



## PRESS RELEASE

### Shakespeare Lab

a Theatre Laboratory unique to Kalamata Drama International Summer School 2020



Our thoughts go out to all affected by the spread of Covid-19, especially those who have been bereaved, those who are vulnerable and those who suddenly find themselves out of work.

The last group includes all who work in the performing arts. It also includes those who train for theatre and dance, whose preparation and practice is founded on physical presence with other artists-in-the-making and whose study has been stopped or greatly modified.

We fully respect the current internationally adopted measures to prevent the spread of the virus and have therefore suspended the setting up of the full programme of the Kalamata Drama International Summer School 2020.

In August, however, government measures allowing, **KaDISS** shall resume classes at international level for new actors and performers-in-training and continue to contribute to the cultural and educational activities of the region.

For the summer 2020, we are replacing the full programme with the ***Shakespeare Lab***.

A unique **KaDISS 2020 Theatre Laboratory**, a three-week intensive immersion in the world of a play by William Shakespeare: its imagination-stirring language, its unforgettable characters, the thrilling action, the joys and sorrows of the human psyche, fused into universal poetic drama.

***Shakespeare Lab*** - a one-off programme for the actor-in-training and the young performer, will be led by theatre director Andrew Visnevski, whose work on embracing the technique required to act Shakespeare and on embodying the language of Shakespeare with actors and students internationally spans four decades.

As an extra, this year's special ***Shakespeare Lab KaDISS 2020*** presents ***I Am Shakespeare, Two Saturday Masterclasses for the Actor with Andrew Visnevski***. These unique masterclasses of two-hours' duration each will be hosted different venues in the Messina Region, and available to watch online. At the end of each masterclass, Andrew Visnevski will lead an open conversation on William Shakespeare's plays and answer questions from the participating students and those who will watch the masterclasses online.



**KaDISS Course Leader and Head of the Shakespeare Lab,  
theatre director Andrew Visnevski.**

Trained in acting at the Central School of Speech and Drama (1973-76) and began his directing career at the Young Vic Theatre, London. In 1978 he created The Cherub Company

London, a pioneering ensemble which, under his artistic leadership until 2003, re-discovered neglected classics, introduced European drama to UK repertoire and toured its productions on 3 continents, visited many festivals in Britain and abroad and mounted seven Edinburgh Festival Fringe premières. His freelance work includes productions in Holland, Poland and Greece; the first British multi-ethnic *Romeo & Juliet* at the Young Vic Theatre and UK tour; the British premières of two plays by Poland's outstanding contemporary poet and dramatist, Tadeusz Różewicz; a revival of Brecht's *The Life of Edward II of England* at BAC, Riverside Studios, The Place and on UK tour. He has written the award-winning stage adaptation of *Kafka's THE TRIAL*, which formed the basis for an opera at Dartington in 1986, also of *Kafka's THE CASTLE* and, in collaboration with Barbara Bogoczek and Tony Howard, of Mikhail Bulgakov's cult novel *The Master and Margarita*.

He founded and runs **Theatre Alive!** promoting and supporting the work of new professionals and creative aspiration in theatre. This and his continuing exploration of text-based physical theatre led him in June 2009 to direct Gogol's *Diary of a Madman* in Paris then, afterwards, in September 2010, he directed a new Greek translation of the same play for the Balkan Theatre Festival at the Albanian National Theatre in Tirana. A production of a contemporary adaptation of the play in French premiered at the Avignon Festival in July 2014 and was revived in Paris.

In 2012 in London, he directed *Phaedra* by Yannis Ritsos, a multi-cultural project with music by Javanese gamelan instrumentalist, Aris Daryono, and in collaboration with graduates of the RADA MA courses: Guillaume Pigé from France (Artistic Director of Theatre Re) and Huan Wang from China.

Most recently, he developed *Macbeth. A Dialogue* as the first stage in his exploration, as Honorary Research Fellow of the Queen Mary University, London, into the training of the contemporary actor and the tension between the language of early modern poetic drama and the language of the body; he presented the work at the 2016 Bloomsbury Festival in London and at a special performance for the students of the Royal Ballet School, Covent Garden, as part of its Creative Artist Programme. As part of the same exploration, his latest production, *Opium*, based on the book and drawings of Jean Cocteau, premiered at the RADA Festival, 28th June 2017. In all, Andrew Visnevski has directed over 100 productions.

His wide-reaching educational work includes heading the MA Courses at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art until 2017, many productions of classics and new plays, courses and projects as guest director for RADA and other leading drama schools in London, as well as supervising design projects for the Slade School of Fine Art. He was Associate Teacher on the new theatre directing course at the Drama School of the National Theatre of Greece (2018/19).

Professional Skills: Director (text-based physical theatre) – Classical and Early Modern Text, Classical and Continental Theatre; stage adaptation, devising; international workshops in interpreting Shakespeare in the UK, Belgium (regular encounters with the Brussels Shakespeare Society), Israel, France (collaboration with young actors-in-training of the Théâtre IRIS in Lyon) and Greece (2018 masterclasses for UTE Decentralised Academy).



**Shakespeare Lab** will run Monday-Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> August-5<sup>th</sup> September, from 10.00 in the morning to 16.00 in the afternoon. The total cost of participation is 500€. **For this year particularly we will accept up to 12 students.**

All the facilities, as advertised on the **KaDISS** website, will be available to participants of **Shakespeare Lab**.

Classes will take place at the Cultural Centre of Kalamata and a light brunch will be served every working day. All conditions for application and participation, as stated on the Kalamata Drama website apply to **Shakespeare Lab**.

The duration of the Masterclasses will be 2 hours. There is no added cost for the students of **Shakespeare Lab KaDISS 2020** - their participation is obligatory as part of their 3-week theatre training course.

### **About KaDISS:**

The Kalamata Drama International Summer School (**KaDISS**) is the outcome of a creative and educational collaboration between the **Maria Callas Alumni Association of the Music School of Kalamata** and **Theatre Alive!** The Summer School reaches out to young performers worldwide. It is aimed at professional actors, graduates of drama schools and young people who already have professional experience in performance, as well as those in other areas of the performing arts, such as opera and music theatre - who require an acting ability or foundation in acting - and who want to evolve their own methodology and skills in acting.

### **The founders of KaDISS:**

**Theatre Alive!** is a UK-founded non-profit making organisation devoted to promoting new work, new ideas, and new creative talent in all branches of theatre-associated arts. Its post-training and apprenticeship scheme, the first of its kind, has assisted the work of new theatre professionals: many young performers, designers, composers and technicians have made their debut under **Theatre Alive!** and have gone on to achieve success in their chosen profession. **Theatre Alive!** at its launch in 1995 received support and approval from arts practitioners of such calibre as:

Lord Attenborough, Alan Bennett, Kenneth Branagh, Michael Caine, Dame Judi Dench, Sir John Gielgud, Hugh Grant, Sir Nigel Hawthorne, Dame Wendy Hiller, Glenda Jackson MP, Sir Derek Jacobi, Dame Cleo Laine & John Dankworth, Paul Scofield and Sir Tom Stoppard.

**Theatre Alive!** has grown out of a cultural, educational and post-training guidance policy for young theatre practitioners initiated by The Cherub Company London in 1995. ([www.andrewvisnevski.com](http://www.andrewvisnevski.com))

**The Maria Callas Alumni Association of the Music School of Kalamata** is a non-profit making organisation founded in 2007. Membership is open only to graduates of the Maria Callas Music School of Kalamata. From the founding of the Association until today, the Maria Callas Alumni Association has actively participated in the cultural life of the city of Kalamata, of Greece and abroad. The Association in its commitment to education in the performing

arts has organised and presented more than 300 hours of open classes and seminars in voice coaching, classical percussion, sculpture, theatre and more. The Maria Callas Alumni Association of the Music School of Kalamata is a living cultural organisation, open-minded, inclusive and welcoming.

([www.mariacallas.gr](http://www.mariacallas.gr))

**Important note:**

**KaDISS team collaborates with the competent ministries and the Corona Virus office of the Municipality of Kalamata. All prescribed hygiene measures and protocols will be respected and followed in order to protect the health of the participants (twice daily disinfection of the facilities, brunch individually packaged for each participant etc).**

**If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us: [info@kalamatadrama.com](mailto:info@kalamatadrama.com) / tel: +030 6955933407**

**Please check the KaDISS site ([www.kalamatadrama.com/News](http://www.kalamatadrama.com/News)) for updates.**



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Fb page: **Kalamata Drama International Summer School**

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\*KaDISS works in collaboration with the [Maria Callas Alumni Association of the Music School of Kalamata](#) and [Theatre Alive!](#)

**THEATRE ALIVE!**

