Ismene, a memory's gardener

"Ismene", of the Khroma Company, is the creation of an original George Aperghis' work, on a homonymous Yannis Ritsos poem. An opera for solo voice, a sort of inner dialogue, a performance for a body and the natural elements. It foremost invites the audience to see and to listen, to fathom the weaving of a visual installation and a vocal work in absolute bareness, in a movement combining opening with an extreme concentration.

Ismene, as a memory's gardener, cultivates in loneliness the sensory contact with the elements of her childhood. From her attachment to the tiniest values, contrasting with the absolutism of her sister Antigone and the grandiloquence or the aloofness expected at the palace of her father Oedipus, springs a thought, a speech, a vision she builds with slowness and serenity. That movement, made by a woman at the end of her life, carrying her stock of experiences, of violence, transmuted in a long meditation both perceptive and lyric, makes Ismene a universal character, unique and really endearing at the same time.

For her, a space which is the subtle embodiment of the mental universe, innermost recesses of memory, fantasies, shadows and dazzling intensity.

A square space, a basin of water as the only playground, water wherein Ismene constantly bathes, recalling the garden fountains, the deserted palace, the place where she prepares herself to die.

A solo voice being a sound, being a sense, contained in a dilated body, going far beyond her own skin. A tremendous mirror of the soul.

Credits

A performance by the Khroma Company

Conception	Marianne Pousseur and Enrico Bagnoli
Text	Yannis Ritsos
Original music	Georges Aperghis
Interpreter	Marianne Pousseur
Space, light and direction	Enrico Bagnoli
Dramaturgy, collaboration on the direction	Guy Cassiers
Sounding and sound settings	Diederik De Cock
Producer	Khroma
Coproducer	Ministère de la Communauté Française de Belgique, Théâtre de la Balsamine (Bruxelles), Théâtre de la Place (Liège), Grand Théâtre du Luxembourg.

Creation	October 2008 Festival of Modena, Italy
November 2008	Théâtre de la Balsamine, Brussels, Belgium
March 2009	Théâtre de la Place, Liège, Belgium, in collaboration with Ainsi, Maastricht, Netherland
	Théâtre Jean Vilar of Vitry, France
May 2009	Grand Théâtre du Luxembourg
	Theatre des Bernardines Marseille, France

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