like The Iliad, were presented in an outdoor space. In 2018, her theater company, Eclipses

translation to New York in an effort to promote modern Greek theater and playwrights. With sponsorship from the Hellenic ministry of Culture and Sports, and National Theater of Greece, The Greek Play Project NY was established for a three-year consecutive run where Ioanna directed In Chorus, a play written by Dimitris Dimitraidis, recipient of the Greek National Literature Award in 2003.

Ioanna is more than just a director, merely

directing actors. She sets a scene of poetic imagery, imagination, and realism that inspires you to think and question tradition. She is exploratory and often

experimental, but not for the sake of being different or experimental. She explores her material with true purpose to bring a message to the forefront, whether its to challenge traditional notions or to reinterpret classical themes in a modern context.

Notable directorial works include Hercules: In For Ioanna, working with talented actors with Search of A Hero, a play that challenges the whom she has forged relationships over the concept of traditional heroism, Shelter in years, remain at the helm of her artistic vison. Love, which explores the affects of social For her, theater is where the true core of acting isolation on love and creativity, and exists. There is an energy and holistic Perspectives of War: Ancient Greek Texts in experience that can't be replaced by cinema, Dialogue with the Modern World, a where you can do several "takes" to get it right.

No one is yelling out the cues "action or cut", or editing a performance in real time, as would happen in the world of movies and cinema. What you see is what you get right in front of you in seamless fluidity. In theater, you only get one shot for the magic to happen.

For Ioanna, connections with the actors are

Group Theater NY, collaborated with the important-connecting them with the material Greek Play Project, to bring a series of staged before them and their experience on stage. She modern Greek play readings in English is a big fan of ensemble work, and using the feelings. The actors are the main vessel of that

-LaGuardia Performing Arts Center

and other institutions. She is also a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab (2017) and has worked with the American Academy of Dramatic Arts as a theater director in 2020. She was also Co-Founder of the "Aktis Aeliou"Art Theater in Thessaliniki, Greece, which was awarded Best Regional Theater in Greece in 2006 by The Greek Theater Critics Association. She has worked as both a director and actor with several cultural organizations, theater companies and festivals including La MaMa, The Cell Theater, the National Theater of Greece, The Classic Stage Company, the Greek Cultural Center, The National Hellenic Museum in Chicago, and the New Theater of Thessaloniki. Her work has been presented globally in the US, Greece, Canada, and Egypt. In addition to her work as a director, Ioanna has conducted various workshops on Ancient Greek tragedy, acting, and other forms of dramaturgy.



We look forward to seeing more of Ioanna's work as she continues to bring us a total eclipse of the art - the art of theater - which remains at the heart of her soul.

