

Greek Mythology Offers Clues About Ancient Neonatal Care

A new analysis has determined that Ancient Greeks may have had considerable knowledge about how to care for premature babies, evidence of which is present in Greek mythology that describes of the birth of the god Dionysus.

According to a report by Athens News Agency, the analysis was done by doctors from Agios Savvas oncological hospital in Athens, working in collaboration with private colleagues in Hania.

The results of the analysis were presented at the 15th Hellenic Conference on Perinatal Medicine taking place in

Thessaloniki. In an essay entitled "Mythological description of an incubator", the doctors said that the description given in ancient myths of the birth of the god Dionysus and how he was cared for very closely approximates the requirements for an incubator used in modern hospitals.

According to some versions of the myth, Dionysus was born prematurely in the eighth month of pregnancy and had a low birth weight.

He was carried by the god Hermes to Mount Nysa and delivered into the care of the Hyades, the nymphs of

warm rain, that placed him in a cave having all the requirements of an incubator - an air filter, double lining and protection from draughts.

The ancient myth-makers did not, of course, describe technological appliances or fixtures but rather natural items that appear to serve an equivalent purpose.

The 'air filter' is a stand of pines planted by the Hyades at the entrance of the cave, the 'double lining' is formed by the branches of a virgin vine and the small god is protected from draughts by a covering of thick-

leaved ivy. Combined, these served to maintain a warm and slightly moist - in other words thermally neutral - environment for the newborn. The above is all in the realm of myth and may only indicate a of the imagination by some bolder story-teller of antiquity, rather than evidence that the ancients knew how to care for the newborn.

According to the , however, it would be a strange coincidence if the makers of the myth had hit upon the requirements needed without this knowledge having arisen from some specific experience or practice of the time.

'Out of the Blue' & Muse Events present

ZAMBETOLOGIES

a tribute to the legendary

GEORGE ZAMBETAS

George Zambetas was born on January 25, 1925 and passed on March 10, 1992. "As a composer, Geoge Zambetas has a place in the top 10 of Rembetika (Greek Blues) and Laiko music, amongst names such as Vamvakaris, Tsitsanis, Papaioannou, Mitsaki, Toundas, etc. As a bouzouki player, in my

opinion, he was always the best, in the sense of his personal sound and playing style. As a showman, he was unique. A phenomenon! An artist, which if he had been born in America would possibly become a known personality in the world's music scene".

Lefteris Papadopoulos

Peter Kalandranis was born in Patmos, Greece in 1952 and has been involved with music since 1974. He first started playing the classical guitar with Don Andrews before starting to explore other instruments such as the bouzouki, baglama and other string instruments. He has been a member of groups such as "Deep Image" and the "Olympians" before starting his own groups "Para Pente", "Entehni" and finally heading his own productions with "Out of the Blue" since 2005.

Tomas Papadimitriou was born in Langa, Kastoria. At 14 he began studying music at the London College of Music and the Melbourne conservatorium, playing keyboards professionally by the age of 17. The highlight of his musical career came in 1976 with his band "Solid Touch" where they performed with George Zambetas himself.

Dimitri Vouros studied clarinet, piano, saxophone, and flute at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and bansuri (Indian bamboo flute) with Pundit Ashok Roy. He has performed and recorded with many jazz and world music groups over the years. Most recently he has performed with the Kurdish group Heval, the oud player Josef Tawandrow and now "Out of the Blue".

Georgette Giatis was born in Sydney in 1967, was raised in South Africa. Upon her return to Australia she joined "Out of the Blue" and has sung for Cafe Carnivale, for the Greek Festival of Sydney and shined at the Greek Blues concerts in 2008. Her influences are derived from her Greek

heritage and specifically from Epirus, Asia Minor and the Dodecanese.

Panayiota Bindas is Georgette's 9 year old daughter and has always been somehow involved in the shows her mother has been part of since she was five. After her experience with the Greek Blues productions, she has started taking singing and acting more seriously, becoming a member of the Zambetologies ensemble as a singer.

Tony Karagiannakis (Karrys) was born in 1959 in Queanbeyan NSW moved to Greece at the age of 11 where for the next seven years he would be influenced by different styles of Greek music. In 1977 he moved to Athens and was exposed to Byzantine music and followed lessons for two years. He returned to Australia in 1984 and has since been the lead vocalist of the Canberra based Group "Odyssey" and "Enosi".

Petros Apostolidis was born in 1970 in Sydney where he started leaning the bouzouki at the age of 12. His influences come from the contemporary Greek music of the 80s and 90s with an interest in eastern music and the Balkan regions. He joined "Out of the Blue" in 2008 for the Greek Blues concert and has been a valued member since.

Nestoras Petsalis started playing drums in 1969. By 1973 he had met Thomas who took him under his wing and guided him through the Greek music scene where we supported many known Greek artists including George Zambetas in 1975.

Imogen Granwai has completed a

Post Graduate Diploma at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music studying with Lois Simpson. She performs frequently as a freelance classical musician around Sydney and Wollongong in chamber groups for live performance and also for recordings. Her special area of interest is Latin American New Song and she was awarded a Grant from the Australia Council to pursue this interest which resulted in an enlightening trip to Cuba. Imogen also plays viola da gamba.

Stamatis Valacos Graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 1994 and has taken part in and recorded with Jazz and Latin groups, including Ian and Nigel Date, George Washingmachine, So Frito, Oscar Hermancez, Big Wheel, Don Hopkins, John Morrison's swing city. He plays the double bass and seven string guitar.

George Nikolopoulos is a guitarist known for his versatility to perform in many musical genres such as Jazz, Greek, Rock, African and Reggae. A Graduate of the Sydney conservatorium of Music George has performed at festivals in Europe and Australia as well as being active doing studio work, Musicals and performing live with various artists and bands.

Themistoklis Ioakimidis has just turned 20. He has been surrounded by Greek music since birth. At age nine he started to learn the guitar with Giannis Polkas. His constant interaction with the Greek music scene (with dad Paul owning the Steki Taverna in Newtown) drove him to start to learn the bouzouki at age seventeen.

