

RSOD

**RICEAN
SCHOOL
OF
DANCE
1-13
AUGUST
2018
HYDRA
GREECE**

Dance
as homemaking,
as the possible universe,
as changes in governance.

Now.

Let us enter into the universe
of unthought alternatives,
to equip the imagination
for the project of social
transformation.

Open to dedicated individuals
of all ages committed to
embodied practices for
personal, professional or social
development, Ricean School of
Dance 2018 suspends
normative social dynamics for
unknown movement, relations
and visions to emerge.

Since its inauguration in 2015, every summer, for ten days, the Ricean School of Dance (RSOD) **opens to dedicated individuals of all ages committed to embodied practices for personal, professional or social development.** In August 2018, RSOD will return to the island of Hydra.

The constituting principle of the school is self-actuated, in-depth research in a setting of aesthetic abundance. By establishing a milieu that facilitates formal and non-formal exchanges, **the school offers its students the opportunity to develop artistic practice within social context.** RSOD engages no teachers but invites exchange that comes from the sharing of knowledge. A curriculum of neither led nor taught artistic research formats will be in place and open to development. For the ten day period the school seeks to provide **a conducive setting for practice-based discourse.**

RSOD is a place where ‘the one who moves teaches’. Bare and sufficient conditions are provided for inspired individuals to learn for themselves through each other. Participants are trusted to contribute in meaningful ways to the determination of the school’s actions; to be interested in fundamental concerns; to allow for mistakes to happen; to initiate projects without the necessity of logic or conclusion; and to fearlessly offer their intelligence.

Situated and engaged in the interconnected spheres of Hydra’s social and natural environment, RSOD aims to form ‘a pattern of conversation and actions’; a mechanism for the cultivation of ethics; a choreography of humans.

The School’s direct resources are sparse. The island of Hydra however offers plenty to nourish the artist’s needs, inviting students to aesthetically adapt their practice to what is already present. Hydra is charged with a wealth of aesthetic possibilities, which RSOD seeks to engage.

“The body is that [...] by which we learn to register and become sensitive to what the world is made of.”
—Bruno Latour

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN YOU SUM UP WHAT RSOD STANDS FOR?

Ricean School of Dance is an opportunity to radically and thoroughly reimagine practices of dance and choreography. We believe these disciplines make a significant contribution to the unfolding of artist/human/citizen/society, through a unique sense and contextual understanding of movement, both individual and social. **RSOD recognizes that observing personal, social and environmental patterns is an act of authorship that co-produces choreography:** that dance, dancer and choreography are entangled aspects, or rather differently framed views, of one phenomenon.

WHY NO TEACHERS?

As choreographers, we occupy ourselves with the task of 'creating conditions for things to happen'. What happens as a result of the conditions we nurture, and how, when, where, with and for whom, we cannot predict or control. As researchers and learners, **we prefer the adoption, personal and collective, of an attitude of not-knowing**—suspending previously held beliefs and assumptions; neither privileging the knowledge of select individuals or institutions, nor predetermining the relevance or significance of any learner's insight and experience. Taking RSOD itself as our field—our primary source for self-directed research, observation and reflection we have the opportunity to propose working hypotheses, offer insights, reflect on our practices, and share tools for exploring the relationship between practices of (social) choreography and experiences of states of dance. Thus RSOD invites everyone to engage and contribute their own unique perspective and sensibilities to those questions addressed through movement and dance: age-old questions that each one of us has to permanently pose and answer for ourselves.

HOW IS RSOD CONSTITUTED?

5

RSOD is a freeflowing, adaptive educational structure, part of the nonprofit organization RICE.

HOW IS RSOD GOVERNED?

RSOD is governed by questions: How can we engage throughout and with the school as an ecosystem? What are the issues that are being raised in this moment? How do we deal with freedom in attaining knowledge? How do we find ways to immerse ourselves as artists in a social framework? How does the environment and the weather affect our practice? How do we resolve patterns in our private, individual legacies and simultaneously function within a collective? If no one is named the teacher, then who or what is our teacher?

BUT WHO IS IN CHARGE?

RSOD is held by an organizing team that draws from the vision and experiences of RICE and RSOD in the past. The hosting team members are themselves students of the school and the way they hold the event each year is itself research in development. Students that have previously been to RICE and RSOD events can play a part to enable newcomers to adjust and find their way through the school. Simultaneous to being a school, RSOD asks **“What is a school?”** To be a student of RSOD, then, is to be both held within the learning environment of a school and committed to the study of that learning environment as it unfolds.

THEN WHO WILL OVERLOOK THIS PROCESS?

The vision is that we are ALL students; there are no teachers, no mentors, just different people with different backgrounds and a magnificent island with no cars. There will be an organizing team tending to the process, and ensuring that everyone has a bed, a pillow and a good dinner, but generally **RSOD exhibits self-organizing qualities.** The curriculum is a collective work in progress.

PLEASE ELABORATE. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY CURRICULUM?

That is an excellent question. By curriculum we mean any choreographic interventions that structure the learning experience in RSOD—in that sense, the curriculum is a collective work in progress, and all students are responsible for discovering what the curriculum is or might be at a given moment. Research and choreographic formats that have proven fertile in the past include *Excavation Sites*, *Parliament*, *Personal Cosmologies*, *Embedments* (as proposed by Michael Kliën), *bench-talks* (as proposed by Edd Schouten), *Day out of Time*, *Ricefield* (as proposed by Vitoria Kotsalou), *Freedom Dance* (as proposed by Jeffrey Gormly) and others. The curriculum unfolds and develops throughout the school, integrating the students' interests, questions, ideas and actions. We encourage individuals to propose, test and evolve formats, methods and propositions for embodiment, learning, dialogue, dancing and sharing.

SO IS IT REALLY A SCHOOL?

Of course it is a school. It's also a university, a temporary tribe, a living theatre and a hive. First and foremost, however, it is a school: a place where we can utilize our surroundings to re-define and extend our individual practices, **to learn in exchange with others.**

WHO IS ON THE ORGANIZING TEAM?

The organizing team will work under the guidance of Vitoria Kotsalou and Jeffrey Gormly, and will be introduced to you on your arrival.

WHAT WILL THE ORGANISING TEAM DO FOR ME?

The organizing team will be responsible for acknowledging your acceptance to the school, arranging your accommodation in a shared sleeping hall in the harbor of Hydra town, managing two additional shared private spaces to work in, and providing daily evening dinner at a taverna (arguably serving the best Greek food on the island). The organizing team will also offer some leadership in the collective task of 'tuning in' to the concerns and needs of RICE. RSOD as they emerge and evolve; this will include some introduction to curriculum formats.

WHAT WILL THE ORGANISING TEAM NOT DO FOR ME?

Organize performances, additional resources and/or participants to partake in your projects and everything else that is not covered under 'What will the organizing team do for you'.

WHAT WILL BE THE MAKE-UP OF STUDENTS?

RSOD is open for individuals with a personal practice in arts, culture, the social, innovation, entrepreneurship, collaboration, politics, service, organisation or education, who wish to cultivate embodiment in a shared context.

We welcome individuals who are willing to expose their personal practice to searing sun, test their own legacy against the emergent concerns of a Choreography of Humans and reflect honestly on the research proposition **"How to move now?"**

WHAT DOES IT COST AND HOW MUCH MONEY WILL I NEED TO PARTICIPATE?

The 2018 school fees are 450 Euro, covering the student's basic needs: admission to the school, twelve day accommodations in a shared sleeping hall in the harbor, daily dinner at a taverna, and the basic supply of water in the sleeping and working quarters. You will have to cover the boat from Athens (50 Euro return) as well as breakfast and lunch—you can do this comfortably with 20 Euro per day; you will get by on 10 Euro a day. We have set the fee as low as possible to prevent economic reality separating you from a great experience. While there are no scholarships available, we will provide information and letters of support to any prospective students to raise funds themselves, for national funding applications or crowd-funding. If you seek out your own accommodation we will offer a fee reduction. We hope to announce additional reductions available to students living in Greece closer to the date.

HOW MAY I APPLY?

Please note that this year there will be considerable interest in RSOD. We are looking for **'inspired individuals to learn for themselves through each other'**. Send a short statement (50—200 words) describing how you fit that description, together with a CV or bio to: riceonhydra@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS 30/03/2018

All applicants will be informed within two weeks.

Founded in 2013, RICE is a cultural initiative on Hydra island (Greece), bringing together renowned artists, thinkers and local citizens. Dedicated to exploring the **Choreography of Humans**, it aims to (re)envision human relations (personal, political and social) with the sensibilities of artist, poet, dancer. Abandoning art as merely diverting commentator on the grand spectacle of our unfolding society, **RICE pursues new forms of civic life and social ethics that emerge from the basis of embodied reality**: sensing and aligning demos—the collective body—within democracy, through practices carrying embodiment and dance into central focus. Throughout the year RICE is active in maintaining a network of artists, researchers and partners. **Based on emerging dialogues and exchanges, RICE entangles life and art, offering space and time to recursively observe, reflect and act.** The outcome can be concrete (social choreographies, performances, texts etc.) as well as ephemeral (personal initiations, transformational self-development, networks and ecologies of practice).

MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE RICEAN SCHOOL OF DANCE AND HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM OTHER SUMMERSCHOOLS OR DANCE SCHOOLS IN GREECE AND EUROPE?

RSOD came out of an initiative we have been running for four years called RICE. During RICE artists and thinkers would gather to radically examine, reevaluate and develop the fields of dance and choreography to identify new pathways for art, society and culture. In 2015 we founded RSOD to address the lack of radically new initiatives in the educational sector of dance that reflect wider developments in the arts in the directions of advocacy, politics, activism, social justice and imagination. There are no teachers, no workshops and no centralized announcements or meetings throughout, yet the school runs on an emergent artistic direction ... a multiplicity of visions that accumulate over time.

THERE ARE A LOT OF WORDS AND PLENTY OF VISION. HOWEVER, WHAT CAN I EXPECT IF I ATTEND RSOD?

The experience of RSOD is self-directed in many ways, so you have to think on your toes. We will be 40—50 diverse people, with various backgrounds, interests, professional and personal experiences. Once you step off the boat, we will welcome you and show you the sleeping quarters that are literally 100 metres from the port. You will probably have already met other participants through social media. RSOD 2018 will be constituted by every single interaction, conversation, danced moment, choreographic observation, emotional outburst, personal revelation that takes place, whether private or shared.

HOW DO I NEED TO PREPARE?

Students will seriously engage with the research proposition “How to move now?” in the light of RICE’s central theme ‘Choreography of Humans’. Formulating or opening a space dedicated to the intention **“What will I learn at RSOD?”** will be ample preparation for the experience. You will get a broad sense of concerns, subjects and key thinkers in advance of the event.

AM I NOT TOO OLD FOR SHARED ACCOMMODATIONS? WILL I BE COMFORTABLE?

The shared sleeping hall in the harbor of Hydra offers basic comfort. Sleeping in Greek’s summer heat is a simple affair and after various other accommodation arrangements for past RICE events, this setup is deemed to aid the process of artistic research. Alternatively you can choose to stay in a private accommodation which you will have to organize yourself.

WILL THERE BE INTERNET?

Internet is freely available in some of the most popular cafés on Hydra. WIFI is also provided at one of RSOD’s venues.

WILL STUDENTS GIVE WORKSHOPS?

We are somewhat discouraging of traditional ‘I teach, you learn’ setups. Not that RSOD is ‘against’ it—but we offer a break from this model, a suspension for ten days to try something else. Everyone is welcome to propose frameworks for learning and experience.

WILL WORK BE SHARED PUBLICLY AND HOW?

Students are responsible themselves to (individually and/or collectively) decide whether and how to share their work. This includes the organization of all aspects of such performative situations. The context of being on a small island, guests of a specific community, causes the whole RSOD experience to have a felt public dimension. In the past, RICE events have included dancing in public and private spaces as well as planned public performance situations.

WILL THERE BE A LOT OF PHYSICAL DANCING AND PERFORMANCES?

There will be a lot of dancing. On rooftops, in ports, on terraces, and even in studios. There are no pre-conceived performances or performance opportunities planned, but the entire island is your oyster, so dancing is likely to happen in as many ways as can be conceived by the students.

WHAT DOES THE FEE COVER?

The fee covers your (shared) accommodation, daily dinner and general acceptance to the school.

WHAT DOES THE FEE NOT COVER?

The fee does not cover your travel, breakfast and lunch. We will send you all the information you need to book the ferry from Athens yourself.

WHO IS BEHIND RSOD?

It's the brainchild of choreographer Michael Kliën and dance artist Vitoria Kotsalou, who together with associate artists of RICE (Steve Valk, Edd Schouten, Zoe Tsavdarides, Lizzy Le Quesne, Kaspar Aus, Jeffrey Gormly etc.) formulated the idea of a school. We are in constant communication with a wide-ranging team of artists and thinkers to further develop the concepts behind RICE and RSOD. The Institute of Social Choreography in Frankfurt has been an important partner in this venture. RSOD wants to utilize the current global and local crisis as a catalyst to sketch the way forward, to be profoundly inspired and motivated to move ourselves into a new paradigm, to let new aesthetics emerge that have the potential to contribute to a new way of moving, producing, relating and being in the world.

RSOD

R
CEH