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THE DELPHIC GAMES RETURN TO GREECE NEXT SUMMER IN HISTORIC MYTHIC FESTIVAL

Feb. 7, 2005 | DELPHI, GREECE – The nation that brought the world the Olympics is reviving yet another ancient event next summer. The Pan-Hellenic Delphic Games of antiquity, which celebrated the arts, will be reawakened in an eight-day festival in Delphi, Greece, June 4-11, 2005. This historic re-inauguration will feature live world-class performances, intensive workshops by renowned artists and roundtable discussions on the convergence of dance, music, drama and poetry inspired by the venerable tradition of the Delphic Games and the rich mytho-history of Delphi. Artists, scholars and enthusiasts from all fields are invited to participate.



Led by the Mayor of Delphi Panagiotis Kaltsis, the distinguished dance performer and lecturer Jeanne Bresciani, Ph.D., of the Isadora Duncan International Institute (New York City), renowned storyteller, author and scholar of mythology Michael Meade, and the acclaimed Greek-American poet Galatea Psonis, *The Festival of The Delphic Games* will offer attendees the unique opportunity to participate in a historic, yet intimate, event with extraordinary presenters on Mount Parnassus at sacred sites rarely open to the public.

With mythic portent, Mayor Kaltsis exclaimed, “I’ve waited 2,500 years for the Muse to return, and She has come,” after seeing Bresciani and her dancers perform in his city last spring. His lifelong mission has been twofold: to revive the Delphic Games, which have been dormant since antiquity with the exception of several instatements last century, and to present them in a way that is relevant to the modern world. The ancient Delphic Games included competitions in the arts as well as athletics, and held the highest unified standard for the arts in the classical world. *The Festival of the Delphic Games* will focus on the arts in tandem to myth, and, rather than being a contest, will celebrate the inspiring landscape and the play of creativity through remarkable performances and learning opportunities.

Sanctified in prehistory by worshippers of the Mother Goddess, extending to the followers of Apollo and the Muses, Delphi was deemed the “Navel of the World”: The Oracle of Delphi was consulted before momentous decisions by the great philosophers Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, as well as emperors, generals and seekers from as far away as Persia. All slaves who arrived at Delphi with the ability to read and write were freed from bondage by sacred governance. For centuries, the Sacred Fire of the Oracle burned uninterrupted. “Delphi’s universal lure, ecumenical message and legacy of freedom have never been more relevant than they are today,” said Bresciani.

The Town of Delphi is providing a range of accommodations and meal plans for program participants starting at \$650 (U.S.). Students, scholars and artists from all disciplines are invited to be a part of this mythic event. Attendees will be able to choose from a variety of intensive experiential workshops in the art of dance, music and poetry. Tuition is \$750 (U.S.), which includes all events and local transfers (including Athens-Delphi-Athens). Airfare is not included. Scholars and artists that work with mythology will also be present to lead roundtable discussions and lectures. “Today, this ancient site is still a living nexus of miraculous energy, a focal point where ecstatic Dionysus and artistic Apollo meet,” said Galatea Psonis. The Festival is accepting applications for sponsorships and presentations. Visit www.idii.org for further program details.

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