

**ATHENS**  
**EPIDAUROS** | fe  
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**PROGRAM 2020**

# ANCIENT THEATRE OF EPIDAUROS



24 - 26  
JULY 2020

National Theatre of Greece -  
Dimitris Lignadis  
**The Persians**  
by Aeschylus



*The Persians* (472 BC) is both the oldest surviving ancient drama and a historical document about the most significant armed conflict during the second Persian invasion of Greece: the Battle of Salamis. Aeschylus' tragedy focuses on one of the most influential battles in the history of the humanity – a battle in which Aeschylus himself fought. Without boasts and exultation, respectful of the pain of the defeated side, Aeschylus celebrates individual freedom, juxtaposing democratic ideals with despotism and blind allegiance to power. Those who are guided by prudence emerge victorious, whereas those who are guided by arrogance, cross the line and offend gods and humans with their vanity end up being punished by the mechanism of justice.

**Translated by** Th. K. Stefanopoulos

**Directed by** Dimitris Lignadis

**Set and costume design** Eva Nathena

**Music** Giorgos Poullos

**Movement** Konstantinos Rigos

**Lighting design** Christina Thanasoula

**Cast** (in alphabetical order) Vasilis Athanasopoulos, Konstantinos Gavalas, Lydia Koniordou, Anastasis Laoulakos, Alkiviadis Maggonas, Laertis Malkotsis, Dimitris Papanikolaou, Argyris Pantazaras, Giannos Perlengas, Giannis Vogiatzis, Argyris Xafi

**31 JULY**  
**02 AUGUST**  
**2020**

National Theatre of Greece -  
Odysseas Paspaliopoulos

**Lysistrata**  
by Aristophanes



Popular actor Odysseas Paspaliopoulos ventures his first directorial attempts in an Aristophanes comedy at the Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus. *Lysistrata* was written in 411 BC, at a time when the Athenian city-state was at a critical point, in the midst of the Peloponnesian War. Following the disastrous Sicilian Expedition, Alcibiades had defected to Sparta. From their post in Decelea, the Spartans were fiercely attacking the Athenians. Within the walled city, the situation was equally grim, as the politically volatile situation weakened the Assembly and the oligarchs started making their present known. Originally presented at the Lenaia festival in 411 BC, *Lysistrata* sees Aristophanes placing women in the public eye, offering them the possibility of taking political action for all matters related to both their house and their city – a theme he will revisit in *Ecclesiazusae*. *Lysistrata*, whose name means ‘army disbander’, can definitely create her own utopia. Through his comedy, Aristophanes winks at politicians, offering a rather unorthodox solution.

**Translated by** Sotiris Kakisis

**Directed by** Odysseas Paspaliopoulos

**Set and costume design** Angelos Mentis

**Movement** Amalia Bennett

**Assistant director** Anastasia Stylianidi

**Music** Foivos Delivorias

**Lighting design** Nikos Vlasopoulos

**Cast** (in alphabetical order) Paris Alexandropoulos, Vangelis Daousis, Daphne David, Stefania Goulioti, Stelios Iakovidis, Giannis Kotsifas, Nefeli Maistrali, Giorgos Matziaris, Elpida Nikolaou, Agoritsa Oikonomou, Eleftheria Pagalou, Vasilis Papadimitriou, Katerina Patsiani, Nikos Psarras, Vicky Stavropoulou, Anastasia Sfendylaki, Manos Vavadakias, Vicky Volioli

**07 - 09**  
**AUGUST 2020**

National Theatre of  
Northern Greece  
Giannis Rigas

**The Birds**  
by Aristophanes



Fed up with the political, social and financial corruption of the city, Pesthetaerus and Euelpides go looking for Tereus, formerly a human and currently transformed into a Hoopoe, in order to learn from him and from the other high-flying and perhaps knowledgeable birds if there is a peaceful place where they could live. Together they intend to found a new republic, somewhere between heaven and earth, which will hold power over both humans and gods, and where birds will have their rightful place.

Aristophanes’ beloved, ageless comedy is presented in a National Theatre of Northern Greece production, directed by Giannis Rigas, translated by K. H. Myris and featuring an excellent cast. Taxiarchis Chanos and Christos Stergioglou portray the main characters, joined by a large cast of actors and dancers.

**Translated by** K. H. Myris

**Directed by** Giannis Rigas

**Set design** Kenny McLellan

**Music** Giorgos Christianakis

**Masks** Martha Foka

**Assistant director** Michalis Sionas

**Assistant to the director** Andreas Koutsourelis

**Costume design** Claire Bracewell

**Choreography** Dimitris Sotiriou

**Mask movement** Simos Kakalas

**Cast** (in alphabetical order) Eleftheria Aggelitsa, Chrysi Bachtsevani, Taxiarchis Chanos, Ioanna Dermetzidou, Dimitris Diakosavvas, Iovi Fragatou, Irinna Keramida, Marianna Kimouli, Giorgos Kolovos, Anastasia Rafaela Konidi, Mara Malgarinou, Tatiana Melidou, Cleo Danae Othoneou, Vasilis Papadopoulos, Grigoris Papadopoulos, Thanasis Raftopoulos, Thanasis Restas, Giannis Sampsalakis, Periklis Tsiountas, Katerina Sisinni, Vasilis Spyropoulos, Christos Stergioglou, Nikos Tsoleridis, Lila Vlachopoulou, Aristotelis Zacharakis, Christina Zacharov, Stefania Zora