

Katerina Drakopoulou

Performer, Butoh dancer, Physical Theatre Trainer

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Katerina Drakopoulou was born in Athens. Following the completion of her studies at the University of Kent in England (BA in Drama and Theatre Studies, 1996-2000) where she specialized in devising, she pursued a postgraduate degree in Performance at Goldsmiths College, University of London (MA in Performance, 2000-2001). Her interest in physical theatre led her at the University of Huddersfield where she was awarded a scholarship and completed the postgraduate degree MA in Ensemble Physical Theatre: Training and Performance (2012).

She worked as a Theatre/Performance lecturer at various Universities in England from 2002 till 2010 (University of Kent; Goldsmiths College, University of London; St Mary's College; University of Leeds; Manchester Metropolitan University), teaching mainly in the areas of psychophysical approaches to actor training and performance, physical theatre, movement, mask work, devising, and contemporary approaches to performance (site-specific, durational, autobiographical).

Since September 2012, she has been working as a freelance performer and theatre/performance teacher, running workshops and classes in butoh, physical theatre, Viewpoints, and site-specific performance in Greece and in England. In 2013 she returned to Manchester Metropolitan University and worked as a Visiting Lecturer till 2014, teaching butoh and contemporary performance.

As a performer she has participated in various productions in Greece, England, U.S.A., and Japan. She recently created and performed a solo durational, site-specific butoh performance that explored the notion of "unexpected discoveries" through the encounter between the body and various environments. The work, entitled "22 stops", was presented in the context of the In Progress Feedback Festival, which has been

recognized by the EFFE International Jury as Europe's finest festivals, and received an honor for its artistic innovation and aesthetic quality. Her interest in long durational work led her to work as a facilitator for the Abramovic Method in the Benaki Museum in Spring 2016.

Past performance projects include among others:

- *I was born old* at Bios, Athens (dance piece conceived and choreographed by Mariella Nestora).
- *Echo* (2015) at Apollon Theatre in Syros, Greece (an ensemble, physical theatre performance conceived and directed by Chang Nai Wen, Laura Tesman, and Evan Tsitsias, presented within the framework of the World Wide Lab).
- *Delving Into the Unknown* (2013) at Fabrica Athens, Athens (butoh performance with Valentin Tszin).
- *Seminar-performance Puzzle* (2012) at frown tails, Athens; (co-devised with Maria Lalou).
- *Cries for Help* (2012) within the framework of International Street Theatre Festival, Athens (based on Handke's text, directed by N. Xatzipapas).
- *The Moving Body* (2012) at Spring People, Athens (solo physical theatre performance).
- *'...And After'* (2008) at Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield (devised piece, directed by John Britton).
- *Hinomoto* (2008) at Space Zero Theatre, Tokyo and at The Brindley, Cheshire (butoh performance with Torifune Butoh-Sha).
- *SpaceDance Butoh* (2006) at the University of Leeds, U.K. (butoh performance with Tetsuro Fukuhara).
- *ChamberPlay Medea* (2001) at King's Head Theatre, London, U.K. (solo performance, devised and directed by T. Glynatsis).
- *The World Mysteries, The Mysteries of Eleusis* (1998) at the Majestic Theatre, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York. (devised performance, directed by V. Kallitsis and choreographed by A. Papadamaki).

For the last ten years, she has been practicing butoh. She has attended workshops with many butoh artists, such as Marie-Gabrielle Rotie, Tetsuro Fukuhara, Kan Katsura, Minako Seki, Atsushi Takenouchi, Masaki Iwana, Ko Murobushi, Tadashi Endo, Fran Barbe, Frank van de Ven, Valentin Tszin, and the butoh group Torifune Butoh-Sha. She has collaborated as a butoh dancer with Valentin Tszin, Tetsuro Fukuhara, and Torifune Butoh-Sha.

Other training (2012-2014):

- Terzopoulos' Method (Body, Voice, Text) (with T. Terzopoulos and S. Stroubos, June-July 2014)
- Butoh workshop with Katsura Kan (July 2013)
- Stilts walking training (May 2013)
- Physical Theatre workshop entitled Contra/Dictions with Matej Matejka (May 2013)
- Butoh workshop with Valentin Tszin (Apr. 2013)
- Butoh workshop with Du YuFang (Jan. 2013)
- Suzuki and Viewpoints training with Michael Wighton (Oct - Dec 2012)

Languages:

Greek (Native)

English (Fluent)

French (Basic)