



Hellenic Republic  
Municipality of Messene  
Sector of Social Protection,  
of Education & Culture.  
Department of Education, Lifelong  
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Protocol number:

**Notice**  
**for young amateur theatrical groups of Secondary schools,**  
**Universities, Colleges, Theatrical Schools, Institutes**  
**and Clubs of Greece and other countries**

Please be advised that the Municipality of Messene is organizing from **10th to 25th April 2024** the **11th International Youth Festival of Ancient Drama** at the Ancient Theatre or the Ecclesiasterion (Odeion) of Ancient Messene.

The festival focuses on the presentation of works of ancient Greek or Latin drama (tragedy or comedy), it does not have a competitive nature and its purpose is the essential - experiential contact of young people with ancient drama and cultural heritage.

Participation in the festival is reserved exclusively for theater groups of Secondary schools, young amateur theatrical groups of universities, colleges, theatrical schools, institutes and clubs of Greece and other countries. Each theater group should consist of students exclusively, the number of whom should not exceed 25 people (including escorts).

From 2024 theater groups can participate in the festival with a dramatization (theatrical presentation and not a theatrical recitation) of a rhapsody or a composition of rhapsodies from Homer's "Iliad" or "Odyssey" or with text excerpts from Lucian's satirical "Dead Dialogues". The duration of this theatrical performance should be between 45 and 60 minutes.

Submission of applications will take place in two phases:

**1<sup>st</sup> PHASE**

**EXHIBITION OF INTEREST FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE FESTIVAL**

Theater groups interested in participating should indicate their interest by **Thursday 30th November, 2023.**

To this end they should fill in and submit the attached three entry forms:

- 1. Application Form,**
- 2. Background information on the project**
- 3. Certification**

These forms can be downloaded from the site: <http://ancientmessenefestival.blogspot.gr/> (TERMS OF PARTICIPATION) or <http://ancientmessenefestival.messini.gr> and sent:

A) by post to the following address:

Municipality of Messene  
Sector of Social Protection, of Education & Culture.  
Department of Education, Lifelong Learning and Employment  
Mayor Paul Ptohou Street ,  
24200 Messene  
Greece

B) by e-mail to: [xathanasopoulou@messini.gr](mailto:xathanasopoulou@messini.gr)

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION**

Application for participation in the Festival implies acceptance of the following terms and conditions of the event:

- Theatrical groups must consist exclusively of students.
- Each theater group takes part in the festival with only one project, preferably an original play and not an adaptation.
- The running time of the project should be from 50 min. to 70 min. (maximum).
- Starting time of performances: 09:30 am.
- At the venue there will be a simple microphone and sound system with a CD Player.
- The music of the performance can be recorded on audio CD or mp3 or live. In the latter case there is no possibility of enhancing the musical instruments of the band by connecting them to an amplifier.
- Any props used in the theatrical performances should be light, portable, small and easily-transferrable structures. No scenery can be set up or placed in the monument.
- Use of fireworks, smoke bombs, flares and generally flammable materials as well as the lighting of candles and torches is not permitted.
- It is not permitted to use or throw, for special directing effects, materials that are difficult to collect, such as Styrofoam, confetti, etc.
- Theatrical groups wishing to rehearse at the Ancient Theatre of Messene should contact the archaeological site managers and follow their suggestions.
- Travel expenses by coach from the airport to Messene and from Messene to Ancient Messene and vice versa, for the theater groups of Tertiary Education in Greece, as well as for any foreign theatrical groups, will be covered by the Municipality of Messene. This also includes any trips that will result from their hosting program.
- The organizers will provide accommodation to members of theater groups for one (1) night at least, breakfast and a lunchtime meal.
- Additional benefits for the theatrical groups will depend a) on the number of participations as a whole, b) on the number of participating theatrical groups from foreign countries and c) on the geographical region of origin and the distance (islands, remote areas, etc.)
- A Certificate of Participation will be awarded to all theater groups participating in the Festival.

### **SELECTION OF THEATRICAL PROJECTS**

A competent committee comprised of members from the sphere of theatre and education, which will be formed by *the Mayor of Messene*, will select the works to be presented at the festival, based on the following criteria:

- Quality and correctness of the speech of actors.
- Existence or absence of group work and co-existence of actors on the stage.
- Existence or absence of the dramatic operation of silence.
- Presence of the Chorus and whether it is characterized by dramatic ethos and aesthetic austerity.
- Direction that follows and highlights the text, without arbitrary interventions or exaggerations (not passive imitations and replicas of other performances).

**2<sup>nd</sup> PHASE**  
**FINAL APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE FESTIVAL**

Theater group wishing to participate in this festival should send by post the following material by **Friday 12th January, 2024 (postmark)** to the address:

Municipality of Messene  
Sector of Social Protection, of Education & Culture.  
Department of Education, Lifelong Learning and Employment  
Mayor Paul Ptohou Street ,  
24200 Messene  
Greece

**A) Two (2) CDs or DVDs that will include:**

1. An extract of 15 minutes from rehearsals or performances. In the digital file, you must include quotes from all the scenes / episodes and choruses of the project.
2. Ten (10) digital photographs from rehearsals or performances, high resolution (300 dpi)
3. One (01) recent digital photograph of the theatrical group.
4. The theatrical text of the play they intend to present in **.doc** or **.pdf** format

**B) The "CERTIFICATION" form** with the definitive names and attributes of all participants signed appropriately.

**C) The 15-minute extract of rehearsals or the show** should also be sent to the e-mail address [xathanasopoulou@messini.gr](mailto:xathanasopoulou@messini.gr) through the online free **wetransfer** application: <https://wetransfer.com/>.

**PROCEDURE FOR DEFINITIVE SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF THEATER GROUPS**

The theater groups to be selected will be informed of their participation from **January 29th to January 31st, 2024**.

In addition, if there is a participation cancellation, the theater groups next in line – the runners-up – will be informed within two days, from **05th to 07th February 2024**.

**“The institution of the Proagon” (theatrical presentation)**

In the "International Youth Festival of Ancient Drama. Ancient Messina" has been established compulsorily **“The institution of the Proagon”** will be obligatorily established. (**The Proagon** was an event that took place on the eve of the Great Dionysian festival, in which the poets presented the actors and other information of their performance to the theatrical audience).

Each theatrical group selected to present their performance in Ancient Messene, is required to create and submit to the Municipality of Messene electronically (**via WeTransfer**) a video which must include the following: the plot of the play briefly , the actors of the play, the main messages, the directorial approach and some personal testimonies - experiences - impressions of the participants and whatever else the theatrical team deems necessary for their promotion.

This video will be presented one week before the start of the festival on the festival's social media and must meet the following technical specifications:

- Its maximum duration should be between 8 to 10 minutes.
- The file format should be .mp4 or .avi.
- File size up to 1 GB.
- The file may include audiovisual material and photographs.
- If there is background music, it must be "rights free" or used with permission.

The video (The proagon) should be sent electronically to the following e-mail address:

[xathanasopoulou@messini.gr](mailto:xathanasopoulou@messini.gr)

Through the online free **wetransfer** application: <https://wetransfer.com/>.

**The Mayor**  
**George Athanasopoulos**