

# Traces of Jewish life in Ioannina, Greece

The pupils had practiced a scene from „The Persians“ by Aischylos under the supervision of some Greek teachers on the day before and now had the chance to perform this play in full costumes at this very special place, the amphitheatre in Dodoni, which is being renovated at the moment, and which accordingly we were only able to use because the Greek colleagues had managed to get an exceptional permission. So the group first explored the archaeological site and then the students performed the scenes they had rehearsed.

The play, „The Persians“, which had its premiere in 472 B.C., is believed to be the oldest drama in the world that we know of. It tells the story of the destruction of the Persian fleet in the naval battle of Salamis from the point of view of characters at the Royal Persian court. The tragedy is seen as a perfect example of the fact that although the triumphant Greeks are extremely proud of their victory, it doesn't seem necessary to debase their beaten enemy, but to show the full tragedy of the Persian defeat by skilfully contrasting it with the Greeks joy. Not his own actions, but the deeds of the gods, who have been angered by hubris and sacrilege, finally decide the fate of the tragic hero Xerxes, whose people, the Persians, are seen as the unfortunate brothers and sisters of the Greeks.



## THURSDAY, 15.10.2015

On Thursday all participants made an excursion to Metsova, located in the Greek mountains, for another workshop day, featuring the film „Kisses of Children“ by Vassilis Loules. The original title of Vassilis Loules film, dated 2011, is „Filia eis ta paidia“ and is about five Greek-Jewish children, who were hidden bei Christians during the German occupation of Greece. Decades later they talked for the first time in front of a camera about how they survived the Nazi Dictatorship.

The students were divided in five international groups and each group was instructed to watch one of the survivors closely. Specifically for this project day a room had been rented, where the students could work. After watching the film the students were instructed to write a fictive letter describing the personalities and individual histories of these five children as they might have been seen by the people who had hidden them.

In addition to working on this project, one of the students presented details from his seminar paper, in which he had examined the elements and methods used in the film designed not only to arouse the interest of the audience but also their emotions.

The major part of the film consists in interviews with the persons involved, interspersed with original film documents of that time.

Although the results of this assignment are not complete, they serve to give insight in the way modern media are used by European teenagers. Due to the school initiative to foster a critical view of media like this film, the students showed considerable skill in discovering manipulation.

In the evening a concert was presented featuring Greek dance music and all participants used the opportunity to learn traditional Greek dances.

