

PARALOGES

Greek Tradition Revived Through Song and Dance

Performances of "PARALOGES" (PARAPHRASE) are under way, presented by the fine arts company ARGO. Based on Greek folk poems, "Paraloges" uses poetic language, music and movement drawn from tradition, to illustrate the rituals of living. The focal point is the cycle of human life interwoven with the seasonal cycle of nature.

Paraloges, are songs that speak of life, death, love, heroism and other social themes. From a historical perspective, much can be learnt about the Greek village mentality - how they dealt with migration, loss of a loved one, the role of brigands, kleftes and armatoli (armed guerrillas who fought for Greek independence in the 19th century), the way society was gender-typed and the brutal punishment for betrayal. Though the songs have a demotic tag and spring forth from the common people, they have the poetry and a high language level which make them evocative and representative of Greece's rich heritage. Their strong emotive qualities bear a resemblance to ancient Greek tragedies and Argo's performances have capitalised on this.

The performance consists of six actors, three musicians and a singer - each retaining his or her unique artistic personality while also interacting with others in the group.

Emilia Ypsilanti heads the cast which also includes young actors such as: Margarita Varlamou, Dimitris Georgalas, Viky Kambouri, Panagiotis Kordalis, Maria Syrianou. Yiota Vei sings with Nikos Grapsas who will also provide musical accompaniment and is also responsible for the musical direction. The other musicians are Rowan Storm and Giorgos Pogiatzis.

The performance is directed by Stavros Tsakiris, and Choreographed by Dora Tsatsou, the sets and costumes are designed by Savas Haratsidis.

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