



22nd Kalamata International Dance Festival

15–26 July 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAQi-Xmf8sQ>

The Kalamata International Dance Festival once again renews its summer appointment with the world of contemporary dance. Taking place from 15 to 26 July 2016, the **22nd Kalamata International Dance Festival**, under a **new Artistic Director, Katerina Kassioumi**, invites art lovers and the dance world to enjoy a rich programme and join in seminars and parallel events.

Kalamata, the Mayor, Panagiotis E. Nikas, the International Dance Centre of Faris Municipal Welfare Corporation, which organizes the Festival, welcome this year **eight international and Greek contemporary dance companies, two seminars, a workshop and ten parallel events, in a total of 26 events.**

The 22nd Kalamata International Dance Festival follows in the footsteps of a very successful festival, which was established and developed into a high-level Greek and international artistic organization by its first artistic director, **Vicky Marangopoulou**, for 21 years. Kalamata became well-known internationally as a city of dance, and the festival paved new roads for contemporary dance in Greece – an artistic genre that was little-known at the time – hosting groundbreaking performances and choreographers from around the world, keeping generations of Greek dancers and choreographers up-to-date with international developments, enlarging and educating a wide audience, which loved this institution and strongly supported it.

Preserving the qualities that have shaped its identity as a distinct, decentralized event of international recognition and facing the broader challenges facing the country, the agenda of the festival's 22nd edition features performances of a high artistic value, reflecting the current trends in the contemporary dance scene and capturing the beauty of human diversity conveyed through the art of dance.

The 22nd Kalamata International Dance Festival integrates, promotes and supports Greek choreographers and dance companies. Moreover, the British dance scene

features prominently in the festival's main programme and parallel events. Exceptional performances by two acclaimed choreographers, film screening and an installation/film are presented for the first time in Greece, while an open evening of conversation and exchange enrich the festival's 22nd edition.

The 22nd Kalamata International Dance Festival focuses on two major themes, highlighted in the main and the educational programme: on the one hand, **the rediscovery of the principles of contemporary dance**, that is, the revitalization of contemporary dance through fundamental ideas, philosophies and practices, and, on the other hand, **dance for all**, promoting diversity in performers' styles, ages and identities, as well as featuring artists both with and without disabilities.

Moreover, **educational programmes** enjoy a privileged position in the 22nd Festival, aiming to trace contemporary-dance concerns in expression, technique, as well as a creative approach to movement in two ten-day seminars, one for professional dancers and dance students and the other for amateur dance-lovers of all ages.

In addition, there will be a short yet distinctive contemporary-dance workshop addressed to all, for people with or without disabilities (18 and over), not requiring any dance training – only an interest in dance and the desire to move!

The **parallel events** open the festival up to the city and seek to highlight another side of the festival as the supporter of synergies and partnerships with many different institutions, combining dance with music evenings, film screenings, lectures and discussions.

The 22nd Festival is expanding its wonderful cooperation with the **Archaeological Museum of Messenia** (Kalamata) by complementing the current exhibition, *Legendary Dances of Messenia*, by a dance performance. The festival also collaborates with the **Onassis Cultural Centre**, specifically the **Young Choreographers' Festival** under Katia Arfara, artistic director of Theatre and Dance, Onassis Cultural Centre. The **Greek National Opera** is the festival's curtain raiser, with a ballet production; The **Kalamata Friends of Music** actively support an **Opera Gala** as part of the parallel events; **CineDoc** presents a screening of *First Position*, a multi-award-winning documentary on dance, with the support of the **U.S. Embassy** in Athens.

Seeking to engage the entire city, the 22nd Kalamata International Dance Festival is hosted this year at the **Kalamata Dance Megaron**, the **Cultural Centre**, the **Zoumbouleio Hall**, the **City Stadium**, the **Railway Park** and the **Archaeological Museum**.

More info: kalamatadancefestival.gr