



MAKRIYANNIS UNPLUGGED

ADAPTED, DIRECTED AND PERFORMED BY YORGOS KARAMIHOS

LOS ANGELES - MARCH 26, 2022

VANCOUVER - APRIL 3, 2022

ATHENS - APRIL 14, 2022

CAST AND CREW

Yorgos Karamihos

Adaptation - Direction - Performance

John Sofologis

Co-Director

George Filippakis

Translation into English

Mayme

Performance

Vaggelis Delivasilis

Light Designer

Areti Moustaka

Set and Costume Designer

Yannis Mathes

Sound Design - Music Composition / Supervision

Mirka Vlahou

Movement – Choreography

Running time – 1 hour, 15 minutes

ARTIST BIOS

Yorgos Karamihos is an acclaimed actor, director, and acting teacher. Born and raised in Northern Greece, he graduated from Ionian University, with a degree in Philosophy and History, as well as from The Greek National Theatre Academy. In 2012, he received a Fulbright Scholarship as an exceptional artist to study at the Stella Adler Academy of Acting & Theatre in Los Angeles, where he was immediately offered a position to teach his own acting technique. His credits as an actor include over forty theatrical productions from ancient Greek dramas and Shakespeare to Anton Chekhov, Tennessee Williams and other classical and modern plays. He has appeared in more than thirty feature films and in numerous TV series, including *The Durrells in Corfu*, *Bulletproof*, and *Genius (Picasso)*. Karamihos has also directed multiple theatrical productions in major venues in Greece and the United States. In 2008, he received the Best Stage Actor award of Greece. He has translated plays and books from English, French and Spanish into Greek and has published several theatre plays. #yorgoskaramihos

Mayme is an actress, singer, and composer based in Los Angeles. She has trained at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute, as well as the Interlochen Arts Academy, and is a Spotlight Singing Competition scholarship recipient. Mayme has won multiple songwriting and non-classical voice competitions run by the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) LA, and has been recognized by NATS Cal-Western for her Contemporary Commercial Music singing. She has performed numerous leading stage roles, including Paulette in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, Elizabeth in *The Book of Will*, Sylvia in *All Shook Up*, and the title role in Carlo Gozzi's *The Green Bird*. Mayme is thrilled to help bring Makriyannis Unplugged to life. #may_stel_

LETTER FROM THE ARTIST (YORGOS KARAMIHOS)



#aggeliki.kokkove

When I was asked in 2019 to select a theatrical play to direct as part of the celebration of the 200 years of Greek Independence, many Greek heroes, plays and stories crossed my mind. One of those heroes stood out right away as his talent, stamina and skills surpass the average and predictable heroic narrative. That hero is Ioannis Makriyannis, a poor, yet brilliant boy from a rural village somewhere in central Greece who grew into an exquisite general and governor of Athens during the horrible and challenging years of the war for Greek Independence against the Turks. During his life, he managed to cross so many dangerous paths of adventure, experience, consciousness and spirituality. He reinvented himself. Out of necessity he learned how to read and write, kill and heal, paint and pray. For me, he represents the story of Greece as a whole—a country that emerged from the darkest times of Ottoman rule and strived to become a nation overcoming the obstacles of the enemies and the burden of its own history. Makriyannis' *Memoirs* unplugged! In the early years of 1800 a man survives impossible tortures and challenges and offers us his rich memoirs full of touching, first-hand stories. Makriyannis is an authentic storyteller. And that's what theater is for me. And that's the only way for humanity to move on and thrive. Listening to stories... Watching stories... Relying upon the human experience... Risking... Inspiring and being inspired...

CHARACTERS/DRAMATIS PERSONAE



**Ioannis
Makriyannis**
(1797-1864)



**Georgios
Karaiskakis**
(1782-1827)

Military leader of the Greek Revolution.



**Alexandros
Mavrokordatos**
(1791-1865)

Reformer, diplomat, and politician. Backed a plot to murder Odysseas Androutsos.



**Ali
Pasha**
(1740-1822)

Regional Ottoman ruler and Pasha of Ioannina.

*Karl Krazeisen, Portrait of Ioannis Makriyannis, Lithograph (before 1928).
Gennadius Library, American School of Classical Studies at Athens.*



Omer Pasha Vryonis
Commander-in-Chief of the Sultan's forces in Greece.



Nikitas Stamatelopoulos (Nikitaras)
(c. 1784-1849)
Greek military leader, also known as Tourkophagos (the Turk Eater).



Odysseas Androutsos
(c. 1788-1825)
Greek general in the army of Ali Pasha and then commander of the Greek forces.



Andreas Vokos (Miaoulis)
(1769-1835)
Greek shipowner, politician, and naval commander.



Otto Friedrich Ludwig von Wittelsbach (Otto I)
(1815-1867)
Bavarian prince and first King of Greece.



Athanasios Diakos
(1788-1821)
Greek military leader, among the first who died for the Greek cause.



Ioannis Kolettis
(1773-1847)
Greek politician, founder of the "French Party," Prime Minister of Greece (1834-1835; 1844-1847). Implicated in the execution of Odysseas Androutsos.



Theodoros Kolokotronis (The Old Man of the Morea)
(1770-1843)
Commander-in-chief of the Greek forces in the Peloponnese.



Grigorios Dikaios (Papaflessas)
(1788-1825)
Greek clergyman, politician, and military leader.



Ioannis Kapodistrias
(1766-1831)
Greek diplomat and politician, Count. Foreign Minister of the Russian Empire, first Governor of the newly established Greek state.



Dimitrios Ypsilantis
(1793-1832)
Greek nobleman, military leader, and politician.



Laskarina Pinotsi (Bouboulina)
(1771-1825)
Ship owner, heroine of the Greek Revolution, naval commander.



*Dimitrios Zografos, The Siege of Athens. Watercolor.
Gennadius Library, American School of Classical Studies at Athens.*

ABOUT MAKRIYANNIS' MEMOIRS

The *Memoirs* of General Ioannis Makriyannis constitute one of the most unique texts in the history of Greek letters. They were composed by Makriyannis, who learned how to write specifically for this purpose, in the last half of his life in order to offer an account of his deeds and actions during the revolutionary war, the civil conflicts, and the post-revolution political life of the new state. Stashed away in a bin in the basement of the family house and forgotten for half a century, they remained unpublished until the scholar Ioannis Vlahogiannis managed to locate them with the help of Kitsos Makriyannis, the General's son. The transcription and the editing of the manuscript was a long and arduous process, and it took several months before it was finally published in 1907. The publication did not mark the end of the adventures for the manuscript, however. After Kitsos Makriyannis bequeathed it to the Historical and Ethnological Society of Greece, it disappeared. Its location is still unknown. Other than three pages that Vlahogiannis had reproduced when he announced his discovery, we have no other samples of the original manuscript.

The publication of the *Memoirs*, however, ensured them a lasting place in Greek literature. Their unique style, which captures much of the power of oral discourse together with the power of the subject matter, made them models for many authors and artists who found in them—and still do so—something essential for the expression of Hellenism. George Seferis, a fervent admirer of Makriyannis' language and style, offered a talk titled "A Greek—Makriyannis" in 1943, amidst the trials of World War II. There he remarked: "The content of Makriyannis' writing is the never-ending and tragic struggle of a human being who—carrying deep within him all the instincts of his nation—seeks liberty, justice, humanity." Seferis went on to observe about the literary qualities of the text: "Makriyannis' style is genuine and unique, in the same way that the difficulties he encountered were unique. His writing is a handmade construction. In every detail, in its intensity, in its ease, in its stumbling, one looks the passage of a human being full of life."



#malliaris.panagiotis

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

The UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture was established in 2017 by a lead gift from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) and matching funds provided by generous members of the Hellenic and Philhellenic community of Southern California. Featuring two named professorships in Hellenic Studies, graduate student funding, and support for the arts, the Center builds on UCLA's strengths across many academic fields, placing Hellenic culture within a broad historical and contemporary context. Located at one of the most prestigious public universities in the United States, the Center supports a comprehensive set of academic and public initiatives, both locally and through partnerships in Greece and Cyprus with universities and cultural institutions.

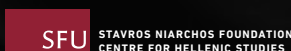
The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies was established in 2011 at Simon Fraser University through a large grant by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF). The Centre is a major site for Hellenic studies in North America and is committed to the advocacy and study of Hellenism. Along with the SNF New Media Lab, it is dedicated to bringing the latest in mobile technology and pedagogy to the teaching and learning of the Greek language and seeks to promote a better understanding of Hellenism in the community by staging events for academic and lay audiences throughout the year. The Centre also supports undergraduate and graduate studies on Greece's history, language and culture through its home department of the Humanities.

The Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens is one of Greece's national treasures. With more than 145,000 rare books, archives, manuscripts, research materials, and works of art the collections shed light on all periods of Greek history. Open to the public, the Library is a favorite workplace for Greek students and scholars alike and an invaluable resource for researchers worldwide. It also plays a leading role in the cultural life of Greece through public lectures, seminars, symposia, exhibitions, and publications in print and online. Utilizing modern technologies, it shares the riches of its collections through its website and social media.

The performances of *Makriyannis Unplugged* are sponsored by the UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University, and the Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

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