

## Biographical Note

*Konstantinos Thomaidis*

Professor Konstantinos Thomaidis is a director, actor, musician and voice researcher, born in Greece and residing in the UK. He obtained an Integrated MA in Drama & Theatre (Distinction) from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. As part of the 5-year, full-time programme, he followed the Acting Pathway and trained with leading actors and directors in Ancient Greek theatre, Method acting, Stanislavski-based acting, acting for film, folk storytelling, physical theatre and speech training for Greek drama. He then received a MA in Physical Theatre and Performance (Distinction) from Royal Holloway University of London, where he trained in the methodologies of Gardzienice, Feldenkrais, Anna Halprin and contemporary dance. At Royal Holloway, he also completed his Ph.D. thesis on the intersections of voice and body in intercultural pedagogies of singing.

He trained further with Gardzienice, the Grotowski Institute, Piesn Kozla/Song of the Goat (Poland), Odin Teatret (Denmark), Experience Vocal Dance (NYC/London), the National Theatre of Greece, and the National Gugak Center (Seoul, South Korea). Always curious about training, he participated in a number of workshops and masterclasses with artists such as Anne Bogart/SITI Theatre Company, Theodoros Terzopoulos/Attis Theatre, Anatoly Vasiliev, Punchdrunk, Fiona Shaw, Jatinder Verma/Tara-Arts, Valère Novarina, Michel Chion, Complicite, Body Weather Amsterdam, Jasmin Vardimon, Frantic Assembly, Improbable, Helen Chadwick Song Theatre and Anne-Lise Gabold (Alba Emoting), among others.

As a voice specialist, apart from his Ph.D. studies and numerous CPD workshops on voice, he holds a Diploma in Choral Composition (Municipal Conservatoire of Thessaloniki, Greece, Distinction); has completed Estill Levels 1 & 2; and holds a Certificate in Gender-Affirming Voice & Communication Coaching. He is committed to inclusive and equitable voice pedagogies.

Thomaidis is currently Associate Professor in Voice, Theatre & Performance at the University of Exeter, in the Drama programme which is frequently ranked as 1st in the country. Since 2019, he leads the MA Theatre Practice, a prestigious programme training performers in psychophysical, intercultural and experimental theatre. As part of the programme, he organizes the annual residency of the MA at the Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

Thomaidis is considered one of the founders of the field of interdisciplinary voice studies. He co-founded and directs the Centre for Interdisciplinary Voice Studies, and as part of this, he is founding co-editor of the Journal of Interdisciplinary Voice Studies (Intellect) and the Routledge Voice Studies book series. He was also the founding co-convenor of the 'Sound, Voice & Music' Working Group at the Theatre & Performance Research Association (TaPRA). Alongside more than 40 articles and chapters, he has published the following 4 books: *Voice Studies: Critical Approaches to Process, Performance and Experience* (Routledge 2015, with Ben Macpherson), *Theatre & Voice* (Palgrave/Bloomsbury 2017), *Time and Performer Training* (Routledge 2019, with Mark Evans and Libby Worth), and *Η Σύγχρονη Φωνητική και Μουσική Εκπαίδευση των Ηθοποιών/Contemporary Voice and Music Training For Actors* (National Theatre of Greece, 2024). He is currently researching inclusive voice pedagogies and transgender sound.

He has taught at universities, drama schools and conservatoires since 2008, including Royal Holloway University of London and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. From 2011 to 2013, he was part of the team that developed the first iteration of the BA Vocal and Choral Studies at the University of Winchester. Before joining the Drama Department at the University of Exeter, he was Senior Lecturer in Drama and Theatre at the University of Portsmouth (2013-2016). He has been invited to teach at the Drama School of the National Theatre of Greece, the BA European Theatre Arts at Rose Bruford, the MFA Performance Training at the University of Plymouth, the MA Applied Theatre at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, the MA Physical Theatre and Theatre Pedagogy at the Estonian Academy of Theatre and Music, Tallinn, Estonia, the GEOKS Centre in Bali, Indonesia, and the Norwegian Theatre Academy. He has also taught voice for open-air Greek theatre at the Anicent Theatre of Dodoni, as part of the 'Therino Manteio' workshop (Ioannina, Greece, 2018 and 2019).

He has presented his research at IFTR, ATHE, TaPRA, Song Stage Screen, and other leading international conferences. He has delivered keynotes for the Royal College of Music (2022) and the Archive of Greek and Roman Performance at the University of Oxford (2024), among others. He was co-convenor of the 'Performer Training' Working Group at TaPRA (2013-2016) and Working Group Co-ordinator at the Executive Committee of TaPRA (2016-2019). In 2022-2023, he was External Curriculum Consultant for the Drama School of the National Theatre of Greece, and in 2024 External Examiner of the Vladmiros Kafkarides Drama School in Cyprus.

His research has received various awards and grants by the A. Onassis Foundation, the Leventis Foundation and the Greek Scientific Society. For his body of work in establishing interdisciplinary voice studies, he was shortlisted for the TaPRA Early Career Research Prize (2019); for the Special Issue 'What is New in Voice Training?', he received the Honorable Mention for Excellence in Editing Award by the American Association for Theater in Higher Education (ATHE) (2020); and, for his overall contribution to voice studies, he was shortlisted for the TaPRA Outstanding Research Contribution (2023). His teaching has been nominated in the categories of Excellent Feedback (2014, Portsmouth) and Innovation (2018, Exeter).

As a practitioner, he has been involved in more than 50 performances, including: *Ichneutai* (voice consultant, Epidaurus Festival), *The Events* by David Greig (music director, Altenrative Stage of the Greek National Opera & 9 regional theatres), *Dido and Aeneas*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Stabat Mater*, *Liederkreis* and *Semele* for Opera in Space (choreographer, director & performer; national and international tours; twice funded by the ACE), *The Present of Things Past*, *Whilst this Machine Floats* and *Ophelia*, *Interrupted* for Waving not Drowning (performer; various venues in London and The Grotowski Institute, Poland), *Return* and *Lied und Tanz* for Experience Vocal Dance (performer and assistant choreographer; London and 92Y, NYC), *Chi Chi Bunichi* (performer; national and international tour; funded by ACE), *The Finger Project* (dancer; The Place, London), and Phil Minton's *Feral Choir* (Barbican and Tate Britain, London). In Greece, he has collaborated with the Greek Festival, the Greek National Opera, Opera of Thessaloniki, Peiratmatiki Skini of 'Techni', Teatro Technis Karolos Koun and Regional Theatres across the country. He was the Artistic Director of Adrift Performance Makers.

His latest work was co-directing the experimental documentary *Mother Company* (2024, Greek National Opera), for which he also composed the choral music.

**Further Links:**

<https://experts.exeter.ac.uk/search?by=text&type=user&v=%22thomaidis%22>

<https://www.routledge.com/Routledge-Voice-Studies/book-series/RVS>

<https://www.intellectbooks.com/journal-of-interdisciplinary-voice-studies>

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/theatre-and-voice-9781137552495/>