MARIANNA CALBARI

Theatre director · Playwright · Actress · Drama educator · Artistic director Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Marianna Calbari is a Greek theatre director, playwright, actress and drama educator. A graduate of the Drama School of the Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun and Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV), where she studied literature and communication, she also pursued acting studies in Paris at Atelier du Théâtre des Cinquante- Andreas Voutsinas and acting and directing lessons at Charpentier Art Studio. Her work spans classical and contemporary theatre, ancient Greek drama, opera and musical theatre, alongside playwriting, translation, adaptation and arts education.

She has collaborated with leading Greek cultural institutions and venues, including the Greek Art Theatre, the National Theatre of Greece, the Athens and Epidaurus Festival, the Thessaloniki Concert Hall, the Michalis Cacoyannis Foundation and the Municipal Theatre of Piraeus. Since September 2014, she is serving as Artistic Director of the Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun; since 2023, she is directing its Drama School.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Drama School of the Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun, Greece.
- Paris-Sorbonne University (Paris IV), France- Literature and Communication.
- Atelier du Théâtre des Cinquante - Andreas Voutsinas, Paris/ Acting.
- Charpentier Art Studio, Paris / Acting and Directing.

THEATRE DIRECTION

She has directed productions of ancient Greek drama, classical and contemporary plays, opera and contemporary musical works. Her directing repertoire includes:

- Ancient Greek drama: The Suppliants by Aeschylus and Medea by Euripides (Epidaurus Festival), The Assemblywomen by Aristophanes (Odeon of Herodes Atticus).
- Classical and modern theatre: Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov, Georges Dandin by Molière, The Island of Slaves by Marivaux, Tales from the Vienna Woods by Ödön von Horváth, The Maids by Jean Genet, Victot By Roger Vitrac, Edmond by David Mamet among others.
- Her own plays such us: Penelopes and Penelopiads-The loom, Agonizesthai, Pastrikes, New blood among others.
- Opera: The Return of Ulysses to His Homeland by Claudio Monteverdi (Athens Festival),Orpheus in the Underworld by Jacques Offenbach and Julius Caesar in Egypt by George Frideric Handel (Thessaloniki Concert Hall)
- Contemporary music theatre and musical works by composers including Stamatis Kraounakis, Haralambos Gogios, Nikos Kypourgos among others.

Her directing collaborations include the Greek Art Theatre, the National Theatre of Greece, the Athens and Epidaurus Festival, the Thessaloniki Concert Hall, the Michalis Cacoyannis Foundation, the Municipal Theatre of Piraeus among others.

PLAYWRITING, ADAPTATIONS AND TRANSLATION

Her original plays include:

- Penelopes and Penelopiads, The Loom- Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun
- Agonizesthai- All of Greece one Culture Festival (Ancient Olympia)
- My father was an angry man-Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun

- Marika Ninou-Like a star Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun
- Pastrikes - All of Greece one Culture Festival (Ancient Theatre of Dodoni)
- Almanac- Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun-distinction in the Eurodram 2015 selection.
- Biomagic- National Theatre of Greece.
- New Blood -Argo Theatre.
- One More Breath -National Theatre of Greece.
- Gamophobia Stories -Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun.
- Trains Sleep at Night -Tripoli Experimental Festival.
- Four plays for young audiences, as well as adaptations of literary works and short stories.

Her theatre translations include The Reunification of the Two Koreas by Joël Pommerat, The Misunderstanding by Albert Camus, Edmond by David Mamet, Georges Dandin by Molière, The Island of Slaves by Marivaux among others.

ACTING

As an actress, she has worked primarily with the Greek Art Theatre and the Technochoros- Theama Group, and has collaborated with directors including Giannis Houvardas, Giannis Kakleas, Diagoras Chronopoulos, Mimis Kougioumtzis and Giorgos Lazanis.

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

Calbari is the Artistic Director of the Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun since September 2014. She has been teaching acting at the Theatre's Drama School since 2005 and has served as its Director since 2023.

She has conceived, organised and curated festivals, conferences, cultural and educational programmes, workshops and seminars, bringing together artistic practice, learning, participation and contemporary cultural experience. Her recent initiatives include:

- Athens, World Theatre Capital: a cultural programme designed and directed by her, launched in December 2025 and implemented by the Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun in collaboration with the Municipality of Athens and other partners.
- The 2026 Summer Theatre Academy of the Greek Art Theatre Karolos Koun, designed and organised at Antonis Tritsis Metropolitan Park.
- Greece on Stage : co-founder of this initiative, which develops experiential journeys in Greece inspired by the history and mythology of each place and uses theatre-based methods to foster connection, understanding and shared experience for international audiences, organisations and groups.
- She also works in Greece and internationally as a facilitator and keynote speaker in collaboration with Self Balance.

TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

She has taught theatre practice at the University of the Peloponnese, Moraitis School, Praxi Epta Drama School and the Laskaridis Foundation, and melodrama at the Athens Conservatoire. She has been teaching acting at the Drama School of the Greek Art Theatre since 2005.

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Eurodram 2015 distinction for her play Almanac.
- Grand Theatre Award of the Union of Greek Theatre and Music Critics (2019–2020), associated with her work on the production Edmond.

SELECTED SOURCES FOR VERIFICATION

- **Greek Art Theatre – profile and credits** – https://www.tch.gr/default.aspx?id=1420&lang=el-GR&page=44

- **Manager of the Year 2025 – professional profile (English)** – https://manageroftheyear.gr/person/marianna-calbari/
- **The Greek newspaper Kathimerini – appointment as Artistic Director** – https://www.kathimerini.gr/culture/theater/759742/theatro-technis-nea-kallitechniki-dieythyntria-i-marianna-kalmpari/
- **Bovary – interview, 11 November 2023** – https://www.bovary.gr/faces/marianna-kalmpari-psyhologiki-bia-theatro-tehnis
- **Unstage – biography and selected theatre credits** – https://www.unstage.gr/sintelestes/Marianna-Kalmpari/bio
- **iShow – biography supplied by the applicant** – https://www.ishow.gr/person?guid=64970041-B467-4E65-98E6-FF80C120E961