



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAP UCLA in association with the UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture presents

Fotini Baxevani

The Lady of Ro

Written by Gianni Skaragas; Directed by Katerina Berdeka

January 31 & Feb 1 at Freud Playhouse, UCLA



"A stirring, lyrical story about things that touch and test our human core... The Lady Of Ro will break and mend your heart."

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) in association with the UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture presents *The Lady of Ro* on Friday, January 31 and Saturday, February 1 at 8 p.m. at Freud Playhouse. Tickets

starting at \$28 are available now at cap.ucla.edu, 310-825-2101, Ticketmaster and the UCLA Central Ticket Office.

The play is inspired by the life of Despina Achladioti, known as “the Lady of Ro,” who fled with her husband during WWI to the deserted island of Ro, a stone’s throw away from Turkey’s southern coastline. For raising the Greek flag every morning on the remote island after the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, Achladioti became a Greek national hero.

In Gianni Skaragas's pitch-perfect prose, *The Lady of Ro* is a relatable story of faith and loss during war time; ties between mothers and daughters, husbands and wives; and the place we call home. Acclaimed actress Fotini Baxevani stars as Achladioti, gently weaving together an individual human’s experience and the dramatic sweep of Greek history.

The *Lady of Ro* opened in Athens to great acclaim in October 2017. The show was a prodigious hit in Athens and garnered an enthusiastic response from audiences on its two-year tour in Greece, Cyprus and Perth, and Western Australia.

Funds for the CAP UCLA presentation of *The Lady of Ro* are provided in part by Deborah Irmis, George & Tina Kolovos and Daphne Valentina.

CAP UCLA’s Theater concludes with *Porte Parole: Seeds (Apr 3-4, Freud Playhouse)*.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAP UCLA in association with the UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture Presents

Fotini Baxevani

[The Lady of Ro](#)

Friday, Jan. 31 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m.

CAP UCLA at Freud Playhouse, Macgowan Hall, UCLA
245 Charles E. Young Dr. East, Los Angeles, CA 90095

Program:

The Lady of Ro is inspired by the life of Despina Achladioti, the Greek widow known as the Lady of Ro after the name of the deserted island where she took refuge between the two World Wars. This play examines what happens to the dreams we hold close during wartime.

Tickets:

Tickets starting at \$28

Online: cap.ucla.edu

Phone: 310-825-2101

UCLA Central Ticket Office: 310-825-2101, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Box office: open 90 minutes prior to the event start time.

Credits:

Performed by Fotini Baxevasi
Written by Gianni Skaragas
Directed by Katerina Berdeka

Produced by Lykofos
Set/Costume Designer: Yorgos Gavalas
Light Designer: Lefferis Pavlopoulos
Music: Fotini Baxevasi
Cello: Yorgos Tamiolakis
Assistant Director: Marianthi Bairaktari
Photos: Elina Giounanli

Performed in Greek with English supertitles

The Lady of Ro is based on Gianni Skaragas's novel published by Kritiki S.A. (2017)

Under the auspices of

**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR GREEKS ABROAD**

Artists website: [Fotini Baxevasi](#) | [Gianni Skaragas](#)

About Fotini Baxevasi

Fotini Baxevasi graduated from The National Theatre of Greece Drama School as Valedictorian with Honors in 1992 and from the National School of Music with a BA in Music and Composition. She is currently pursuing graduate studies at the School of Film, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She has appeared in more than sixty theatre productions in Greece as well as abroad, and has starred in numerous television series and films. Baxevasi also works as a theatre director and film-theatre music composer. Since 2010 she has been teaching acting in drama schools, including the National Theatre of Greece and the National Theatre of Northern Greece. In 2009 she directed the play "Prime Numbers," written by Gianni Skaragas, at the N.Y. Greek Cultural Center. Baxevasi has served as the Deputy Artistic Director at the National Theatre of Greece (2013-2014). She received the Union of Greek Critics for Drama and Music Award in 2012 for her performance as Loxandra at the National Theatre of Northern Greece and honorary distinction in 2017 for an actress in a leading role at the 40th Greek Short Film Festival in Drama for her performance in the film "Ourania" by Despoina Kourti.

About Gianni Skaragas

Gianni Skaragas is a novelist, screenwriter, and playwright. He writes in both English and Greek, and teaches creative writing. A professional writer for more than twenty years, Skaragas is the author of ten books in Greece and Switzerland. His first novel, Epifania, a psychological suspense novel, was adapted for television in 2001. In 2009, his play "Prime Numbers" was presented in an Off-Off-Broadway production at the Greek Cultural Center in New York. His short story "The History of Grains" was adapted for theatre in Zurich, Switzerland, and premiered in 2017 ("Courage").

Skaragas has been the creator and writer of five television series in Greece. His English short stories and poems have appeared in publications including *The Tower Journal*, *American Chordata*, *World Literature Today*, *Crannóg*, *Spilled Milk*, and elsewhere. He was the recipient of the Copper Nickel Editors' Prize for Prose in 2018 (University of Colorado). His grants, fellowships, and residencies include honors from organizations such as the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin, Landis & Gyr Stiftung, Writers OMI (Ledig House), the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, and Stiftung Sulzberg, among others.

About CAP UCLA

[UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance](#) (CAP UCLA) is dedicated to the advancement of the contemporary performing arts in all disciplines — dance, music, spoken word and theater, as well as emerging digital, collaborative and cross-platforms — by leading artists from around the globe. Part of UCLA's School of the Arts and Architecture, CAP UCLA curates and facilitates direct exposure to artists who are creating extraordinary works of art and fosters a vibrant learning community both on and off the UCLA campus. The organization invests in the creative process by providing artists with financial backing and time to experiment and expand their practices through strategic partnerships and collaborations. As an influential voice within the local, national and global arts communities, CAP UCLA connects this generation to the next in order to preserve a living archive of our culture. CAP UCLA is also a safe harbor where cultural expression and artistic exploration can thrive, giving audiences the opportunity to experience real life through characters and stories on stage, and giving artists an avenue to challenge assumptions and advance new ways of seeing and understanding the world we live in now.

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PRESS REVIEW TICKETS/PHOTO PASSES/INTERVIEW REQUESTS: Contact Geena Russo, Communications Manager, geena@arts.ucla.edu or 310-206-8744.

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