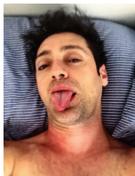


{ Q &amp; A }

# EURIPIDES LASKARIDIS

HIS ON-STAGE PERSONA DEFIES DESCRIPTION BUT THE GREEK PERFORMANCE ARTIST DROPS HIS MASK TO SPEAK TO *ATTITUDE* ABOUT HIS NEW SHOW



**Tell us a bit about *Relic* and what audiences can expect to see.**

It's a one-man show that doesn't conform to any specific genre.

It is a performance that aims to renew the audience's relationship with the grotesque and the bizarre by quietly revealing poetry beneath the ludicrous.

**The trailer states that the show will test the audience's limit for the incongruous and unfamiliar. Without giving away too much, how will you do this?**

This is a completely off-the-beaten-track show and this is obvious from our trailer. Our slapstick humour, combined with a heartfelt sensitivity and attention to detail, usually hits the audience in a rather cunning and subconscious way.

**Do you think it's now more difficult to shock audiences, given the way we're exposed to so much explicit material in the news and media?**

Shocking the audience through the arts belongs to the Eighties. Of course, news and the media shock because

**FAN FARE:** Euripides Laskaridis' one-man show has proved popular at both large and small festivals

they illustrate reality. Thoughtful and thought-provoking art has a completely different mission and that is to help us contemplate our fragile existence. If an artist manages to do that, then, yes, we can talk about shocking the audience.

**Have you changed anything for UK audiences and do you think it will translate well?**

I would be reluctant to assume exactly what a UK audience is — especially in a multi-cultural city such as London.

We like to perform the show exactly as it was originally performed in Athens, where it was created. We carry this achievement with pride. In a shattered country such as Greece, artists still create interesting work— against all odds — and take it around the world with no anxiety on how things will translate.



**“Our slapstick humour, combined with a heartfelt sensitivity and attention to detail, usually hits the audience in a rather cunning and subconscious way”**

I am sure that is what the audiences would want of us as well.

**How have audiences responded so far?**

We are grateful that such a peculiar spectacle has been received enthusiastically at all 18 festivals we have visited so far, in 10 different countries. It's worked at small festivals in smaller cities and acclaimed ones in larger ones such as Paris, Zurich and Dublin.

**From where do you draw your inspiration?**

There are many people, including performance artist Leigh Bowery, the Argentinian cartoonist, performer and playwright Copi, and the American grandfather of the avant-garde Jack Smith. But most of all, Greek director-choreographer Dimitris Papaioannou. I have had the luck of learning by observing his genius close-up for more than a decade. **✎**

*Relic* is being performed as part of the London Mime Festival, 31 January-4 February. [euripides.info](http://euripides.info)