

PRESS RELEASE



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WHAT IF IT WAS YOU?

Video dance & live performances

Saturday 20.06.2020 at 8 p.m

Performance at Flux Laboratory Athens

Flux Laboratory Athens

12 Geronta str., Plaka (Athens)

+30 210 010 8357

athens@fluxlaboratory.com

www.fluxlaboratory.com

FLUX
LABORATORY
ATHENS

PRESS RELEASE

It is with great honor that Flux Laboratory Athens shares the dance project 'WHAT IF IT WAS YOU?' on the occasion of World Refugee Day, Saturday June 20, 2020.

Performed by artists Joanna Toumbakari and Andi Xhuma, and choreographed by Markella Manoliadi, the piece has been inspired by Imany's song "Take Care", aiming at conveying through dance a call for unity and encouragement among people.

The project has taken the form of a [video dance](#), directed by Andi Xhuma and will be openly disseminated through international social platforms and channels on Saturday, June 20. On the same day, the dancers will perform live with the participation of the audience in various, symbolically significant places in the center of Athens as well as Flux Laboratory Athens.

As a collective and symbolic effort, to embrace this year's World Refugee Day with a special momentum. Drawing upon the recent solidarity demonstrated by the global community and people's strength to applaud healthcare workers during the period of confinement, we invite the audience to sing with us and, symbolically, applaud as another gesture for solidarity and unity.

We specially thank the Embassy of Switzerland in Greece, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Municipality of Athens for their support.

Video directed by: Andi Xhuma

Choreography: Markella Manoliadi

Dancers: Joanna Toumbakari & Andi Xhuma

Music: 'Take Care' by Imany. From the Album 'The shape of the broken heart' (2011)

Production & Artistic Direction: Cynthia Odier, founder and artistic director of Fluxum Foundation and Flux Laboratory

Camera operator: Klaus Shehaj

Camera assistant: Fotini Xhuma

Please note: In compliance with the safety guidelines pertinent to social-distancing in the pandemic, our audience is kindly asked to follow the performances, wearing a mask or scarf. During the performance at Flux Laboratory Athens, the participants are encouraged to stand around the perimeter of the building, enjoying the piece through its open doors.

FLUX LABORATORY ATHENS

Flux Laboratory produces transdisciplinary artistic projects and experiments with new creative and collaborative processes. Since 2016, Flux Laboratory supports and produces projects in Greece under the auspices of the Embassy of Switzerland in Greece. The research core of Flux programming in Athens is the Body itself. The Body is being explored as an integral tool of artistic creation, a source of knowledge and experience as well as a dynamic element that underpins the concept of social cohesion and community development.

ABOUT THE DANCERS

Markella Manoliadi graduated with distinction from the State School of Dance in Athens in 2002. Afterwards she continued her studies in Europe taking part in workshops with Steve Paxton, Jeremy Nelson, Nancy Starks Smith, Trisha Brown, Julian Hamilton, David Zabrano, etc. She has collaborated as a performer with the National Theatre, National Theatre North Greece, National Opera of Greece, apotosoma dance co (Antonis Foniadakis) , Oktana dance co (Konstantinos Rigas), Wrong Movement dance co (Konstantinos Michos), Persa Stamatopoulou, Maria Gorgia , Ioanna Parali, Aggeliki Stellatou, Smack dance co, Quasistellar dance co, etc.

Currently she is experimenting on her own creative work and research how the moving body can exist into non-theater spaces. She teaches contemporary dance at the National School of dance and she is the director of Metaneira Dance School. Markella has choreographed her own performances in collaboration with visual artists. She is also the assistant choreographer of Andonis Foniadakis and Konstantinos Rigos.

Andi Xhuma studied dance at the National School of Dance in Greece (2009-2012). Since his graduation he has worked with choreographers and dance companies such as Yiannis Antoniou, Hannes Langolf, Ermira Goro, Konstantinos Rigos, Anton Lachky, Cocoon dance Company, DV8 physical theatre. In 2015 he started creating personal works on live stage and video with his short film «Normal day» winning awards in North America, Australia and Europe. In 2018 he made his debut as a choreographer along with Christos Xyrafakis with the show «OK, that's you» at the Onassis Cultural Centre.

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Joanna Toumpakari was born in Athens. She graduated from the Greek State School of Dance (cum laude) and continued her studies at London Contemporary Dance School. She has collaborated with many choreographers and directors in Greece and abroad, including Antonis Foniadakis, Konstantinos Rigos, Efi Birba, Yannis Kakleas, Yelp, Proschima, Zeta, Nova Melancholia. She holds a black belt in traditional kung fu and a trainer degree from the Greek General Secretariat of Sport. In 2016 she won first place in Chinese Wrestling World Championship that took place in Italy. She teaches contemporary dance and kung fu for professionals and amateurs.

CONTACT

Flux Laboratory Athens
Christina Dilari
cdilari@fluxlaboratory.com

+30 210 01 08 357

Flux Laboratory Geneva
Dima Alhosni
dalhosni@fluxlaboratory.com

+41 79 638 98 65