

Once again, we welcome you to the 23rd Kalamata International Dance Festival which counts twenty-two consecutive years of uninterrupted operation, and is now well known to you all for its constant contribution to the cultural life of this country and indeed this city.

The Kalamata Dance Festival, an internationally acclaimed cultural decentralization achievement, constitutes a model of exemplary operation, extraordinary quality and sustained advancement. In the minds of all art lovers alike it has been fully established as an artistic organization that exceeds the Greek borders.

Moving towards its third decade, it is considered as one of the major dance events across Europe with an emphasis on showcasing the art of internationally accomplished creators but also that of emerging artists to its audience, whilst highlighting through its rich programme, contemporary Greek creations. Each July, this Festival becomes a focal point attracting large audiences including residents from the region of Messenia, visitors from all over Greece, distinguished members of the local and international political, academic and business community.

The objective of this year's Festival is to strengthen its bonds with various bodies, so as to endorse and indeed facilitate fruitful collaborations that will bring the city closer to its past, present and future.

As citizens of Kalamata, we take great pride in our International Dance Festival, are acutely aware of its cultural value and shall keep trying to make it even bigger.

As Mayor, I would like to thank the Minister of Culture and Sports, Mrs Lydia Koniordou, the Deputy Minister of Economy and Development, Mr Alexandros Haritsis, the Artistic Director, Mrs Katerina Kasioumi, and everyone who has contributed toward the success of the Festival, the sponsors, the volunteers, as well as the friends of this institution –either residents or visitors of this city.

PANAGIOTIS E. NIKAS

Mayor of Kalamata