

THE EUROPEAN UNION CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AND
OUT OF CHAOS THEATRE
PRESENT

THE SUPPLIANTS

EUROPEAN DAY OF THE ARTS 2021

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS INAUGURAL EVENT FOR IAPP GREECE

Friday, March 5 at 2 P.M. CST
(U.S.) / 22.00 CET (Europe)

An interactive virtual performance
by Out of Chaos Theatre

Panel discussion to follow

I ILLINOIS
European Union Center
ILLINOIS GLOBAL INSTITUTE

**OUT OF
CHAOS**



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Introductions and Welcoming Remarks

Emanuel Rota, Director of the European Union Center and Associate Professor of French & Italian, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Andreas C. Cangellaris, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Angeliki Tzanetou, Associate Professor of Classics, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Interactive Performance

Out of Chaos Theatre Company

Post-Performance Panel Discussion



A TRAGEDY OF MIGRATION

The Suppliants by Aeschylus, performed in the late 460s B.C.E. at the Theater of Dionysus on the south slope of the Acropolis, told the story of the Danaids who fled their native Egypt to escape forced marriage. Arriving as refugees in Greece, they supplicate the gods and the king of the city of Argos, seeking a refuge and a new home. Mirroring closely the laws of Athens' newly-minted democracy and its time-honored customs of hospitality, the story of the Danaids provokes reflection on how democratic societies deal with foreigners and on collective action to remedy the suffering of others. During the performance, you may cast your vote to decide the fate of the refugees, when the king brings the question of granting the Danaids asylum before the citizens' assembly. The post-performance discussion features a panel of speakers on the topics of refugees in Greece and the Mediterranean, on federal approaches to U.S. immigration, and on the work of local immigration activists.

THE CAST

Chorus, the Danaids ----- **Natasha Magigi, Evelyn Miller, Noree Victoria**

Danaus ----- **David Rubin**

Pelasgus ----- **Argyris Xafis**

Herald of the sons of Aigyptos ----- **Nectarios Theodorou**

Performed by permission of **Princeton University Press**

Translated by **Peter Burian**

Directed by **Paul O'Mahony**

<https://www.out-of-chaos.co.uk/suppliants>

EUROPEAN DAY OF THE ARTS 2021

REFUGEES AND MIGRATION, THEN AND NOW A POST-PERFORMANCE PANEL DISCUSSION

Panelists:

Hellen Gerolymatos MacDonald (Social Work, University of Illinois)

Natasha Magigi (Out of Chaos)

Evelyn Miller (Out of Chaos)

Paul O'Mahony (Out of Chaos)

David Rubin (Out of Chaos)

Nectarios Theodorou (Out of Chaos)

Angeliki Tzanetou (Classics, University of Illinois)

Noree Victoria (Out of Chaos)

Argyris Xafis (Out of Chaos)

Gloria Yen (New American Welcome Centre, University YMCA)

Moderator:

Emanuel Rota (European Union Center, University of Illinois)

OUT OF CHAOS THEATRE COMPANY

Natasha Magigi trained as an Actor Musician at Rose Bruford college in Sidcup. Since graduating, an unspecified number of years ago, she has had the joy of touring shows both domestically and internationally, appearing at a number of regional venues and companies across the UK, as well as playing on London's West End (Royal Shakespeare Company and Classic Springs). She is also an associate artist for site specific immersive company Teatro Vivo. In COVID times she has worked with Popelei, Rude Grooms, Seven Stages, Rosedale Shakespeare and Food of Love Productions on a number of digital projects. In most recent times she can be found under a desk hiding from a bank robbery committed by celebrity clones in Double Trouble for Saturday Night Takeaway.

Evelyn Miller trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Theatre includes: Deep Night Dark Night (Sam Wannamaker Playhouse); Pericles, The Comedy of Errors, Twelfth Night, The Taming of the Shrew (Shakespeare's Globe); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Sheffield Crucible); Jane Eyre (National Theatre/ U.K Tour); The Taming of the Shrew, Richard III (AFTLS); Richard II, Henry IV Parts 1 and 2, Henry V, The Famous Victories of Henry V (RSC); Swallows and Amazons (Bristol Old Vic); Romeo and Juliet (Orange Tree Theatre) and The Little Prince (Royal Opera House). Television includes: Holby City, Doctors

David Rubin's credits include Tamburlaine, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, Antony and Cleopatra, The Winter's Tale, Julius Caesar (twice), Le Morte D'Arthur, Titus Andronicus, As You Like It, A Mad World My Masters, The Grain Store, and American Trade, (Royal Shakespeare Company); People, Places & Things, The Threepenny Opera, A Midsummer Night's Dream, As You Like It, Twelfth Night (twice), The Tempest, and The Red Balloon (National Theatre). In London's West End, his credits include Woyzeck (The Old Vic); the original West End Company production of Five Guys Named Moe (Lyric); Stomp (Royal Festival Hall); and In The Midnight Hour (Young Vic). David has also worked extensively for many UK regional theatres and for Chicken Shed Theatre, for whom he acts, writes and directs.

Nectarios Theodorou is a Cypriot actor and graduate of the London International School of Performing Arts and he performed in several countries (UK, Scandinavia, Cyprus, Greece and Turkey). His work spans from TV and Theatre to Film and Radio plays. He has performed in a plethora of productions ranging from Greek Tragedy to Musical Theatre and Contemporary Dramas to Comedy and Devised work. He has been nominated for the Best Actor Award for his work in "The 39 Steps" and he has won the Best Movement Direction Award for the musical "The Madame's Family" at the National Theatre Awards in Cyprus in 2014-2015.

EUROPEAN DAY OF THE ARTS 2021

OUT OF CHAOS THEATRE COMPANY

Actress, producer, and Baltimore native, **Noree Victoria** earned a B.A. in Creative Writing and Biology, with a minor in African Studies and holds an MSc in Applied Information Technology. She won the 'Best Actress' award at AMTC, a scholarship to study at the New York Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts, and attended the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England. She has appeared regularly in various Emmy-winning television shows, including FX's 'American Crime Story: The People vs. O.J. Simpson', and 'Queen Sugar'; and has produced various short and feature length film projects. Noree is currently working on a Master Certificate in Screenwriting and continues to act and train in L.A., while serving as board Vice-Chair for New Filmmakers Los Angeles.

Argyris Xafis graduated from the National School of Dramatic Arts in Greece, and has performed ancient tragedies numerous times in Epidaurus. He has won several awards for his cinema and stage work and he's also an acting professor at Athens Conservatory Drama School.

About the Director:

Paul O'Mahony is an actor, writer, director and producer. He is artistic director of Out of Chaos theatre company with whom he has devised, written and performed Out of Chaos (winner at Berlin's 100° Festival and Bilbao's ACT Festival), Unmythable and Norsesome. Unmythable won awards at the Edinburgh and Brighton festivals and has toured to over 120 venues throughout the UK, Europe and New Zealand. Paul recently played the title role in Out of Chaos' Macbeth, a production which has twice toured the US and UK. He is the artistic director of Reading Greek Tragedy Online, an initiative set up in lockdown to establish international communities of actors and academics performing and discussing Greek tragedy. He has performed with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Orange Tree Theatre, English Touring Opera, and is associate director of Actors From The London Stage with whom he has toured the US three times, playing leading roles in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing and Richard III. As a writer he has worked on Unmythable and Norsesome for Out of Chaos, and translated and adapted three Greek tragedies with Richard Twyman to create The House of Atreus (Barbican). He is an Associate of Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies.

EUROPEAN DAY OF THE ARTS 2021

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PANELISTS

Hellen Gerolymatos McDonald is a Clinical Associate Professor in Field Education at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work. She has been leading a Study Abroad Program in Greece since 2014, that focuses on the issues of refugees, asylum, and displacement, facing those communities. She is an alum of UIUC (Master of Social Work, 1998) and holds a Bachelor in Psychology and Speech Communication from Blackburn College (1989). She has experience providing integrated behavioral health care services across the continuum of care since 1988, in leadership experiences in management of a State and federally-funded Medicaid waiver program, and in entrepreneurial privately-owned psychotherapy practice. She is interested in antiracist approaches to field education, experiential learning (virtual and f2f, domestic and international) and innovative pedagogical models.

Emanuel Rota is Associate Professor in the Department of French and Italian and an affiliate in the Jewish Studies Program, the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory and the Department of History. He holds a PhD in History from the University of California (Berkeley), a Master in History from the University of Oregon and a Laurea from the Università di Pavia. He wrote his Tesi di Laurea on the Italian Communist Party and the process of European Unification and his MA thesis on the Europeanist projects of the anti-liberal Left and the anti-liberal Right in Europe in the 20s and 30s. Europe and its identity have always been at the center of his research. His first book, *A Pact with Vichy*, examines the intellectual trajectory of one of the founders of the Italian Communist Party from socialism to collaboration with fascism. He has published articles on radicalism, colonialism, and biopolitics. He is completing a monograph on the history of the capitalist work ethic and its relationship with colonialism, racism and European Identity, tentatively titled "A History of Laziness: Natives, Southerners, Workers and the Modern Work Ethics."

Angeliki Tzanetou (B.A. National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Ph.D., UIUC) is Associate Professor of Classics, co-ordinator of Modern Greek Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is currently the Editor of *Illinois Classical Studies*, University of Illinois Press. She previously taught at Case Western Reserve University and was a Visiting Research Scholar at the University of Chicago (Loeb Classical Library Foundation Grant, Harvard University). Her research interests include Greek drama, Greek political theory, gender and religion, trauma studies, refugees and immigration in antiquity. She is the author of *City of Suppliants: Tragedy and the Athenian Empire* (University of Texas Press 2012) and has co-edited *Finding Persephone: Women's Rituals in the Ancient Mediterranean* (Indiana University Press 2007). She has edited collections of papers on ancient drama and gender and published articles in politics, ritual, and gender in Greek literature. She is currently completing a book on motherhood, trauma, and politics in Athenian drama. She has lectured and led seminar presentations in Greece, most recently at the University of Patras and the American School of Classical Studies in Athens.

Gloria Yen is the Director of the New American Welcome Center at the University YMCA. Over the past 3 years, the Welcome Center has launched innovative programming in the areas of resource navigation, immigration legal services, and immigrant advocacy as it coordinates multi-sector integration planning efforts to lay a foundation for equitable access, economic opportunity, and meaningful belonging. The Center's impact has been recognized by: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Outstanding Achievement Award (2020 Champaign County), Entrepreneurial Excellence: Social Venture Award (2019 Champaign County Economic Development Corporation), and Community Impact Award (2019 Junior League of Champaign-Urbana). Ms. Yen holds a Master of Arts degree in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Music in Musicology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. As a US DOJ Partially Accredited Representative, Ms. Yen provides competent immigration legal representation for low-income and indigent persons in Champaign County. Ms. Yen is an appointed member of the Illinois Social Services Advisory Council and also serves on the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission's Community Action Board. Gloria's commitment to working alongside marginalized communities has led her to the fields of human development and disability studies, oral history, and most recently, immigrant integration. A resident of Urbana (#urbanalove) and forever foodie, you can find Gloria trying new recipes (@gloria.yen) and watching YouTube videos of street food vendors across the world.

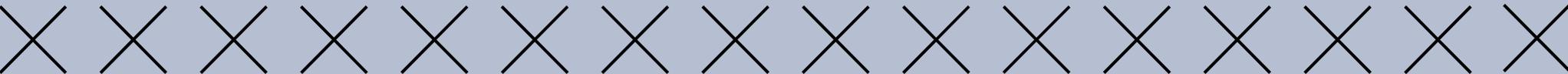
EUROPEAN DAY OF THE ARTS 2021

PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP: FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2 P.M. CST (US)

Join Paul O'Mahony, Director of Out of Chaos Theatre Company, in a 90-minute workshop on ancient performance in the digital age at the time of the pandemic. No prior training in theatre performance is required for participation. Participants will engage in acting exercises and have the opportunity to perform scenes from ancient drama. You will need to register in advance to reserve one of the sixteen (16) spaces in the workshop. For more information, please email Paul O'Mahony (outofchaosplays@gmail.com) or Angeliki Tzanetou (tzanetou@illinois.edu)

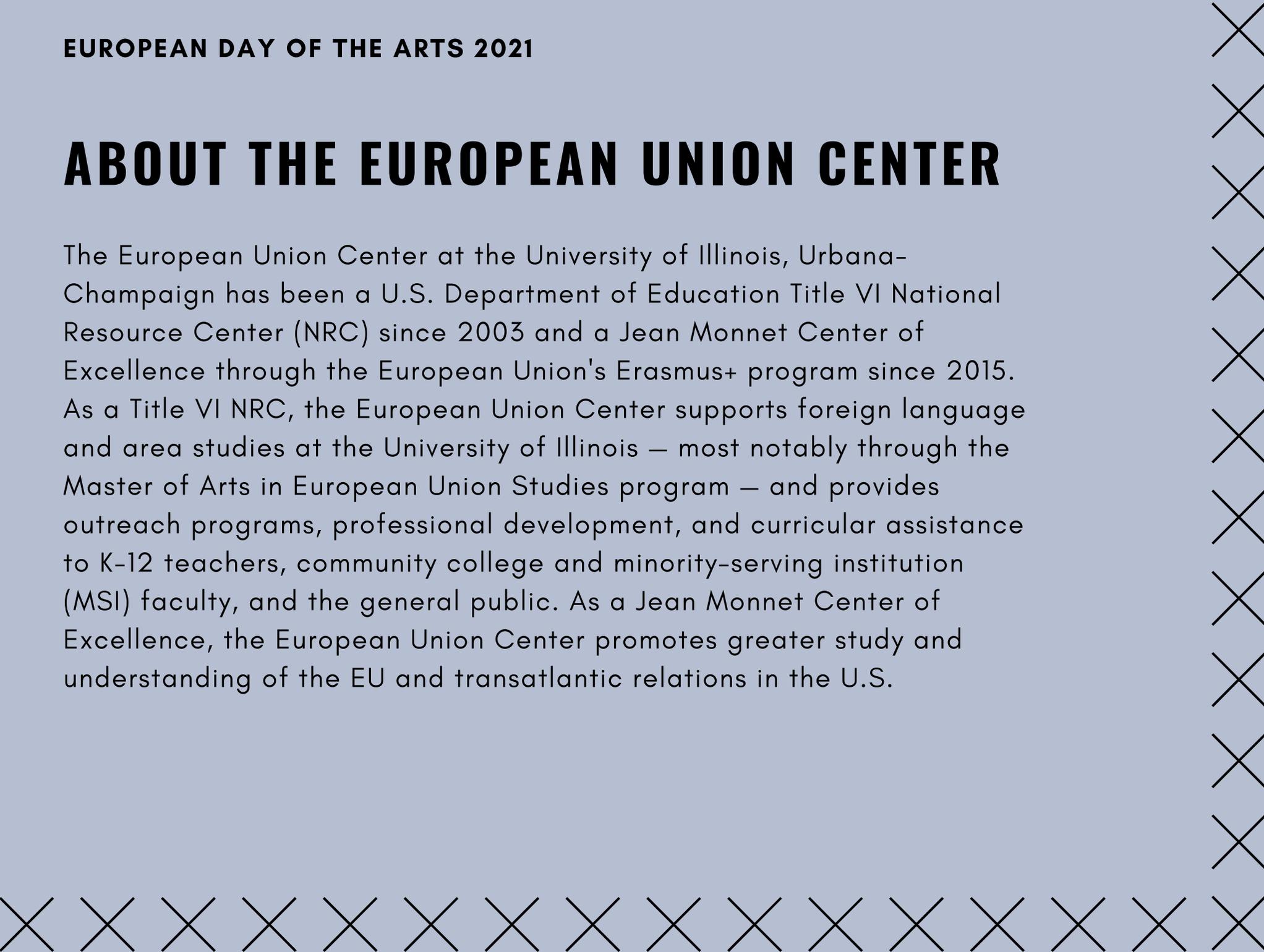
ABOUT OUT OF CHAOS THEATRE

Out of Chaos Theatre Company combines creative physical approaches to theatre and rigorous text work which investigates old stories and their enduring relevance to modern audiences. We make work which is exciting, challenging and generous with a belief in the absolute importance of clear storytelling in creative and surprising forms. Every one of our shows puts the audience at its heart - including them within the action of the play by conferring power and agency on them. With the audience integral to every performance we create truly communal events with the power to move, entertain, edify and enthrall.



ABOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION CENTER

The European Union Center at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign has been a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) since 2003 and a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence through the European Union's Erasmus+ program since 2015. As a Title VI NRC, the European Union Center supports foreign language and area studies at the University of Illinois – most notably through the Master of Arts in European Union Studies program – and provides outreach programs, professional development, and curricular assistance to K-12 teachers, community college and minority-serving institution (MSI) faculty, and the general public. As a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, the European Union Center promotes greater study and understanding of the EU and transatlantic relations in the U.S.



EUROPEAN DAY OF THE ARTS 2021

WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM

Center for Advanced Study

Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies

Center for Global Studies

Department of Classics

Department of Comparative & World Literature

Department of French & Italian

Department of Linguistics

Department of Spanish & Portuguese

Humanities Research Institute

Krannert Center for Performing Arts

Office of the Dean of the College of Law

Program in Medieval Studies

School of Literatures, Cultures & Linguistics

University YMCA

This event is generously supported by Title VI funding from the U.S. Department of Education and by a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence grant from the European Union.