



**«OLYMPIA IN DION
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH THEATER,
MUSIC AND ATHLETIC MEETING**

Address : Prefecture of Pieria
40, 28th October street
4th floor / Office # 407

Postal Code-City: 60132, Katerini, Pieria

Info: Dr. Athanasios Bintas
(+30 6942437404)
Fani Zerva

Tel. Number: +30 2351351211

E-mail: olympiaendion@gmail.com

Subject: « International Youth performances of Ancient Drama, at
the Ancient Theater of Dion, on Mt. Olympus»

1. Under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (Number of Approval: 13117/ΓΔ4/03-02-2023).
2. Under the auspices of Greek National Tourism Organization (Number of Approval :1319/15-02-2023).
3. Under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Interior (Sector Macedonia Trace) (Number of Approval: 87/15-03- 2023).
4. Ministry of National Defense (Number of Approval.: Φ900/3329/Σ478/13 Ιουλιου 22/ΓΕΑ/Β3/2).
5. Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO (Number of Approval.5590/100.5/1709-20/01/17).



At the foothills of the famous Mount Olympus, the home of the ancient gods, and in the Ancient Theatre of Dion, the Directorate of High School Education in Pieria and its Cultural Actions Department organize every year the **International Youth Meeting of Ancient Drama and Music**, under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs. (Ref. Number of Approval: 42729/Γ7/29-03-2013, MINEDU) and the Greek National Commission for UNESCO (Ref. Number of Approval: 4744/100.5/ΑΣ1120/12-02-2015), titled:

Theatre, Music and Athletic Games: " Ολύμπια εν Δίω " (Olympia in Dion)

The "Games" last nine (9) days and take place in the second half of September. Each day is dedicated to each of the nine Pierian Muses who according to Greek Mythology were the patron/ goddesses of Knowledge, Literature, Arts and Sciences. They were: Calliope, Euterpe, Clio, Erato, Melpomene, Polyhymnia, Terpsichore, Thalia, Urania.

The event is a revival of the ancient games which were held at the same place, the sacred city of the Macedonians, under the same title; "Olympia in Dion".

In the Ancient Theatre of Dion the great tragic poet Euripides wrote and presented five of his plays, and his last masterpiece "Bacchae". According to ancient writers, Euripides died and was buried in Pieria. On his tombstone Athenians engraved the following epigram:

*" Χαίρε μελαμπετάλοις, Ευριπίδη, εν γυάλοισι Πιερίας τον αεί νυκτός έχων
θάλαμον...ως αν λάτρης περιίδων ναιης αγχόθι Πιερίδων".*

*«Χαίρε Ευριπίδη που έχεις το θάλαμο της αιώνιας νύχτας (Τάφο) στα
μελανόχρωμα ακρογυάλια της Πιερίας...Εσύ που λάτρεψες τις Πιερίδες (Μούσες)
κατοικείς κοντά τους.*

King Archelaus (413-399p.c.) established the archaic choral, the dancing ceremonies and the orphic mystery events that were held on the slopes of Mount Olympus in honour of Zeus, promoting them across the country, with thousands of pilgrims coming from all over the Greek world. Along with the theatre games, musical and sports games were



held too, in which artists and athletes from the Greek cities participated. During the reign of Phillip the II and his son Alexander the III (the Great), the celebrations started with a sacrifice to Olympian Zeus, and that is why they are called "Olympia in Dion", "Olympia in Dion" continued until Christian times as a nationwide celebration, until the games "Demetria" succeeded them after Thessaloniki became the capital of Macedonia.

The themes of these games include student performances of Ancient Greek or Latin Drama, concerts and athletic meetings as expressed in the past.

The "Games" of the International Youth Meeting of Ancient Drama "Olympia in Dion" are not competitive.

THE AIMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MEETING OF ANCIENT DRAMA AND MUSIC ARE:

- to present and understand the educational character of early theatrical art as universal expression.
- to make students approach - and to familiarize themselves with - important ancient Greek and foreign authors' texts.
- to deeply understand the cultural exchange values which is an international need, to recognize and accept eternal ideas and values.
- to communicate and get to know other cultures and their contribution to diversity of each culture in the creation of worldwide culture.
- to encourage students to develop friendly relations.
- to promote the exchange of experiences between schools and to create new bonds.
- to promote theatrical education for students as a contribution to culture.
- to highlight the universality of the Ancient Theatre and its everlasting value up to modern times.



INFORMATION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Schools, Universities and Informal groups that are interested in participating in the "Olympia in Dion" must send the Application form by email or by post by the end of May.

By e-mail (olympiaendion@gmail.com)

Along with the Application Form Schools/Universities/Informal groups must also submit:

1) one DVD with more than ten (10) minutes of rehearsals 2) three (3) photos (rehearsal or performance) 3) a list with the names of the students and their responsible teacher(s), in order to be included in the program that will be published. All the above material must be sent to:

OLYMPIA EN DIO

c/o Prefecture of Pieria

40, 28th October street

4th floor / Office # 407

60 132 Katerini, Pieria, Greece

f.a.o. Dr. Athanasios Bintas

Email: olympiaendion@gmail.gr

Phone Numbers: (0030)23510 46965 or (0030) 23510 46952

After the end of the selection procedures, a draft **Performance Schedule** will be sent to the selected schools.



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Interior
(Sector Macedonia-Thrace)



GREEK
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www.gno.gov.gr

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Theatre, music and sports groups should be composed exclusively by young people. Graduate students have the right to participate in the theatrical group of their school.

1. Each group will be accompanied by teachers according to the legislation of their countries. (Greek legislation: YA129287/G2/10-11-2011, FEK 2769, Chapter B').
2. The student theatre groups can present a play of ancient local tradition of the country they come from (In this case, further information must be sent to the organizing committee).
3. The performance should last for 50-80 minutes.
4. Each group participates in "Olympia in Dion" with only one performance. The organizers may propose a second performance in another place if the participating school accepts it.
5. The organizers will facilitate participating groups as regards their accommodation.
6. Groups coming from abroad to the airport of Thessaloniki will be transported to and from the hotel on the organizers' expenses.
7. The selected teams will have the opportunity to stay for FREE for 2 to 3 nights at the KEDA Skotina, which is provided by the Ministry of National Defense - General Staff of the Air Force (seaside accommodation, in quadruple rooms with private toilet). Delegation members should bring 2 sheets, pillowcases and towels. Catering is not provided, however the participants can have a meal at the restaurant of the KEDA Skotina, at a cost of approximately 5-8 euro per person (indicative prices).

Attention! In case the KEDA rooms are not sufficient, participants will have to pay 15 euros per person per night at a hotel.

8. Only small- size transportable theatre props is recommended.



9. The theatre games "Olympia in Dion" are not competitive. After the performance, special awards are granted to the participant groups and certificates of participation are provided to the participant actors.
10. Applications will be examined early in June and selected groups will be informed in time in order to prepare their trip.

CULTURAL VISITS

During their stay, the groups will have the unique opportunity to visit the archaeological park of Dion, the archaeological museum of Dion, to walk in the paths of the legendary Olympus, home of the twelve Gods, to visit the legendary river Helicon-Vafyra where the Maenads killed Orpheus, to visit the Ancient Pydna where Cassander arrested and killed Olympias, the mother of Alexander the Great. Participants can also visit the Old and New Monastery of Agios Dionysios in Olympus.

In nearby regions, places of interest are the monuments in Thessaloniki, the tomb of Phillip the II in Vergina, and the School of Aristotle in Mieza.

During "Olympia in Dion" groups from abroad will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with Greek folk dances.

The President of the Organisation of "OLYMPIA EN DIO"

Dr. Athanasios Bintas



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Interior
Directorate of Migration & Tourism



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