

## Note from the Editor

- This is a special summer issue of "Eurofocus" which has been prepared to give you background material on the major festival of Greek culture which is to start in Brussels in October. Every two years, Belgium is the host of "Europalia" the prestigious multi-disciplinary arts festival which honours the culture of a Community country.
- After a short summer break, "Eurofocus" will be back in September to keep you informed about what's happening in the European Community. Have a good summer.

## EUROPALIA

This year it's the turn of Greece, the newest member of the European Community, to share the glories of its culture with fellow Europeans in Europalia, the prestigious multi-disciplinary arts festival held every two years in Belgium in honour of a different Community country in turn. Since the festival began in 1969, Italy, the Netherlands, Britain, France, the German Federal Republic and Belgium have taken part, with financial assistance from their respective governments, private industry and the Community.

In Europalia 82 Greece will be offering a panoramic view of five thousand years of civilisation in a series of some 200 exhibitions, theatrical productions, concerts, films and literary and other events taking place in Brussels and other Belgian cities from October to December. Museums and private collections from

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all over the world are lending exhibits, and some of Greece's most celebrated theatre companies, directors and performing artists, composers, writers and philosophers will be taking part. Avant-garde and fringe movements will also be represented: keen to get beyond the tourist clichés, the Greek and Belgian organisers want to emphasize the continuity of spirit linking the rich heritage of classical Greece and Byzantium and the dynamism and diversity of Greek culture today.

Inevitably though, the big exhibitions tend to dominate the Festival. "Men and Gods From Ancient Greece" recalls Greece as the cradle of the first great civilisation which spread throughout Europe and has had a profound effect on Western thought and culture. The exhibition illustrates one thousand years of Greek art from the geometric period to the beginning of our own era (1,000 - 30 BC). The evolution from abstract to figurative art; the human world of science and art, philosophy and literature, political and social life; and the relationship between men and their gods with divine powers but human attributes, are the main themes of the exhibition.

The most important exhibits are bronze and marble sculptures representing the gods, alongside portraits of writers, philosophers, politicians and kings - but equally interesting are likely to be the vases, terracotta statuettes and other small objects which give us insights into people's everyday lives, and the part that the gods and mythology played in them. Far older than these works, and of a significance which may never be completely understood are the marble idols of almost abstract simplicity and great beauty found in tombs in the Cyclades islands. Dating from 3,200 - 2,000 BC, they are all that remains to us of a civilisation that flourished at the heart of the Aegean during the Bronze Age. Some experts think they are figures of gods or ancestors, others, substitutes for human sacrifice or toys for the dead. The exhibition "Art from the Cyclades" includes about 200 of these extraordinary pieces, mostly from a private collection.

Inheritor of both Christian and secular empires, crucible of Eastern and Western civilisations (as Greece is still today for many Northern Europeans), Byzantium was for more than 1,000 years the centre of a culture whose magnificence made it the envy of all its contemporaries, both in the Western world and Persia and Arabia. The exhibition "Splendour of Byzantium" - the most important for nearly twenty years - illustrates the evolution of Byzantine art from the late 4th Century to the 15th Century. The Byzantines excelled in their technical mastery and the richness of their materials, the variety of their interpretations and the harmony of their colours.

Exhibits include sculpture, icons and illuminated manuscripts, work in gold and precious stones and metals, enamel, ivories and silks. A parallel exhibition on the art and architecture of Mount Athos includes previously unpublished material on this famous monastic retreat.

The other major exhibitions are deliberately modern. One of them, "Art and Dictatorship", is devoted to those artists who used their work to oppose the military regime.

There will also be some 30 thematic exhibitions, including 16th and 17th Century icons from Crete and the work of 25 young photographers - working in a field where for once there is no Greek tradition.

Europalia's theatrical programme is also impressive: four major Greek companies with their best directors and performers are bringing their versions - in Greek - of that traditional preoccupation of Greek theatre - the tragic confrontation of man and destiny. The National Theatre of Athens presents Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex", the National Theatre of Salonika brings Euripides' "Helen", the Art Theatre presents Aeschylus' "Oresteia", and, with a comedy on bourgeois life in 4th Century BC, the Amphi-Theatre brings "The Arbitration" by Menander. Some 20 Belgian companies are working with Greek collaborators on translations of traditional plays, modern works and plays inspired by the traditional myths such as Sartre's adaptation of Euripides' "Women of Troy" and Fabien's "Jocasta".

Belgium's National Theatre director Henri Ronse is also directing a series of performances of the works of some of Greece's great modern poets such as Nobel Prize winners George Seferis and Odysseus Elytis. Literary debates are planned on subjects like "Contemporary Poetry in Greece" with an international panel of writers. The Europalia Literary Prize, worth 500,000 Belgian francs, will be awarded to a contemporary Greek author by a panel of judges from all the other countries of the European Community.

Distinguished Greek and European thinkers are also expected to take part in the philosophical debates planned on subjects like "The Birth of Democracy". A series of archaeological conferences will also attract international specialists.

The work of two of Greece's most famous modern composers, Mikis Theodorakis and Iannis Xenakis figure prominently in the concerts of classical music in Europalia's music programme. Theodorakis will be conducting a concert of his own works with the Orchestra of RTL - Radio Television Luxembourg. Other European orchestras and ensembles are giving concerts of mainly Greek music with Greek conductors like Dimitri Chorafas and Spyros Argiris.

A series of concerts will also be given by popular Greek artists virtually unknown outside Greece: Georges Dalaras, who presents the best songs of the past 60 years, and Sotiria Bellou, the first lady of "rebetiko", which could be described as the Greek version of the American Blues.

"Stella" by Michalis Cacoyannis, the first film made by Melina Mercouri, now Greece's Minister for Culture, will be among the films shown during Europalia's two-month festival of Greek Cinema, which will include some 150 feature films. A retrospective of Young Greek Cinema (1951-82), will give an idea of the range of the work of young Greek directors.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS: EUROPALIA 1982

##### EXHIBITIONS

##### Men and Gods from Ancient Greece

Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 1 - December 2, 1982

##### Art from the Cyclades

Royal Museums of Art and History, Cinquantenaire, Brussels, October 2, 1982 -  
January 9, 1983

##### Splendour of Byzantium

Royal Museums of Art and History, Cinquantenaire, Brussels, October 2, 1982 -  
December 2, 1982

##### Mount Athos, Art and Architecture

Royal Museums of Art and History, Cinquantenaire, Brussels, October 2, 1982 -  
December 2, 1982

Academy of Fine Art (Proka), Ghent, December 1982

##### Modern Greek Art

###### 2 X 10

Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 1 - 27, 1982 and  
October 31 - November 28, 1982

###### Young Trends

I.C.C. Antwerp, October 1 - November 30, 1982

###### Art and Dictatorship

Caisse Générale d'Epargne et de Retraite, Brussels, October 1982

###### 4 Masters, 5 Figuratives

Palais des Congrès, Brussels, October 1 - November 30, 1982

###### Contemporary Sculpture

Cultural Centre, Hasselt, October 8 - November 7, 1982

###### Bouzianis

Mutualités Socialistes, Brussels, October 1982

##### Life Cycles

Town Hall, Brussels, October 3 - November 3, 1982

##### Rediscovery of Greece

Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp, October - November 1982

The Art of the Icon in Crete and the Islands, after Byzantium  
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Charleroi, October 2 - November 21, 1982

Troy, Legend and Reality  
Banque Bruxelles Lambert, Brussels, October 7 - November 21, 1982

The Aegean Sea, Architecture of the Islands  
"Interior", University, Kortrijk, October 9 - 30, 1982

Monemvassia  
Academy of Fine Arts (Proka), Ghent, October 1982

Young Photographers  
Photography Museum, Charleroi, October 1982

Greece Now, 3 Photographers  
Cultural Centre, Hasselt, October 8 - November 7, 1982

Contemporary Architecture  
Academy of Fine Arts (Proka), Ghent, October 1982  
Architecture Museum, Liège, November 1982

The Labyrinth  
Atelier Ste Anne, Brussels, October 19 - November 6, 1982

Shadow Theatre, Karagheuz characters and stage sets  
Kredietbank, Tinne Pot, Brussels, October 4 - 30, 1982

## MUSIC

### Symphony Orchestras

RTL Orchestra conducted by Mikis Theodorakis  
Cyprien Katsaris, piano

Works by Theodorakis  
Queen Elizabeth Room, Antwerp, October 8, 1982

Orchestre Philharmonique de Liège, conducted by Pierre Bartholomée  
Carole Farkley, soprano, Spyros Sakkas, baritone

Works by Xenakis, Takemitsu, i.a.  
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 14, 1982

Orchestre National de Belgique, conducted by A. Myrat  
Helene Mouzalas, piano, Georges Demertzis, violin

Works by Skalkottas, Theodorakis, Kolomiris, Mitropoulos  
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 15 and 17, 1982

Orchestre National de Belgique, conducted by D. Chorafas  
D. Evangelatos, soprano

Works by A. Evangelatos, Christou, i.a.  
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 28, 1982

Le Nouvel Orchestre Symphonique de la RTBF, conducted by Spyros Argiris  
Works by Greek composers and inspired by Greece

Grand Auditorium, Maison de la Radio, Brussels, November 19, 1982

### Chamber Music

London Synfonietta, conducted by E. Howarth  
Works by Xenakis

Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 11, 1982

Xenakis Ensemble, conducted by G.D. Madge  
Works by Greek composers

Studio 1, BRT, Brussels, November 1982

Recitals

Rita Bouboulidi, piano  
Works by Beethoven  
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 4, 1982

G.D. Madge, piano  
Works by Skalkottas  
Studio 1, BRT, Brussels, November 1982

Avant-Garde Music - 24 Hours Communication  
Studio, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 1, 2, November 5, 6, 1982

Byzantine Music, choir directed by L. Angelopoulos  
Belgian tour, October 24-30, 1982

Popular Music

Music, dances and folksongs, Domna Samiou Ensemble and Drandakis Ensemble  
Belgian tour, October 1982

60 Years of Greek Popular Song  
Georges Dalaras, Zorbala, Glikeria and orchestra of Greek musicians  
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 9 and 10, 1982

Rebetiko, Sotiria Bellou and her Bouzouki orchestra  
Salle de la Madeleine, Brussels, October 15, 16, 17, 1982

Opera - Idomeneo by Mozart  
Opéra National, Brussels, September 30, 1982

THEATRE

National Theatre of Athens, "Oedipus Rex" by Sophocles  
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 18, 19, 20, 1982

National Theatre of Salonika, "Helen" by Euripides  
October 1982

Art Theatre, "Oresteia" by Aeschylus  
Koninklijke Nederlandse Schouwburg, Antwerp, October 12 and 13, 1982

Amphi-Theatre, "The Arbitration" by Menander  
Brussels, October 1982

National Theatre of Belgium, Euripides' "Women of Troy" adapted by J-P Sartre  
National Theatre, Brussels, October 27 - November 28, 1982

Théâtre du Rideau de Bruxelles

"Zorba the Greek" by Nicos Kazantzakis adapted by Bernard Damien  
October 7 - 27, 1982

"Elle lui dirait dans l'île" by F. Xenakis  
September 29 - October 26, 1982

"Le Jeu" by Marguerite Liberaki  
October 1982

"Chant Profond de la Grèce" by Jacques Lacarrière  
October 1982

Ensemble Théâtral Mobile, "Jocasta" by Michèle Fabien  
Brussels, September 28 - November 6, 1982

Théâtre Royal des Galeries, "Antigone" by Jean Anouilh  
Brussels, September 15 - October 17, 1982

Théâtre Experimental de Belgique, "Bertolt Brecht" by Thanos Mikroutsikos  
Brussels, October 1982

Théâtre de Toone, "Peace" by Aristophanes, adapted by José Géal  
Brussels, October - November 1982

Théâtre de la Guimbarde, "Electre Mon Amour" by Lazlo Guyrko  
Brussels, September 14 - October 16, 1982

Nederlands Toneel Gent, "Lysistrata" by Aristophanes translated by Hugo Claus  
N.T.G. Ghent, September 18 - October 31, 1982  
Brussels, Passage 44, October 1982

Arca-Net Theatre, Plato's "Apology" translated by G. Wydeveld  
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 5, 1982

Toneelgezelschap Yvonne Lex, "The Wife of Socrates" by Dimitri Kollatos,  
Scharpoord, Knokke, October 19, 1982 translated by David Cohn

A.K.T., "Zoals in de oorlog", adapted from Sophocles by Gie Laenen  
Brussels, from October 29, 1982

Shadow Theatre, Karagheuz  
Belgian tour, October 1982

#### LITERATURE

Bookshop, Hall, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 1 - November 30, 1982

Literary Exhibition, Hall, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 1 -  
November 30, 1982

Debates, Greek and international writers, Brussels, October 1982

Europalia Prize for Literature, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, October 21, 1982

Poetry - Hommage to Cavafy, Seferis, Ritsos, Elitis  
Nouveau Théâtre de Belgique, Brussels, October 15 - November 15, 1982

#### PHILOSOPHY

Heritage of the Greek World, meeting between Greek and international philosophers  
Palais des Congrès, Brussels, October 14, 15, 21, 28, 29, November 4, 1982

#### ARCHAEOLOGY

Conferences in Dutch, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, October 27, November 10, 17,  
18, 25, 1982

#### CINEMA

Retrospective, Young Greek Cinema 1951-82

Greek Tragedies Adapted for the Screen by International Directors

World Premiere of a Greek Feature Film  
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, from October 12, 1982

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Further details from Europalia, 10 rue Royale, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

The Brussels Tourist Office (T.I.B.) is offering concessionary tariffs for  
Europalia visitors. Details from T.I.B., 61, rue Marché aux Herbes, 1000 Brussels.