



DET
DANSKE
INSTITUT
I ATHEN

ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΤΗΣ ΔΑΝΙΑΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΘΗΝΑ
THE DANISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2009

In our newsletter you can read about current and coming events at the Institute, and relevant useful information and news

Zea Harbour Project

Ed. Dan Davis



Archaeologist inspects the fifth century BC open slipways and shipsheds / © ZHP 2006

Since 2000 a combined Greek and Danish team has been conducting combined terrestrial and marine archaeological investigations on Zea Harbour, Athens' largest naval base in the fifth and fourth centuries BC. The Zea Harbour Project, directed by Danish archaeologist Dr. Bjørn Lovén, has examined the extensive remains of the monumental shipsheds that once housed the Athenian fleet, as well as the system of fortifications that ringed the Piraeus. These naval installations are among the largest building complexes of the Classical Period, and they were designed solely to accommodate and protect the ancient ship-of-the-line, the trireme.

These oared warships played a crucial role in Athens' history in the fifth century BC. In the early years of that century, the Athenian statesman Themistocles had convinced his countrymen to build a fleet of 200 triremes using the proceeds from recently discovered silver mines near Laurion. He used Athens' antagonism toward nearby Aegina as a pretext, as the people of that island were routinely attacking Athenian shipping and waging trade wars with his city. Themistocles' designs, however, were directed against the impending invasion of Persia. When the Persian army and navy finally invaded Greece in 480 BC, the fleet that he helped acquire was crucial to the Greek victory at the Battle of Salamis—one of history's most significant struggles.

Today, thanks to the project's work and advances in visual technology, the ruins of these naval installations and the ships they once housed come to life using 3D reconstructions. These provide the viewer with a stunning and dramatic experience of the size and magnitude of these structures, an experience that could only be possible if the ruins themselves were physically reconstructed. In the future visitors to www.zeaharbourproject.dk will be able to access these reconstructions and read much more about the finds and the project.



3D reconstruction of the Phase 3 Zea shipsheds (375-350 BC) / © ZHP 2009

The Zea Harbor Project is a collaboration between the Ephoreia of Underwater Antiquities, the 26th Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, the Danish Institute at Athens, and the Maritime Program, University of Southern Denmark. The project is financed by the Carlsberg Foundation.

In connection with the exhibition of the photo exhibition “Piraeus – a sea of moments” at Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek in Denmark (18 June-30 August), Dr. Bjørn Lovén will hold a lecture on the project, the findings and research involved. 24 June at 7.30 p.m. For details and tickets, please visit:

[http://plus.politiken.dk/ARRANGEMENT/Foredrag/Athens_flaadebase_i_Piraeus\(3157\).aspx](http://plus.politiken.dk/ARRANGEMENT/Foredrag/Athens_flaadebase_i_Piraeus(3157).aspx)

10th European Music Day



As a part of the EUNIC co-operation (see: www.eunic-europe.eu), The Danish Institute participates in the European Music Day in Greece for the first time. The European Day of Music is celebrated every year on 21 June, and for the past 9 years, Greece has taken part in this celebration with a festival lasting several days. Only in Athens, more than 6.000 European amateur and professional artists have performed over the years for an audience of more than 500.000 people.

To represent Denmark and the Danish Institute, the singer *Lise Dres* was chosen. She will perform with her band twice, one concert in the



Greek province (Larissa) on Sunday **21 June** at Central Square at 11-12 p.m., and another concert in Athens on **22 June** at 7.30 p.m. at Kotzia Square. Entrance is free.

For further program and details about the performances and the European Music Day, please visit www.europeanmusicday.gr.

For details on Lise Dres and her music, please visit: www.myspace.com/lisedres

Thessaloniki Book Fair 28-31 May



Denmark, represented by The Danish Institute, participated in a common Nordic stand at this year's International Book fair in Thessaloniki. The participation happened in close co-operation with the Nordic countries Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The fair and the Nordic stand was visited by thousands of guests during the four days, and the audience had the opportunity to take a closer look at the publications of the Danish Institute and watch the film “This is Denmark”,

which is an introduction to Denmark and the Danes. It gives an overall view of the country, its geography, politics, social system, and culture.

As a parallel event, Dr. Erik Hallager, Director of The Danish Institute at Athens held a lecture on Danes in Greek archaeology at an event at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki on 29 May. Besides Dr. Hallager, the directors of the Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish institutes delivered speeches, and the event was well attended by an interested audience.



Dora Stratou Greek Dances Theatre

The national Greek Dances Theatre "Dora Stratou" is unique in the world.

Founded in 1953, it is a living museum of Greek dance. Dances, songs and music are



presented in their original form that were or are still performed in the respective villages. Costumes are authentic museum pieces, handmade in villages a century ago. The company wardrobe contains 2,000 costumes from all over Greece, complete with jewelry and accessories.

Extensive ethnographic research under the direction of Professor Alkis Raftis supports the authenticity of the performances. It is also possible to do dance lessons (in Summer they offer lessons held in English).

The garden theatre is situated opposite the Acropolis, on the far side of Philopappou Hill, and has 900 seats.

Opening night: 22 May 2009 – **Closing**: 20 September 2009. Tuesday - Saturday: 9.30 p.m., Sunday: 8.15 p.m. Monday closed.

For directions and further information, see www.grdance.org, or call: (30) 210 324 4395

Cultural calendar and announcements

- We remind you that the official opening of the new Acropolis Museum will take place in a few days - on 20 June 2009. The opening hours of the museum hereafter are yet to be announced. For details, see: www.newacropolismuseum.gr
- The Benaki Museum (138, Pireos Str.) shows the exhibition “*In praise of shadows*” with works by eight international contemporary artists and two film-makers. 23 May - 26 July 2009. For details, see: www.benaki.gr
- Summer in Greece also means time for festivals which offer different cultural experiences such as theatre, concerts, dance-performances, exhibitions, etc. *The Athens & Epidaurus festival* is one of them. For the 52nd time, the festival has an extensive program with performances in Epidaurus, Odeon of Herodes Atticus, and many other cultural venues. 1 June – 15 July. For details, program and tickets, go to www.greekfestival.gr. Another festival worth visiting is the 23rd *Festival Ymittou* that also offers both Greek and international cultural events over the summer. For details, see: www.festival-ymittou.gr, or call 213 20 37 819.
- The Museum of Cycladic Art hosts a photography exhibition of the German artist Thomas Struth. The exhibition includes a total of 28 works by the internationally acclaimed photographer. 16 June – 14 September. www.cycladic.gr
- The 18th Nafplion Festival (classical music), which takes place on 19-28 June in co-operation with the Nordic countries’ embassies, honours the Nordic countries and their artists. From Denmark, internationally renown artists such as flutist Michala Petri, guitarist Lars Hannibal and the Royal Danish Orchestra participate. There are also parallel events, among them a painting exhibition by the Danish artist Canuto Kallan. For further details and program, please visit. www.nafplionfestival.gr