

Dimitris Papaioannou

Dimitris Papaioannou was born in Athens in 1964. He trained as a painter with Yannis Tsarouchis. At the age of 19, he turned his hand to comics, and to contemporary dance in its totality (as a performer—director—costume, set and lighting designer). A founding member of the groundbreaking “Edafos Dance Theatre”, he created all 17 of the company’s productions. “Edafos Dance Theatre” (1986-2002) left an indelible mark on the contemporary Greek arts scene, garnering awards and invitations to appear at international festivals, and attracting a devoted following with long performance runs on major Athenian stages.

In 2004, Dimitris Papaioannou became more widely known as the creator of the *Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games*. Diving back, post-Games, into his personal creative mythologies, he presented *2* in 2006 and revived *Medea* in 2008.

2009 saw his research head in a new direction, towards the greatest possible simplicity and the reformulation of elemental stage materials. In this spirit, he created *Nowhere* (2009), *Inside* (2011), and *Primal Matter* (2012), a work constructed from next to nothing that opened the door to international audiences once more. His latest work, *Still Life*, springs from this same laboratory.

www.dimitrispapaioannou.com/en/