

Music School of Agrinio : Theatrical Performances

The Music School of Agrinio has a rich background in theatrical performances. Every year the school becomes an art workshop for students, despite the limited time available, and under the guidance of Ms Vaia Spyreli, who is a drama teacher, and other teachers, the people involved find in their theatrical games such sweet escapes : school productions become a field of free and creative exploration. Below are brief glimpses at the theatrical activities of our school.

2003 - 2004: The King's Vassilikos by Pantelis Floropoulos



2003 was European Year for People with Disabilities. The students of the Music School of Agrinio, always sensitive to such causes, dedicated their work to the children with disabilities, their families, and the ***Greek Society for the Protection and Rehabilitation of Disabled Children (ELEPAP)*** of our city.

2004 - 2005: Three short plays by Strindberg, Brecht, and Chekhov



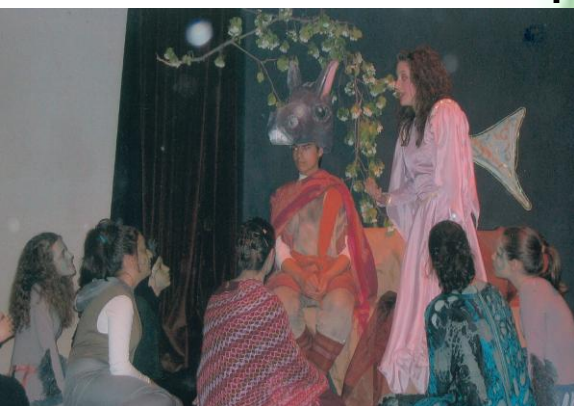
With three short plays by Strindberg, Brecht, and Chekhov, the Music School students in collaboration with the local branch of ***OKANA (an organization which supports people with a drug addiction)*** expressed their own reflections on key issues and timeless problems of human societies.

a) ***The stronger***, by Strindberg. A comment on the savagery of human relations.

b) ***The Jewish Wife***, by Brecht. A protest against racism.

c) ***The Proposal***, by Chekhov. A satire on the manners of the peasants in a Russian province.

2005 - 2006: Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream



Shakespeare's ***Midsummer Night's Dream***, is a study on love seen from a light-hearted perspective through the author's poetic language and skillful imagination. The play is a multifaceted and demanding theatrical work of art with which the Music School students participated in the local ***Art Contest for Students*** in 2006, organized by the Ministry of Education.

2006 - 2007: Loula Anagnostaki's *Victory*



During the school year 2006-2007, the students of the Music School of Agrinio worked on Loula Anagnostaki's *Victory*. Loula Anagnostaki's plays deal with such issues as an individual's value and freedom which can sometimes lead to self-destruction. With this work, the author expresses mainly the Greek experience through the absurd element that dominated the global theatre at the time. The author manages to penetrate the depths of the human soul. Her characters are inadequate human beings, incomplete, uncertain, oppressed by the nightmare that is their past. Despite the difficulty of the task, the students were able to give outstanding performances.

2007-08 *The Sound of Music* based on the memoir of Maria von Trapp and the book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse



The Sound of Music, by Roger and Hammerstein, was staged by the Drama Group of the Music School of Agrinio in 2007-08. This is the first time that the Music School of Agrinio experimented with this theatrical genre which is very demanding. The team worked hard, passionately and lovingly alongside a number of other people whose financial, moral and artistic contribution helped in the realization of the project.

2008 - 2009: Theatrical Performances at the Ancient Theatre of Oiniades



1. *Song of The Bridge*, an original composition based on the folk song *The Bridge of Arta* adapted for the stage by Drama Coach Vaia Spyreli.



2. *This is the Way the World Moves on*, a short story by Art teacher Sophia Sidiropoulou that was adapted and produced by class C1 & C2 students of the Music School of Agrinio. Both performances were presented for an audience on April 30, 2009, at the ancient theatre of Oiniades.

2009-2010: Euripides's *Iphigenia at Aulis*



During school year 2009 -2010, the drama group of the Music School of Agrinio decided to stage Euripides's tragedy *Iphigenia at Aulis*.

In this particular play, the ancient Greek dramatist conveys Iphigenia's strong will to live and her agony in the face of death and celebrates at the same time Iphigenia's bravery and sense of duty.

This project won the Music School of Agrinio first prize at the 1st Drama Festival for students organized by the local cultural and educational authorities.

2010 - 2011: "*Bilio in Arta*" by Music School student Irene Gorgolitsa



In 2011 the Music School participated in the 2nd Drama Festival for students organized by the local cultural and educational authorities with a play by one of our students. The main idea was to fashion a play from the beginning and bring it through the necessary stages of preparation until its final performance. The play was entitled *Bilio in Arta* and came as a continuation of the two previous performances of the Music School *The Bridge of Arta* and *Iphigenia at Aulis*, in the fashion of ancient Greek theatrical contests when after two tragedies a satirical drama or comedy should be staged next. We chose a parody which is the reworking of a famous myth in comic/satirical mode. Our version had all these elements and it is wonderful that the inspiration came from a 15-year-old schoolgirl. The theme was the sacrifice of the mason's wife in order for the building of the Bridge in Arta to be completed. The text is brightened with burlesque dialogues inspired from *Iphigenia at Aulis* by Euripides. A text subversive on many levels.