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THE GREEK FESTIVAL OF SYDNEY
THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN GREEK (UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY)
AND THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY GREEK SOCIETY

PRESENT

THE GAME OF FOLLY AND PRUDENCE

A play by George Theotokas - Dramaturgic Instruction: Vrasidas Karalis - Mimika Valaris

G. Theotokas (1905-1966) is one of the most widely read Greek writers of the twentieth century. His novels (especially Argo) have nurtured Greek readers to this day. In the 40s, during the German Occupation and the looming Civil War, Theotokas proceeded with his artistic project to establish what he called "Neo-hellenic Popular Theatre" based not on antiquity but on Greek folk songs (demotic songs) and present them on stage.

In 1944 he wrote "the most Shakespearian of Greek comedies", the Game of Folly and Prudence, which was based on a popular song from Byzantium.

The song itself refers to the period when the Comnenoi Dynasty ruled in Constantinople. Especially it talks about Andronicus Comnenus who reigned only for two years (1183 -1185) and caused immense suffering to the peoples of the Byzantine Empire. A handsome and charismatic man, Andronicus was an insatiable womaniser who became notorious for seducing countless women of the aristocracy and of the common populace with democratic equality.

As emperor he tried to restrain the power of aristocracy imposing a gruesome state of terror. He was finally overthrown and after his failed escape he was delivered to the mob of Constantinople. His was then dismembered and executed in public after horrible tortures.

Despite such abominable death, his memory, especially because of his struggle against the aristocracy of landlords, became a legend amongst ordinary people and many folk songs were dedicated to him.

Theotokas took the most popular of all "Of Mavrianos and his sister" and adapted it for the theatre in 1944 when Greece was preparing itself for a civil conflict between Right and Left wing parties after the Liberation from the Germans.

The comedy is one of the most widely performed plays in modern Greek theatre. It is unique for its witty punch-lines, its fast pace, its diverse and extremely funny characters.

For the first time it was staged by the doyen of Greek theatre Socrates Karantinos in 1947; and ever since all major actors of Greece have performed it as one of the most successful and funniest comedies written in Greek since the time of Aristophanes.

THE STORY

Emperor Andronicus, as the leader of the party of Folly is boasting at a banquet that he can seduce any woman he wants. The leader of the party of Prudence Mavrianos challenges him by claiming that no one can seduce his sister Arete. They bet if he succeeds in seducing Arete he will execute Mavrianos; otherwise he will lose his crown and live in exile. In the second act Theotokas introduces the "bird of folk songs", which informs Arete and her maids about the challenge. Arete decides to act with cunning and masquerades one of her servants as herself. When Andronicus and his accomplice Dukas arrive, the trap is set – and they fall in it without hesitation. In the next act Andronicus presents to the Senate a lock from Arete's hair with a diamond as the proof for his success. At that moment Arete arrives and the whole ruse is revealed. Andronicus loses the throne and is thrown into prison.

However Arete is frustrated with what she did. So she decides to free Andronicus. With the assistance of her maids she goes to the prison and disguises Andronicus as a monk. He then escapes and the play becomes a moral tale about how, while virtue prevails, the spirit of madness always lives on, offering a sense of freedom and jubilation to everybody.

The play ends with a celebration of life.

CAST:

Andronicus: Gregory Vetsikas
Arete: Karly Pantoulis
Doukas: Harry Mavrolefteros
Maroulina: Eleni Marketos
Zambeta: Antonia Roussakis
Konstantis/The Bird: Marcus Harvey
Maurianos: Angelo Bellas
First maid: Stavroula Pappadopoulou
Second maid/servant: Ekaterini Antzoulatos
Third maid: Chloe Constantine
Chris Sergis: Staurakios
Chris Papadopoulos: Leontios
Christian Katsikaros: Servant – Guard – Archon
Mimika Valaris: Servant/Archon

VENUE: FUSEBOX (FACTORY Theatre)

105 VICTORIA ROAD, MARRICKVILLE
SYDNEY

4 & 5 JUNE 8 PM

6 JUNE 2.00 pm. & 6.00



The President of the Kytherian Association, Mr Victor Kepreotis with Guest of Honour Ada Nicodemou and Helen Zerefos OAM at the 88th Annual Kytherian Ball at Star City Casino Ballroom last Saturday 29 May 2010.

ΖΗΤΕΙΤΑΙ ΚΟΠΕΛΑ ΓΙΑ ΟΔΟΝΤΙΑΤΡΕΙΟ

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