

Born in Athens in 1981, Ioannis Mandafounis studied dance at the National school of Athens and at the conservatoire de Paris. Before becoming a freelance choreographer, he was part of the Gothenburg Opera Ballet, the Nederlands Dans Theater II and he became a member of the Forsythe Company from 2005 to 2009. Parallely, he formed the “Lemurius company” and created several pieces such Provalondas tin Skia (2005), Anthropines Diastasis (2007), Crosstalk (2009) and Yperparagogi (2011). In 2007 he created a new version of “L’Après-midi d’un Faune” for the Greek national Opera.

In 2007, he started his collaboration with Fabrice Mazliah with who he co-created P.A.D. which was produced by the Festival of Dance of Athens and, among others, presented in the Days of Swiss Contemporary Dance (2011). They also created HUE, produced by Forsythe Company for Bockenhimer Depot and Eifo Efi in 2013.

In 2009, the «Cie Projet 11» was born from their collaboration as well as the art collective Mamaza with May Zarhy. Together, they created Z.E.R.O. (2009), Cover Up (2011), Pausing and the dance group The Nickel Project- songs&poems (2012) as well as the several installations like Asingeline, Context without Content and Garden State which have been shown and co-produced by numerous venues and festivals,

At the same time Ioannis multiplies the collaborations with invited choreographers such Ouïe-Voir with Olivia Ortega (2009), Twisted Pair with Nikos Dradonas, Katerina Skiada and Olivia Ortega (2013), ApersonA with Elena Giannotti (2014), One One One with Aoife McAtamney as well as 3 Soli Abend, a collaboration with Laurent Chétouane and Roberta Mosca in 2015.

Ioannis is actually working on his new piece “Ossip Mandelstam. A performance” in collaboration with Elena Giannotti, Roberta Mosca and Bruce Myers. The piece will be premiered at ADC-Genève from 2 to 13 march, 2016.

Ioannis Mandafounis also teaches improvisation workshops and Ballet from the point of view of the ancient martial art Budo, as well as making choreographic works for other companies and schools like: Ballet Junior Geneva, P.A.R.T.S. Bruxelles, Palucca Schule Dresden, Greek National Opera, K3 Kampnagel Hamburg, Tanzlabor 21 Frankfurt and others.

In 2015, Ioannis Mandafounis received the Swiss Dance Awards in category Outstanding Male Dancer accolades.