

Stathis has trained as an actor in Australia, England and Greece; and has performed in most major cities in Europe, at the Ancient Theatre of Epidavros and at the Herodus Atticus in Athens. In post-war Belgrade (2001) he organized and conducted theatre workshops for beneficiaries in 10 institutions for homeless and parentless children and youth. Stathis was the assistant director for the BBC on location in Greece for the 'November 17' documentary. In June 2010, he undertook a project with migrant primary school students and presented a provocative text titled Furtive Life.

In the same year, Stathis began a voluntary theatre workshop in the local prison of Avlona in Greece, an institution for young offenders. As of 2011, the theatre group in the prison started performing to audiences from within the community and also travelled via police escort to other prisons to perform. His experience extends to working with youth under court supervision and conducting workshops for released adult prisoners. In 2013, Stathis conducted a workshop for prisoners in the Korydallos Psychiatric Prison of Athens. From 2003 to 2013 he was the resident director at Hydrama Theatre and Arts Centre.

Now back in Melbourne, he has collaborated with a local remand facility and with the Northland Youth Centre on a project for high-risk youth.

*The work done with the prisoners of the Avlona Special Detention Center for Youth in Greece is a prime example of the struggle for life in an environment that is designed to take life away. The performance of *The Return* places this concept in perspective.*



Special Thanks to The Onassis Cultural Foundation for producing the video of the performance.

For further information:

www.stathisgrapsas.com

**Oakland University
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The Return

photo by Maro Kouri

Workshop with Stathis Grapsas

**November 13, 2015
Rochester, Michigan**