# Toby Vera Bercovici

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# \*Educator, Director, Adaptor, Intimacy Choreographer, Scholar\*

# TEACHING

Cleveland State University, 2020-Present

Assistant Professor of Practice

- THE 225: Principles of Acting—Introductory course which teaches the basic skills of acting and the individual creative process through exercises and scene work
- THE 328: Movement for the Actor—Course which helps students achieve greater physical awareness and expand physical capabilities through exploration of impulse, imagination, and physical action
- THE 331: Principles of Directing—Introductory course which teaches the basic building blocks of text analysis and blocking, as well as develops students' collaboration and communication
- THE 332: Advanced Directing—Course which helps students develop and hone aesthetic vision and identify and dismantle actor habits and hang-ups
- THE 424: Audition Skills—Course which prepares students for professional audition process through practice of monologues, sides, and cold reads
- THE 425: Advanced Acting—Course which explores techniques for heightened language and classical acting
- THE 495: Theatre Seminar: Devising Theatre—Advanced course which explores devised theatremaking techniques and culminates in the performance of a devised piece
- THE 495: Theatre Seminar: Acting the Psycho-Physical—Advanced acting course which explores the teachings of Michael Chekhov, investigating the use of image and movement to create character psychology
- THE 111: Introduction to Theater—Course which centers around seminal plays, the cultural and historical context that gave rise to those plays, acting exercises, design theory, and the role of the audience

Young Harris College, 2020

Adjunct Instructor

- THEA 4202: Directing—Basic techniques course with emphasis on text analysis, visual storytelling, and working with actors
- THEA 3996: Special Topics: Actor/Designer Collaboration—Course which uses *Richard III* as a foundational text to explore the actor-designer relationship

Bowdoin College, 2019 Guest Lecturer

- THTR 1201: Acting I—Course which introduces the intellectual, vocal, physical, and emotional challenge of the acting process, and helps students translate intellectual analysis into embodied performance
- THTR 4040: Studio—Advanced performance-based course in which students develop an original project in their chosen performance area

# Colby College, 2016-2018

Visiting Assistant Professor

- TD171: Acting I—Stanislavski-based acting course which centers on objectives, individual and ensemble physicality, and monologue and scene study
- TD261: What is Character?—Advanced acting course which explores character development through combining strong physical and vocal choices with in-depth study of given circumstances and objectives
- TD264: Applied Performance/Production—Course which follows the production process from auditions through rehearsals, tech, and performances
- TD271: Acting II: The Psycho-Physical—Advanced acting course which explores the teachings of Michael Chekhov and Tadashi Suzuki, investigating the use of image and movement to create character psychology
- TD281: Directing—Introductory course which teaches the basic building blocks of text analysis and blocking, as well as develops students' collaboration, communication, and artistic vision
- TD361: Directing II: Vision and Pedagogy—Advanced directing course which helps students develop and hone aesthetic vision and identify and dismantle actor habits and hang-ups
- TD361: Viewpoints—Advanced acting course which teaches students how to utilize and manipulate the tools of time and space to create compelling theatrical moments

# Holyoke Community College, 2015

Adjunct Faculty

• THE100: Introduction to Theater—Lecture course centered around the history of Western Theater, seminal plays, the cultural and historical context that gave rise to those plays, acting exercises, design theory, and the role of the audience

American International College, 2014 Adjunct Faculty

• THR1400: Introduction to Theater—Lecture course centered around the history of Western Theater, seminal plays, the cultural and historical context that gave rise to those plays, acting exercises, design theory, and the role of the audience

# Smith College, 2014

Visiting Instructor

• THE199: Theater History and Culture: Eighteenth Century to the Present—Course on global theater history and seminal plays

• THE213: American Theater and Drama—Course on American theater history and canonical and new American plays

University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2008-2011 Instructor

• THE140: Beginning Techniques in Performance—Introductory course for majors and nonmajors as well as graduate students from other disciplines. Play analysis, movement, objectives, improvisation, audition technique, monologue and scene study

Teaching Assistant

- THE110: Performance Management—Organized and managed student ushers and box office staff
- THE100: Introduction to Theatre—Lectured to large introductory theater class, led discussion sections for 90 students, graded student papers, assisted in classroom administration and management

# **EDUCATION**

M.F.A. in Theater: Directing, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2011

B.A. in Theater (cum laude; Samuel A. Eliot/Julia Heflin Award for Distinguished Directing), Smith College, 2006

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

Michael Chekhov Association, Basic Training, Teacher Training, Director's Track, 2017-Present Yoga (Anusara, Ashaya), 2011-Present Theatrical Intimacy Education, Theatrical Intimacy Workshop, 2021 Wendell Beavers and Erika Berland, Developmental Movement, 2020 The TEAM, Devising Within a Democracy, 2020 Earthdance, Moving Arts Lab, 2020 Liz Stanton, Expressive Voice, 2019 Maria Porter, Suzuki Technique, 2017-2019 Intimacy Directors International, Intimacy in Performance, 2018 Lenard Petit, Michael Chekhov Acting Studio Actors' Retreat, 2018 Carolyn Shakti Sadeh and Susan Schell, Authentic Movement, 2013-2017 Cassie Tunick, Action Theater, 2015 Daniel Stein, The Poetic Dynamics of Devising, 2013-2015 Epic Theatre, Directing and Ensemble Creation, 2011-2013 Shakespeare and Company, Month Long Intensive, 2012 Mary Overlie, The Six Viewpoints, 2011 Lian Amaris, Creating Performance Art, 2011 Sheryl Stoodley, Suzuki and Viewpoints, 1999-2011

#### **FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS**

Directors Lab North, Tarragon Theatre, Toronto, ON, 20221 • Invited to attend and to present a workshop on "Theatrical Intimacy" Premiere Fellowship, Cleveland Public Theatre, 2021 • Created devised work based on "The Yellow Wallpaper"; directed one-act for festival Station Hope Bowdoin College Research Award for When the Mind's Free, 20202 Dragon's Egg Studio Space Grant for When the Mind's Free, 2019 Directing Fellowship, Asolo Repertory Theatre, 2018-2019 • Assistant directed three productions, coached actors, choreographed transitions and curtain calls, and directed the understudies Colby College Space Grant for Death Wings, 2017 Theater for the New City Production Grant for The Life and Death of Queen Margaret, 2017 Northampton Arts Council Grant for The Life and Death of Queen Margaret, 2016 Arts Angels Grant for The Life and Death of Queen Margaret, 2015 Dragon's Egg Studio Space Grant for Ghosts (Revisited), 2012 Arts Angels Grant for Blind Dreamers, 2012 Northampton Arts Council Grant for Of Turlygods & Time: The Tale of King Lear, 2011 Looking Glass Theatre Space Grant for Spring Awakening: A Sin of Omission, 2010 University of Mass. Arts Council Grant for Spring Awakening: A Sin of Omission, 2009

#### **PROFESSIONAL DIRECTING**

When the Mind's Free	Bercovici/Ensemble	Real Live Theatre (2024)
The Yellow Wallpaper	Bercovici/Gilman	Cleveland Public Theatre (2021)
The *Annotated* Taming*	Bercovici/Shakespear	e Hampshire Shakespeare (2019)
The Roommate	Jen Silverman	Pauline Productions (2018)
The Life and Death of Queen Margaret	Bercovici/Morbyrne	Theater for the New City (2017)
Stupid Fucking Bird	Aaron Posner	Silverthorne Theater (2017)
Here's Where I Let Go	Sharon Saline	Salient Productions (2017)
The Life and Death of Queen Margaret	Bercovici/Morbyrne	Real Live Theatre (2016)
4,000 Miles	Amy Herzog	Pauline Productions (2015)
The Skin of Our Teeth	Thornton Wilder	Silverthorne Theater (2015)
Cat On A Hot Tin Roof	Tennessee Williams	Ashfield Theater (2015)
Still Trying to Get It Right	Sharon Saline	Salient Productions (2014)
August: Osage County	Tracy Letts	Tribe of Fools (2014)
Offering It Up	Carolyn Sadeh	Tribe of Fools (2014)
Red State of Marriage	Peter Shelburne	Pauline Productions (2013)
Genesis	Julia Kaminsky	Circus Warehouse NYC (2013)
Our Town	Thornton Wilder	Northampton Center for Arts (2012)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Accepted but not able to attend due to covid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Not able to complete due to pandemic

Ghosts	Henrik Ibsen	Tribe of Fools (2012)
Blind Dreamers	Devised	Serious Play! (2012)
O Yes I Will	Deb Margolin	Majestic Theater (2012)
Of Turlygods & Time: King Lear	Bercovici/Shakespeare	e Serious Play! (2011)
Spring Awakening: A Sin of Omission <sup>3</sup>	Bercovici/Wedekind	Looking Glass Theatre NYC (2010)

#### **EDUCATIONAL DIRECTING**

The Skin of Our Teeth	Thornton Wilder	Cleveland State University (2023)
Life, Interrupted	Devised	Cleveland State University (2022)
The Gentle Villainy of Richard III	Bercovici/Shakespeare	Cleveland State University (2022)
Late, A Cowboy Song	Sarah Ruhl	Cleveland State University (2021)
The Moors <sup>4</sup>	Jen Silverman	Cleveland State University (2021)
Radio Richard	Bercovici/Shakespeare	Young Harris College (2020)
Spring Awakening	Frank Wedekind	The Drama Studio (2019)
Set in the Living Room	Jaclyn Backhaus	Colby College (2018)
Dancing Into Ecstasy: The Bacchae	Bercovici/Euripides	Colby College (2018)
The *Annotated* Taming	Bercovici/Shakespeare	Colby College (2017)
The Master Builder	Henrik Ibsen	Colby College (2016)
The Skin of Our Teeth	Thornton Wilder	Northampton High School (2014)
The Lottery	Bercovici/Jackson	Stoneleigh-Burnham (2013)
Much Ado About Nothing	William Shakespeare	Hampshire Shakes Young Co (2013)
Twelfth Night	William Shakespeare	Hampshire Shakes Young Co (2012)
Night on the Galactic Railroad	So Kitamura	University of Massachusetts (2011)
The House of Bernarda Alba	Federico Garcia Lorca	University of Massachusetts (2010)
Ashes to Ashes	Harold Pinter	University of Massachusetts (2009)
A Doll House	Henrik Ibsen	Smith College (2006)
A Feast at Countess Kotlubay's	Witold Gombrowicz	Smith College (2005)

#### **FESTIVAL DIRECTING**

When the Mind's Free (excerpt) Iam, Hesaid: A Revolutionary It Is Finished Snow Don't Forget to Breathe Men Hand Grenades Main Event Intimate Things Bercovici/Ensemble India Nicole Burton Betel Arnold Rasha Khayat Meryl Cohn Phil O'Donoghue Shea Giordano Tanyss Martula Laylage Courie Pandemonium, CPT (2021) Station Hope, CPT (2021) 24 Hour Theatre Project (2018) Portland Stage: From Away (2018) Life in the 413 (2017) 24 Hour Theatre Project (2015) Ithaca Fringe Festival (2014) Back to Back Festival (2010) Looking Glass Forum NYC (2008)

<sup>3</sup> Reviewed in May 2011 issue of *Theatre Journal* 

<sup>4</sup> Zoom production

Celia McBride

Looking Glass Forum NYC (2007)

#### **STAGED READINGS**

The Gentle Villainy of Richard III	Bercovici/Shakespeare	e Real Live Theatre (2022)
The Life and Death of Queen Margare	et <sup>5</sup> Bercovici/Morbyrne	Real Live Theatre (2015, 2020)
The *Annotated* Taming	Bercovici/Shakespear	e Real Live Theatre (2018)
Death Wings	Bess Welden	Real Live Theatre (2017)
Conversations With a Masked Man	John Hadden	Shakespeare & Co. Fringe (2015)
Safe Lodging	Tanyss Martula	Play By Play (2015)
The Laramie Project	Moises Kaufman	Northampton High School (2001)

## ASSISTANT DIRECTING

The Cake	Bekah Brunstetter	Asolo Repertory Theatre	dir. Lavina Jadhwani (2019)
Sweat	Lynn Nottage	Asolo Repertory Theatre	dir. Nicole A. Watson (2019)
The Crucible	Arthur Miller	Asolo Repertory Theatre	dir. Michael Edwards (2019)
Mr. Burns	Anne Washburn	New Century Theatre	dir. Sam Rush (2015)
Amadeus	Peter Shaffer	Hubbard Hall	dir. Jeannine Haas (2012)
Hot Lunch Apostles	Sidney Goldfarb	La Mama E.T.C.	dir. Paul Zimet (2012)
The Odd Couple	Neil Simon	Majestic Theater	dir. Gina Kaufmann (2011)
Pericles	William Shakespeare	UMASS Amherst	dir. Shawn LaCount (2009)
Old Comedy	David Greenspan	Classic Stage Company	dir. David Herskovits (2008)
Imminence	Paul Zimet	La Mama E.T.C.	dir. Paul Zimet (2008)
The Odyssey	Kate Marks	Looking Glass Theatre	dir. Kate Marks (2007)
Woman to Woman	Deborah Lubar	Smith College	dir. Deborah Lubar (2005)
Belize	Paul Zimet	La Mama E.T.C.	dir. Paul Zimet (2005)
The Mother of Us All	Gertrude Stein	Smith College	dir. Tina Shepard (2004)
Mother Courage	Bertolt Brecht	Smith College	dir. Alyson Roux (2004)
Freedom in the Air	Mistinguette Smith	Academy of Music (MA)	dir. Jo Comerford (2002)

#### **INTIMACY CHOREOGRAPHY**

Silverthorne Theatre, 2023

• The Cake, dir. Gina Kaufmann

University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2019

- The Water Station, dir. Vishnu Barve
- The Bacchae, dir. Judyie Al-Bilali

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> One in person and one Zoom production

Colby College, 2019

• Wendy and the Neckbeards, dir. Kevin R. Free<sup>6</sup>

Asolo Repertory Theatre, 2019

- The Cake, dir. Lavina Jadhwani
- *The Crucible*, dir. Michael Donald Edwards

Portland Stage, 2018

• *Refuge Malja*, dir. Kareem Fahmy<sup>7</sup>

Monarch Pictures, 2018

• Time To Go, dir. Rio Contrada (consultant)

## AFFILIATIONS

Mid-Atlantic Theatre Conference (MATC), 2022-Present Member

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), 2021-Present Member, Women in Theatre, LGBTQ, Acting and Directing focus groups

Michael Chekhov Association (MICHA), 2019-Present Member

Real Live Theatre, 2013-PresentGoverning Company MemberMember of the producing, curriculum, and education committees

Pauline Productions, 2010-Present Associate Artist

Tribe of Fools Theatre Company, 2011-2014 Founding Artistic Director

Serious Play! Theatre Ensemble, 2000-2011 Associate Artist Board Member

Theater for the New City, 2004 Administrative Intern

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> World premier

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> World premier

# **EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH**

Cleveland State University, 2023

• Organized and participated in "The Razor Edge of Danger: Unpacking Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*," an interdisciplinary discussion on the play through the lenses of art and science

Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, 2022

• Offered workshop on "The Director's Matrix"

Rowan University, 2021

• Gave lecture on the process of adapting and directing *The Life & Death of Queen Margaret* to Shakespeare I class

Sarasota Contemporary Dance, 2020

• Taught "Master Class in Acting," a workshop for theater-goers to deepen their understanding of theatrical process

Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 2019

• Co-led group experience of the festival, chose shows, facilitated talk backs

Smith College, 2019

• Taught "The Art of Adaptation," a presentation for theater criticism students

New College of Florida, 2019

• Taught "The Director's Vision," a workshop with directing students

Asolo Repertory Theatre, 2019

• Spoke about The Crucible and The Cake through an LGBT lens at OUT@AsoloRep

Real Live Theatre, 2014-present

Taught the following classes and workshops:

- "Two Approaches to Scene-work: Objectives vs. the Psychological Gesture"
- "Foundational Acting Techniques"
- "The Art of the Director"
- "Choreographing Intimacy"
- "Dynamic Presence"
- "Actions and Objectives"
- "Authentic Movement"
- "Michael Chekhov Techniques"

Colby College, 2016-2018

• Organized "Yet Another Nasty Woman: Subverting Narrative in Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*," a panel discussion

- Participated in "Page to Stage: Adapting Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*," a workshop with community members
- Taught "Voice and Pedagogy," a workshop with the faculty of East Asian Studies
- Participated in "Creating and Performing *The Life and Death of Queen Margaret*," a panel discussion
- Organized "The Philosophy of Tragedy and Malleability of Memory in Henrik Ibsen's *The Master Builder*," a panel discussion
- Participated in "Page to Stage: Henrik Ibsen's *The Master Builder*," a workshop with community members
- Taught "The Dynamic Voice," a workshop with museum educators
- Organized "Art and Politics in Nassim Soleimanpour's *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*," a post-show discussion

Maine Drama Festival, 2018

• Served as a judge for nine productions

Lights, Camera, Action Festival, 2018

• Taught the workshop "Ensemble Building Through Physical Theater"

University of Maine Orono, 2017

• Panelist on "From Page to Stage: A Midsummer Night's Dream Post-Show Discussion"

Grand Edventures Program, 2015

Presented the following lectures:

- "The Art of Directing"
- "Creating and Directing Solo Performance"

Act Now, 2014-2015

• Coached the MOVIExperience, teaching improvisation, acting for the camera, and scenario scripting

Holyoke Community College, 2014

• Presented a lecture, "The Art of Directing"

Northampton High School, 2014

• Taught a course, "Performing Ibsen"

Stoneleigh-Burnham School, 2013 Taught the following courses:

- "Introduction to Acting"
- "Eighth Grade Theater"

First Generation Ensemble, 2013

• Designed and taught multiple workshops on "Voice for Actors"

The Drama Studio, 2012-2013

Taught the following workshops:

- "Ensemble Building Through Movement"
- "Adult Acting Intensive"

The Looking Glass Theatre, 2012

• Taught a workshop, "Movement for Actors"

- Westfield State College, 2011
- Taught a workshop, "Viewpoints and Composition"

US Performing Arts Camps, 2010 Taught the following workshops:

- "Acting"
- "Acting for Singers"
- "Acting for Musical Theater"

University of Massachusetts, 2010 Presented the following lectures:

- "Adapting and Directing Spring Awakening"
- "Directing The House of Bernarda Alba"
- "Auditioning Techniques"

## **CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

2020-Present:

- Serve on Search Committee for tenure track position in lighting and sound
- Serve as head of Safety Standards Committee, where I spear-headed the creation of the CSU Theatre Safety Standards Document
- Serve as KCACTF liaison
- Serve on the Department of Theater & Dance Curriculum and Scholarship Committees
- Function as departmental advisor for 20+ students
- Teach ongoing workshops in somatic (physical) practice to theatre and dance majors

# **COLBY COLLEGE SERVICE**

2016-2018:

- Mentored student directors for First Year Theater Project
- Mentored student director for original immersive theater experience, How to Start Over
- Participated on panel, "Gender and Sexuality in the Faculty Experience," for ED398: Gender, Sexuality and Education

- Mentored students for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, leading to one Irene Ryans finalist, one SDC Student Directing Fellow, and one winner of the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas Award
- Directed students in presentations for the Colby Liberal Arts Symposium
- Produced Nassim Soleimanpour's White Rabbit Red Rabbit and mentored student performer

### **CONFERENCES & PUBLICATIONS**

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2022—Coordinated and presented in "Beyond Choreography: Intimacy Practices in Rehearsal and Classroom"; participated in "Director's Roundtable"

Mid-America Theatre Conference, 2022—Presented "Feminist \*Annotations\*: A Performative Lecture"

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2021—Participated in "Debut Panel for the LGBTQ+ and Women & Theater Program Focus Groups"

"Rena Cook, *Voice and the Young Actor*," *New England Theatre Journal*, Volume 24 (2015), pp 152-154, (refereed journal) (commissioned Book Review)

## **PRODUCTION & DESIGN**

Sarasota Contemporary Dance, 2021

• Lighting and Production Design, Gravity and Levity

Hampshire Shakespeare Company, 2012-2019

- Scenic Design, *The \*Annotated\* Taming: Or, Out of the Saddle, Into the Dirt, Twelfth Night,* and *Much Ado About Nothing*
- Sound Design, Twelfth Night and Much Ado About Nothing

Pauline Productions, 2016-2018

• Sound Design, 4,000 Miles and The Roommate

Silverthorne Theater, 2017

- Scenic Design, Stupid Fucking Bird
- Sound Design, Stupid Fucking Bird

Real Live Theatre, 2016

- Scenic Design, The Life and Death of Queen Margaret
- Fundraising and Publicity Coordinator, The Life and Death of Queen Margaret

Northampton Center for the Arts, 2012

- Scenic Design, Our Town
- Costume Design, Our Town
- Sound Design, Our Town

Looking Glass Theatre NYC, 2007-2012

- Producer, Spring Awakening: A Sin of Omission
- Sound Design, Intimate Things and Cardboard Box
- Stage Manager, The Odyssey

La Mama, E.T.C., 2004-2012

- Assistant Stage Manager, Hot Lunch Apostles, Imminence, and Belize
- Props Master, Hot Lunch Apostles

University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2008-2011

- Costume Shop Assistant
- House Manager
- Choreographer, *Pericles*

New Century Theatre, 2008

• Props Master, Spinning Into Butter and Kong's Night Out

## **PLAYWRITING & ADAPTATION**

When the Mind's Free—A play about early onset Alzheimer's, in conversation with King Lear The Gentle Villainy of Richard III, Troubler of the Poor World's Peace—A musical fairytale adaptation of Richard III Untitled Charlotte Perkins Gilman Piece—A musical adaptation of Gilman's life and work The \*Annotated\* Taming: Or, Out of the Saddle, Into the Dirt—A rock musical based on The Taming of the Shrew Here's Where I Let Go-A solo cabaret co-created with Sharon Saline The Life and Death of Queen Margaret—A choreographed adaptation based on four plays by William Shakespeare, co-created with Dan Morbyrne Offering It Up—A solo dance-theater performance piece co-created with Carolyn Shakti Sadeh *The Lottery*—A musical based on Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery* Blind Dreamers—A devised piece based on the work of Pina Bausch, co-created with Sheryl Stoodley Of Turlygods & Time: The Tale of King Lear—A choreographed adaptation based on King Lear Spring Awakening: A Sin of Omission—A choreographed adaptation for nine performers based on Frank Wedekind's Spring's Awakening A Doll House—A choreographed adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House

#### PERFORMANCE

The Lion & The Clown (Balloon Seller, Porter) Real Live Theatre, dir. Ellen Morbyrne (2014-2020) After Orlando (Ensemble) Eggtooth Productions, dir. Josh Platt (2017) In the Garden of Live Flowers (Dorothy, Alice) Colby College, dir. Peter Brown (2016) When the System Swallows You (Ensemble) Real Live Theatre, dir. Trenda Loftin (2015) From the Sea to Somewhere Else (Jack) Real Live Theatre, dir. Monica Giordano (2015) Real Live Theatre, dir. Monica Giordano (2014) The Great Adventures of Samson (Pirate) *Hot Lunch Apostles* (Carnie) La Mama E.T.C., dir. Paul Zimet (2012) The Mother of Us All (Gertrude Stein) Smith College, dir. Tina Shepard (2004) *Flight* (Ensemble) Smith College, dir. Ellen Kaplan (2003) Red, Black, and Ignorant (Teacher, Buyer) Serious Play, dir. Sheryl Stoodley (2002) Antigone (Antigone) Serious Play, dir. Sheryl Stoodley (2001) Pericles (Bawd) S&Co Fall Fest, dir. Celia Madeoy (2000) Hamlet (Guildenstern, Player King, Osric)<sup>8</sup> Serious Play, dir. Sheryl Stoodley (2000)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Toured to the 5th Annual Women Playwrights' Festival, Athens, Greece