

For 23 years the Kalamata International Dance Festival has actively proven that a local institution can go beyond its geographic limits, addressing the country as a whole and eventually the international community.

The Kalamata International Dance Festival plays an extremely significant part as to how we understand and perceive contemporary dance in Greece. Numerous great artists who actually shine on the dance stages of the world, made their first steps in Kalamata International Dance Festival. However, being extrovert does not imply only art import but also art export.

The International Festival ensured with diligence and firmness the promotion and support of Greek creativity; through its commissions to talented choreographers, its support to the experimental work of new dance companies, and its educational projects.

The educational dance seminars, workshops and lectures addressed to students and professionals alike, as well as the Festival's publications and video dance productions constitute a heritage for the future of every creator and for the art of dance in our country in general.

Hence, the International Festival has succeeded in becoming a reference point for the evolution of the Greek dance life and in establishing itself as one of the most important dance institutions of the Mediterranean South.

Hoping that this heritage will stand out as a landmark not only for this year's events but also for those that will be organised in the future, I would like to thank the staff of the International Dance Centre, the Municipality of Kalamata, as well as all those who have worked for the Festival. I wish them all the best of luck.

LYDIA KONIORDOU

Minister of Culture and Sports