

THE CAVE

By **ELLI PAPAKONSTANTINO** •  **ENSEMBLE**



Proud winners of the Music Theatre NOW 2018 competition

"Elli Papakonstantinou's THE CAVE takes us by storm with its powerful sound and visuals from the very first minute. Very much like today's worldwide "reality": a cacophony of social media, "news," non-stop visual information, and the voices of the multiple channels of information that bombard us from dawn to dusk. But, is this "reality" or are we still trapped in Socrates's cave?"

Jury Statement, Shoshana Polanco for the Jury Members of the 2018 edition of MusicTheatreNOW competition

★★★★★

...A veritable bombardment of all senses. Eye, ear and not least brain fought to keep up. It's strange and beautiful, ugly and cloudy....like everyone else in the chamber, I was blown away".

Bent Stenbakken, nordjyske.dk

★★★★★

...the piece redefines the meaning of contemporary musical theatre with a social message away from any reference to prosaic complaints. A substantial aesthetic event."

Dimitris Tsatsoulis, greek-theatre.gr

★★★★★

"An amazing cyber-punk new opera"

LIFO

★★★★★

"One of the best representatives of Greek avant-garde, Elli Papakonstantinou, never ceases to surprise us"

Maria Kryou, ATHINORAMA

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SHORT DESCRIPTION

A new Opera for Four Voices, santoor, piano & live electronics

Conceived and directed by Elli Papakonstantinou, this international co-production investigates parallels between today's virtual reality world, fake news and Plato's allegory of the *Cave*.

THE CAVE is a cyber punk opera on a popular theme Matrix. An oratorical opera in the intersection between opera, cinema and new technologies, this radical performance calls for critical reflection on fake news and post truth. It's a contemporary reinterpretation of Plato's famous "Cave" allegory. Shadow puppetry, new media, visuals and music are all performed in real time by a cast of four. Nothing is ever still. The Cave challenges the boundaries of contemporary opera, drawing from a variety of music genres. In the intersection of reality and fantasy, material & immaterial, with an emphasis on the exploration of self-truth. The staged transcription of the philosophical text is interwoven with intertextual adds - Buddhist sutras, hyperrealistic conversations etc.- and pinholes onto today's world. Socrates is a robot's voice and this sarcasm runs through out the piece. while mythological creatures pass as shadows of another world all too close to ours; In Plato's allegory people are chained in a cave and they are facing the inside of the cave whereupon they see the shadows of the outside world. In so doing, they interpret "reality" through this optic of the shadows. The cave brings out how the two-dimensional vision of the three-dimensional life translates in today's realities in misconceptions that we may have regarding what's going on as for example in the domains of politics, of society and of course ethics.

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ELLI PAPAKONSTANTINOY

Elli is a radical director, playwright, performer and visual artist based in Greece. She creates cutting edge music & new opera performances with an emphasis on new media and philosophical discourse. As part of her entrepreneurial drive, she has created the company ODC Ensemble as well as Vyrsopeiseio art space in Athens (2011-2017). Elli has studied and lived in the UK for over a decade and has worked in many countries. She has created and presented her work in places like the Edinburgh Festival, Opera House Cairo, LaMaMa E.T.C., NY, National Theatre of Greece, International Festival Iraq, etc.

In 2004, she spent Spring at the Music & Advanced Media Department, Princeton University with a Fulbright Artist's Award. She has been credited with a First Award at the BE Festival 2017 for the REP, (U.K.) and a First Prize Award Edinburgh Festival 2007, (U.K.). In 2015 she was selected to present her work at the PQ15 (Prague Quadrenial), National Greek Pavilion.

Elli is currently commissioned by Valetta18 Cultural Capital of Malta and is credited a Fulbright Foundation Award for developing her new creation at the Stanford University in 2018-19.

ODC ENSEMBLE

Established by theatre director Elli Papakonstantinou, ODC Ensemble is a radical theatre company based in Athens, Greece. ODC Ensemble makes *theatre of the polis*: theatre from, with & about citizens. ODC creates multidisciplinary performances that empower critical thinking with an emphasis on cutting edge music, new media and political discourse. ODC invents spaces of imagination that dislocate audiences beyond their comfort zone. The company fosters international partnerships in order to explore and break boundaries.

PRESS REVIEWS ABOUT ELLI PAPAKONSTANTINOY / ODC ENSEMBLE

"A brilliant performance..." **DEUTSCHE WELLE**

"Totally mad and mesmerizing... See it to believe it". **THE GUARDIAN**

"A bomb exploding at the foundations of the Greek festival!.." **ATHINORAMA**

"Tremendous aesthetic craft...a perfect combination of different arts" **CNN GREECE**

"An outstanding performance with a truly fresh approach." **BBC WORLDWIDE**

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THE ARTISTIC TEAM

Tilemachos Moussas was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. After his educational studies at the university, he also studies at Agostini and F. Nakas Contemporary Music Schools where he was offered a place and a scholarship to Berklee Music School.

He is a gardener of the Master Of Arts "Jazz Performance & New Technologies", Musical Studies Department, UOA.

In 2002 he formed his own jazz band "Tilemachos Moussas quartet".

He has worked with many important musicians such as Damo Suzuki, Savina Yannatou, Blaine Reininger, Julia Kent, Pamela Kurstin, Lena Norin, Michel Hatzigeorgiou, Missirli Ahmet, Georgia Sylleou, Thanos Anestopoulos, and has performed with artists such as Chico Freeman, Sheila Jordan, Jerome Rothenberg, Blaine Reininger, Julia Kent, Pamela Kurstin, Lena Norin, Michel Hatzigeorgiou, Missirli Ahmet, Georgia Sylleou, Thanos Anestopoulos, and has performed with artists such as Chico Freeman, Sheila Jordan, Jerome Rothenberg. He is a founding member of ODC Ensemble since 2009.

Pantelis Makkas is a visual artist, working mainly with video art. He studied Fine Arts and Photography in Athens, Prague and Amsterdam. He received a two year scholarship from De Ateliers (Amsterdam) for his Master in Fine Arts and he collaborated with Leiden University (2009-2015) for his doctoral artistic research on the subject of "Memory and Image". Except his personal work and research he collaborates with visual artists and theatre directors where he cares for the video and set design. He started collaborating with ODC Ensemble since 2014.

Olympia Mytilinaïou is a renowned cinematographer, based in Athens, Greece and working in the film industry of European co-productions. Most of her works in film productions have premiered at numerous prestigious film festivals all over the world, where she repeatedly has been awarded (the Xvii international Gianni Di Venanzo award, the New Cinematographers Award -Terre di cinema ect). Parallel she has been working as a lighting designer: lighting theater shows, live events and multimedia performances. She started collaborating with ODC Ensemble since 2016.

Tanja Diers is a dramaturge and curator based in Copenhagen. Since 2011 she is Cand.mag in Theatre and Performance Studies from University of Copenhagen with a Master's thesis about the aesthetics of Rimini Protokoll. In 2009 she studied at Freie Universität in Berlin under Prof. Dr. h.c. Erika Fischer-Lichte.

Tanja has worked at the Danish theatre Sort/Hvid for six years in close collaboration with Danish director and playwright Christian Lollike. At Sort/Hvid she has worked as dramaturg in a broad range of works – theatre, happenings, opera and performance in collaboration with many different artists – musicians, actors, visual artists and so called 'everyday experts' – always with a political outset.

She has a.o. worked with Rimini Protokoll, Das Beckwerk, Tue Biering and Cecilie Ullerup Schmidt & Andreas Liebmann. Additionally she has led a playwright's workshop for six years and curated three international festivals. She is currently external examiner at University of Copenhagen and Aarhus University.

She started collaborating with ODC Ensemble since 2017.



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ON TOUR

While still in progress, the 2018-19 tour includes workshops and the following performances:

Technis Theatre – Basement (GR) 31 January – 11 February 2018 [premier]

Be Festival for Birmingham Repertory Theatre (UK) 3-7 July 2018

Copenhagen Opera Festival, Folketeatret (DK) 7 August 2018

Aalborg Operafestival (DK) Teater Nordkraft 9 & 10 August 2018

Workshop in Aalborg for citizens, 10 August 2018

The Athens Concert Hall, Megaron (GR) 9 & 10 October 2018

Operadagen Festival (NL) 19 May 2019

New Media Department, Stanford University (USA), TBA

The Thessaloniki Concert Hall, (GR) TBA

Supported by:

The Greek Ministry of Culture, the European Union (Creative Lenses),
the Danish Arts Council and the Airanassis Foundation.



Identity / Contributors

Concept/ Libretto / Directing: Elli Papakonstantinou

Musical composition / Orchestration: Tilemachos Moussas

Video Design / Real-time video / Set and Costumes Design: Pantelis Makkas

Performers: Blaine L. Reininger, Anastasia Katsinavaki, Vivi Petsi, Marilena Chrisohoidi

Shadow puppet designer: Tassos Konstas

Dramaturgical collaboration: Stella Rapti, Tanja Diers

Assistant Director: Katerina Drakopoulou

Lighting design: Olympia Mytilinaiou

Piano, Music coaching: Anastasia Katsinavaki

Santoor: Marilena Chrisohoidi

Pedals & Effects: Blaine L. Reininger

Photography Credits: Karol Jarek, Elias Moraitis

Communication: Nicol Votsi

Production manager: Konstantina Angeletou

An ODC Ensemble production – supported by the Greek Ministry of Culture

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FULL PERFORMANCE THE CAVE

<https://vimeo.com/300060725>

password: caveforfestivals

TRAILER OF THE CAVE

<https://vimeo.com/302264132>

PHOTOS OF THE CAVE IN HIGH RESOLUTION

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/17Wps4yNs_5VVeyEpYkyyGaN65h8MPmd

MUSIC OF THE CAVE

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1AyYMaTnHG68ArKLUAaQsodEVB9k3g0j>

MORE INFO FOR THE CAVE

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mcAFdbjdtCMw3Ws_4y_H2JE01m0c9Wt/view?usp=sharing

THE ODC BOOK

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6aSMqbFwXOybHJMcfBkQ1R1SzUzSVlvLTJfaXBhOm1OV0JF>

CONTACT

For any enquiries, please contact us: info@odcensemble.com