

**Socrates  
NOW**



*Take a seat in the court of ancient Athens as Socrates goes on trial for his life. Hear the philosopher face his accusers with his trademark wit, cutting logic, and the courage of his ideals.*

*Consider his arguments on virtue, justice, politics, corruption, civic duty, love of life and hope in death, and draw your own judgment.*

*Enjoy the post-performance opportunity to discuss with the actor the ramifications of your verdict.*

**Think. Question. Change.**

## THE PERFORMANCE

*Socrates Now* is a delightful and quite humorous dramatization of the famous philosopher's defence and his rebuttals to a guilty verdict and sentence to death. In the *Apology*, reported to us by Socrates' disciple, Plato, the wise man of Athens firmly and eloquently defends himself - rather than apologizing in the contemporary sense - against politically motivated accusations of not believing in the gods of the state, and of corrupting the Athenian youth.

Yannis Simonides channels the eccentric yet magnetic personality of Socrates and offers a profoundly social, political, but above all human work which captivates the audience with the humour, immediacy and simplicity of its theatrical rendition.







Performance and open discussion beneath the Acropolis

## GLOBAL REACH

'*Socrates Now*' premiered in New York in 2004 and has since been performed to great acclaim in **more than 485 theatres**, festivals, companies, communities, public spaces, schools, libraries and universities across



Actor / Director: Emmy Award winner **Yannis Simonides**

Original Direction & Mask Concept: **Loukas N Skipitaris**

English Translation: **Yannis Simonides & Loukas Skipitaris**

Oscar & Tony Award winner: **Theoni Vahliotes-Aldredge**

Percussion: **Caryn Heilman**



# INTERNATIONAL REVIEWS

"A superhuman effort on the part of the actor in a splendid coordination of text, movement and speech"

**Luxembourger Wort, Luxembourg**

"A performance full of humanity, humor, simplicity, which surprises with its immediacy and its verities"

**Ethnos, Greece**

A fascinating, powerful performance – a unique opportunity for our students!

**Brussels International School News, Belgium**

"Restless, humorous, brilliant and fascinating"

**Odyssey Magazine, USA**

"The Apology of Socrates fascinates Bulgaria: in a packed theatre, Sofia's audiences awarded Yannis Simonides with a real storm of applause for his inspiring performance"

**Sofia Times, Bulgaria**

"Socrates unbound! One uniquely obsessed and multi-talented actor has set himself the decidedly idiosyncratic mission of proving the transcendent dramatic power of the ancient philosopher"

**American Theatre, USA**

"Simonides thrilling audiences in Sharjah and around the world"

**Gulf News, Dubai**

"Sophisticated, jazzy mind stimulation!"

**Lyiv University News, Ukraine**

"Honestly- what an absolutely memorable performance! So many teachable moments from the performance. Yannis is an inspirational actor and practitioner- we were inspired by his words to our students and they were mesmerized. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

**American International School, Riyadh**

"Yannis Simonides undertook a titanic challenge and gave a legendary solo performance"

**Pankoaki, Greece**



## RELEVANCE

At a time when a great part of the world is in profound social, political and financial crisis, at a time when the very foundations of contemporary society are challenged on a global level, Socrates' thought appears more pertinent and patently applicable than ever. Beyond the potential of this project as an invaluable tool for intercultural dialogue, *Socrates Now* offers a unique opportunity for the audiences of the world to engage their demons fearlessly and creatively in a life-changing yet highly entertaining theatrical exercise.



Performance at Ephesus Library, Turkey



# ATHENS SUMMER RUN | 2012 - 2016

Athens University Museum beneath the Acropolis

Elliniko Theatro & Visionary Culture  
proudly present:

# Socrates NOW.



In English  
with Greek  
surtitles

**The Apology of Socrates**  
Plato's timeless classic comes to life beneath the  
Acropolis. A celebrated theatrical experience that  
captures the essence of Socratic ethics in an  
accessible and engaging manner!

Think. Question. Change.







ATHENS SUMMER RUN



**100** open air performances  
**10000** participants  
from **50** countries





# ENGAGING CITIZENS ACROSS GREECE AND THE WORLD | 2001 - 2020



Amidst a dire economic climate the programme of performances across Greece relies heavily on pro bono work by the actor and the EllinikoTheatro team, and on invaluable in-kind support from partnering schools and theatres.



## ENGAGING STUDENTS IN THE UK | 2013



The 2013 performances in public & state-funded schools in the UK were generously sponsored by the Pia Zombanakis Fund

# INTERACTIVE ETHICS SEMINARS

Corporate companies, world-class universities including Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Michigan, Cambridge, and Oxford and international schools have combined the performance with 30 to 90-minute interactive seminars led by experienced actor/teacher Yannis Simonides himself:

*We by no means offer a 'lecture' ; it is all about putting the Socratic method (what he called 'midwifery' ) into practice: asking questions, debating, arguing. The session usually begins with an informal Q&A session on the play which inevitably leads to zealous debates amongst participants of all ages and backgrounds on issues of ethics, citizenship, truth, justice and the relevance of Socrates' thought in contemporary society.*

Each session is tailored according to each target audiences' preferences and interests.



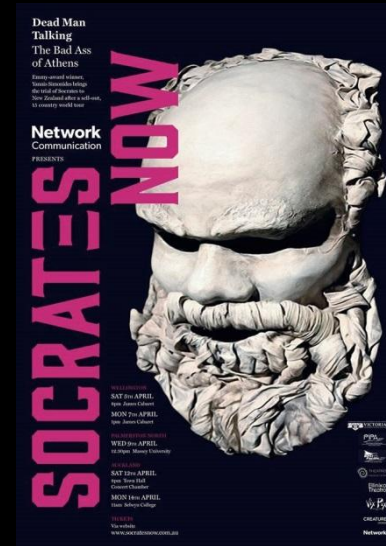
Yannis Simonides was invited to speak at TEDxAcademy, Athens 2012



## MULTILINGUAL PRODUCTION

The performance is given in English or Modern Greek but can be presented in any country using an ingenious on-stage PowerPoint projection of the famous text in the language of the particular audience. *Socrates Now* has thus been already presented in Spanish, French, Bulgarian and Russian, Swedish and Turkish while translations of the text in German, Polish, Italian, Chinese and Arabic are currently being developed. Additional translations may be created upon request.

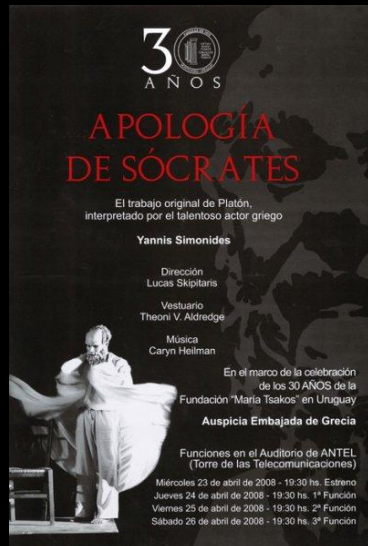
## New Zealand



## Belgium



## Uruguay



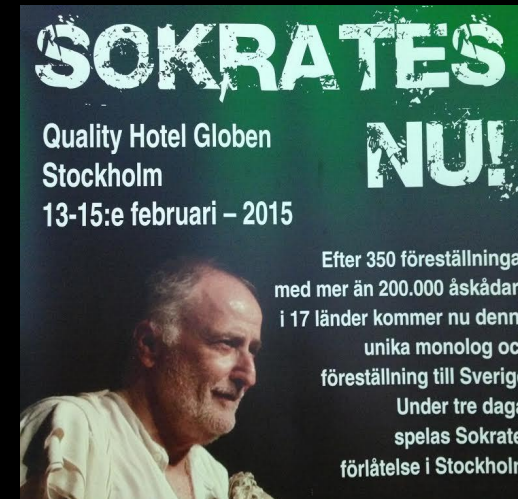
## Turkey



## Ukraine



## Sweden



## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The production is simple and flexible enough to adapt to all possible spaces and has been performed with equal success in diverse venues, from classrooms and public squares to 2000 seat theatres and archaeological sites. The list below is indicative - exact light and sound queues are determined during technical rehearsal, on the day before each performance.

- A theatre or facility with adequate theatrical lighting
- Two technicians (sound and lights)
- A reliable sound system connected to CD player, MiniDisc or laptop, and a lavalier (lapel) microphone
- One plain wooden table and three wooden chairs of the same style and hue
- A platform (min. dimensions 2m x1m x 30cm)
- For surtitles (if needed): a large screen (min. 3m width x 2m height) in the middle or at the back of the stage, ideally starting at 2m (above artist) upwards. A reliable projector connected to our laptops in tech booth and a bilingual volunteer to achieve perfect coordination of text and action on stage.





## BOOKINGS for Performances & Masterclasses

The fee for the performance + interactive seminar 'package' worldwide is negotiable depending on availability of grants and each hosts' capabilities. The more performances are scheduled in a country/ region/ city the lower the cost for each partner organization.

In 2020 - 2021, *Socrates Now* will continue its world tour across Europe, the USA, Canada, Asia and Africa in collaboration with visionary culture

For bookings and further information:

Greek Theatre Foundation  
Nina Poulos Ramage  
31-01 Vernon Blvd, 309  
Astoria, NY 11106

In Athens:  
theSwitch  
3, Sahtouri St., Psirri  
105 53, Athens

40years@ellinikotheatro.org  
www.ellinikotheatro.org

The logo for Elliniko Theatro, featuring the words "Elliniko" and "Theatro" stacked vertically in a white, sans-serif font, set against a dark teal square background.

Elliniko  
Theatro



## THE PROTAGONIST

**Yannis Simonides**  
**Actor**  
**Director**  
**Teacher.**

Born in Constantinople and raised in Athens, he is a Yale trained actor, director, producer. He has served as professor and chair of the New York University Tisch School of the Arts Drama Department and as the executive director of Hellenic Public Radio in New York. He is the founder and director of the Greek Theater of New York (EllinikoTheatro), which is celebrating 40 years of continuous service. His performance work includes plays by Euripides, Sophocles, Aristophanes, Shakespeare, Moliere, Brecht, Kazantzakis and others, along with solo and ensemble pieces culled from the writings of Plato, Cavafy, Makriyannis, Gogol and others. He has received support from the National Endowment for the Arts (USA), the Greek Ministries of Culture, Education and Foreign Affairs, the Onassis, Kostopoulos, Niarchos, Tsakos and Leventis Foundations, IBM, Mobil and Time Warner. He has narrated the PBS television specials Axion Esti, Visions of Greece and Return to the Homeland, and he has received an Emmy award for producing and narrating the documentary A Light Still Bright on the Greek community of Istanbul. He has performed the Apology of Socrates to hundreds of thousands of audiences worldwide, and is scheduled to take it on tour in the USA, Georgia, Switzerland, Scotland, Greece and Cyprus through 2017. As a founding member of the international literary organization The Readers of Homer, he has co-produced marathon audience-participation readings-celebrations of the Iliad and Odyssey in Chios and Kos in Greece, the Library of Alexandria, the University of Uruguay in Montevideo, the 92nd Street Y in New York, the Roman Odeon in Troy, the Getty Villa in Malibu and Les Halles de Schaerbeek in Brussels. He is currently at work on a theatrical rendition of Plato's Republic and on Euripides' Bacchae with Maori artists in New Zealand. He was recently honored by the city of Athens as Ambassador of Hellenism for his lifelong service to Greek arts and letters worldwide.



# EllinikoTheatro

**EllinikoTheatro** is an international non-profit organisation aimed at promoting Hellenic arts and culture worldwide. Since 1979 and with New York as its initial base, our organization seeks to bring classical, medieval and contemporary Hellenic literature and the performing arts beyond national boundaries and traditional theatre spaces, into schools, universities, festivals, companies, communities and public spaces around the world. Minimal sets and casts and bi-lingual productions—often enhanced by inventive projections of surtitles in several languages and post-performance discussion seminars with audiences—make our work globally accessible and attractive to a wide range of hosts and sponsors.



At the heart of our work is a profound belief in the diachronic and universal value of select Greek texts and plays and the conviction that theatre is a unique means of expression, communication and learning, as well as an invaluable instrument for creative initiatives that aim to enhance social cohesion and economic development. Today, with a second base in Athens, 'the most accomplished theatre of the Greek Diaspora' (Melina Mercouri, 1982) aims to develop into an innovative carrier of cultural diplomacy, expanding the temporal, spatial and social boundaries of Greek Theatre.

The logo consists of a dark teal square containing the text "Elliniko Theatro" in white. The text is arranged in two lines, with "Elliniko" on top and "Theatro" below it. The font is a clean, modern sans-serif typeface.

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[www.ellinikotheatro.org](http://www.ellinikotheatro.org)