

The 23rd Kalamata International Dance Festival continues to run its energetic and firm course showcasing different trends of contemporary dance and reinforcing its faith in the wealth and importance of cultural diversity.

This year's Festival focus is on two distinct thematic areas, "revolution as a necessity to redefine concepts and identities" and "dialogue between contemporary dance and tradition"; hence building cultural bridges between the local and international artistic stage.

The birth of contemporary dance was a revolutionary act that brought the dance art form closer to humans and to their issues. But nowadays what can be considered revolutionary? In the image and speed age, when mass trends and fast-track procedures tend to prevail, is there a proposal that will contribute towards continuation and progress? Could making the conscious choice of investing in mankind, beauty and positive mind set, even under such dire conditions, be considered an option?

Dance, and art in general, is a bloodless means of dynamic expression defusing violence and bringing people together.

The 23rd Kalamata International Dance Festival pays tribute to the great lady of dance, Zouzou Nikoloudi, who marked a revolutionary path and defied the social standards of her time, breaking rules through art. Until the very last of her days she displayed love, passion, ethos and dedication to Art; moreover, she was one of the supporters of the Festival since its first steps.

I would like to heartily thank our collaborators' team who have worked tirelessly towards the staging of this year's Festival.

KATERINA KASIOUMI

Artistic Director