



Call for submissions: performances and papers

Between the Seas Festival
New York City, August 29th- September 4th 2011

Join us in celebrating contemporary Mediterranean culture!

MISSION:

Between the Seas Festival is organized for the very first time in New York City from **August 29th to September 4th 2011 at the Wild Project** theater space in the heart of the East Village. The festival seeks to engage performing artists and researchers from the Mediterranean and Mediterranean diaspora with the following goals:

- Share with New York City audiences the vibrancy and diversity of contemporary cultural production from the Mediterranean, aspects of which often remain inaccessible and under-represented in North America
- Encourage exchange and future artistic collaborations between NYC-based and Mediterranean-based artists
- Contribute to the examination of Mediterranean identity/ies by encouraging discussion and exploration of the region's commonalities and differences as manifested in arts, history, culture, geography and politics
- Generate interest and debate over Mediterranean identity and culture, envisioning the region's potential as a model of cross-cultural exchange beyond polarizing and homogenizing discourses.

BACKGROUND:

The vision for this festival was sparked by our need, as diasporic Mediterranean artists, to celebrate the dynamism of the Mediterranean's younger generation of artists while emphasizing the region's long and complex history of cultural exchange and envisioning its position in today's globalized world. This initiative also comes as a response to the growing number of institutions and policies, particularly in Europe, that aim at studying and supporting Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean relations. More recent events, such as the radical economic and social changes in Southern Europe, civil unrest in North Africa and the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, make our effort to use culture in order to understand the region all the more pertinent. With Between the Seas our hope is

to create links between the Mediterranean and North America and contribute to the representation of region in New York.

The festival is produced by **Les Manouches Theater Company** with the collaboration of distinguished scholars, theater practitioners and festival managers from the US and Europe. For more information visit:
www.betweentheseas.org

We now invite submissions for artistic performances and scholarly papers from emerging and established artists, researchers and academic practitioners. The **deadline for submissions is March 30th 2011**. Please see below for information and submission guidelines in each category.

PERFORMANCE

We invite full and short length works, fully developed or works in progress, original or previously presented, in the fields of **theater, dance and music**. Selected applicants will perform alongside a group of curated artists in a total of approximately 15 different performances during one week. Some of the themes that the works may address are:

-Mediterranean identity/ies

Works that explore or are inspired by life, identities and histories in or across Mediterranean societies

-Living in-between:

Works exploring or inspired by diasporic Mediterranean identities

-Contemporary works and adaptations

Performances of existing and new works by contemporary Mediterranean playwrights/choreographers/composers. Adaptations or new interpretations of the classics in ways that highlight contemporary Mediterranean realities or explore new aesthetic, techniques and interpretive models emerging in the region.

Submission Guidelines for Performances:

Please submit

- A brief cover letter explaining your interest in the festival
- A detailed project description [not longer than 3 pages]. Please specify your technical needs. We advise you to keep your technical requirements very simple as all performances will be staged in the same theater space using the general festival lighting plot. [To find out more about the theater space and its technical specs, please visit:
www.thewildproject.com]

- Work samples [photos, script excerpts, video samples of past work or of previous presentations of the proposed project]
- Resumes of the primary artists involved and company information
- A non-refundable application fee of \$50 [USD]. The application fee can be paid **online** on our website or **by check** – please visit www.betweenthe seas.org

All applicants will be notified of the results by **May 15th 2011**. Selected applicants will be required to pay a \$300 participation fee to offset the cost of space rental and publicity [selected applicants will be notified of payment deadlines and details].

Artists will receive:

- A minimum of two performances of their work during the festival week in a fully equipped theater. Festival participants must provide their own cast, crew and technical staff- we do not produce individual shows.
- Approximately four hours of rehearsal time in the space.
- Inclusion in all of the festival's publicity and promotion materials
- 50% of the box office earnings from the performances of their work. [The Wild Project is a 87-seat theater and ticket prices will range between \$10-\$20].

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Adjacent to the main festival, this mini-conference seeks to bridge academic research with performance practice, provide the theoretical framework for the festival and engage the audiences in a broader discussion of the various parameters of Mediterranean history and identity and how it has been shaped over time. The conference will be organized in thematic panels held in different days during the duration of the festival.

We invite short papers [15-20 minutes] by researchers, graduate students and academic practitioners from across the Humanities and particularly from the areas of: Performing and Visual Arts; Cinema Studies; Comparative Literature; Cultural Studies; Mediterranean, European and Middle Eastern Studies; Diaspora Studies; Postcolonial Studies; History, Political and Social Sciences; Classics. Themes that the papers may address include but are not limited to:

- Arts in the Mediterranean: theater, dance, music, cinema, visual arts. Contemporary trends and creators; reception and impact of specific works; artists, works, the creative process and their sociopolitical milieu; representation of identities in contemporary Mediterranean works.
- Transcultural exchanges in the Mediterranean region from antiquity to present: historical connections in the region; transculturalism: arts, food, religion, environment, customs and social practices, commerce; contemporary policies and exchanges.

-Beyond the Mediterranean: Diasporic Mediterranean identities and their representations; immigrations from/to the Mediterranean; European Union and the Mediterranean.

Submission Guidelines for Conference Participants

Please submit:

-A 250-word abstract

-Author's resume

Applicants will be notified by **May 15th 2011**.

While the festival cannot guarantee at this time financial support for out-of-town and international applicants, we will make any effort to assist applicants with their travel arrangements and whenever possible with their costs. However we strongly encourage international applicants to start looking for funding resources through institutions and sponsors in their countries early on. Feel free to contact the organizers at lesmanouchestheatre@gmail.com for advice and information.

Deadline for performance and paper applications: March 30th 2011.

Application materials can be emailed to

lesmanouchestheatre@gmail.com [please indicate PERFORMANCE or PAPER submission in the subject line] or sent by mail to the

following address:

c/o Aktina Stathaki

152 West 131st street

New York NY 10027

For questions contact lesmanouchestheatre@gmail.com.