

WHAT'S ON

THEATER

'Plutus'
> Epidaurus
> Saturday
The Evmolpion theater group will stage Aristophanes' comedy "Plutus," a caustic commentary on the importance of wealth, at the Ancient Theater of Epidaurus on Saturday. Directed by Nikos Mastorakis, the play stars Lakis Lazopoulos, Babis Yiotopoulos, Taxiarchis Hanos and others. The sets are by Eva Maniadaki, costumes by Yiannis Metzlikoff and music by Stamatias Kraounakis. Tickets can be purchased at the Hellenic Festival Box Office (situated at 39 Panepistimiou, tel 210.928.2900) and the theater box office.

Epidaurus Ancient Theater,
tel 210.928.2900.

EXHIBITION

Henry Moore
> Athens
> To October 31
The National Glyptothèque (the National Gallery's sculpture gallery which recently opened at the Alsos Stratou) is hosting a retrospective exhibition with 73 works by British sculptor Henry Moore, until October 31. Moore's work is on display along with wooden sculptures by late Greek artist Christos Kapralos made as a tribute to Ancient Olympia in the mid-1960s.

National Glyptothèque, Alsos Stratou (Military Park), Katehaki Ave, Goudi,
tel 210.723.5937-8.

'Leonardo e lo Sport'

> Athens
> To September 28
The exhibition "Leonardo e lo Sport: Art, Science, Technique and Myth" will open at Athens Municipality's Melina Mercouri Cultural Center tonight. The exhibition deals with Da Vinci's relationship with a series of activities centering on sports and studies of the human body and includes sketches by the great artist depicting archery, horse riding, fencing and other sports. It will run to September 28.

Melina Mercouri Cultural Center, 66 Irakleidon & Thessalonikis, Thiseion,
tel 210.345.2150.

Sculpture

> Athens
> To the End of September
The National Gallery is currently hosting the exhibition "Six Leading Sculptors and the Human Figure." The exhibition includes works (mainly sculptures, but also some drawings) by major artists August Rodin, Emile-Antoine Bourdelle, Aristide Maillol, Constantin Brancusi, Alberto Giacometti and Henry Moore, that are influenced by ancient Greek art. It is part of the Cultural Olympiad activities.

National Gallery, 50 Vas. Constantinou,
tel 210.723.5857.

Olympic Revival

> Athens
> To Sunday
The "Pierre de Coubertin and the Greek Miracle" exhibition is on display at the Technopolis Arts Complex until Sunday. The exhibition, a joint collaboration of the Technopolis Arts Center, the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee in Lausanne and the French Institute in Athens, deals with the modern revival of the Olympic Games and includes written documents, medals, photographs, books, as well as personal items that belonged to Coubertin and other personalities of the era.

Technopolis Arts Complex, 100 Pireos, Gazi,
tel 210.346.7322.

EVENTS

Athens Municipality

> Athens
> To Saturday
The Athens Municipality cultural agenda for the Olympic Games ends on Saturday, with shows including: traditional music from Congo (9 p.m.) and theater with stilt-walkers by Slovakia's Vra-

novske Chodulove Divaldo group (11 p.m.) at Athens Municipality's Cultural Center, street theater by Helix and a spectacle by Canada's Fire Dancers at the junction of Ermou and Assomaton streets (10.45 p.m.); blues by the Blues Wire at Omonia Square (10 p.m.); "From Baroque to Jazz" by the Piraeus Saxophone Orchestra (9 p.m.) and extracts from musicals and operettas by Giorgos Niarchos and Mara Thrassivoulidou (10 p.m.) in front of Plaka's Museum of Popular Musical Instruments; street theater by Jean-Jacques Tesson's Paizo-Dromos group at Philopappou Hill (7.30 and 8.30 p.m.), music inspired by cinema by guitar duo Notis Mavroudis and Panoyiotis Margaris at Irakleidon and Apostolou Pavlou streets (9 p.m.); ethnic with a Greek twist by Vassilis Rakopoulos at Thiseion (9 p.m.); foreign hits by Melina Tanagri at Santoroza Square (9 p.m.); jazz and film music by Allegro (9 p.m.) and percussion by Israel's Tamaram group (11 p.m.) at the Technopolis Arts Complex; music by the Athens Municipality Philharmonic Orchestra at Pangrati's Messolongiou Square (8 p.m.); jazz by Trias at Avdi Square (11 p.m.) and much more. For further information, ask at kiosks situated around the city.

Athens 2004

> Athens
> To Saturday
Cultural events organized by Athens 2004 for the Olympic Games end Saturday, with some of the highlights being: "3-Style," a street show for children with live music, dance and acrobatics by Chipolatas, at 8 p.m. at Kolonaki Square; an alternative take on Aristophanes' comedy about war and peace, "Lysistrata," by the Kinitiras dance group at 8 p.m. on Ermou Street; "The Magic Puppet Theater," a street show with stilt-walkers, jugglers and live percussion by Fundastick, at 8 p.m. at the Olympic Village and more.

For information:
www.athens2004.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

Philip Plisson

> Athens
> To September 28
"Athens Between Sky and Sea," the photography exhibition by major French photographer Philip Plisson, is on display at the Technopolis Arts Complex until September 28. The exhibition contains photographs from Plisson's recently published book of the same title, with details of daily life in Athens, urban landscapes and echoes of the past.

Technopolis Arts Complex, 100 Pireos, Gazi,
tel 210.346.7322.

MUSIC

Greek

> Athens
> Saturday & Sunday
The House of Art is hosting a program of live music dedicated to Greek singing, with selections of songs by Vassilis Tsitsanis, Mikis Theodorakis, Manos Hadjidakis, Giorgos Zambetas and other composers. The show starts at 10 p.m. and admission is 10.50 euros.

House of Art, 4 Sachtouri & Sarri, Psyrri,
tel 210.321.7678.

ART

'Athens by Art'

> Athens
> To September 30
Athens city center is hosting an outdoor exhibition of 85 artworks by both established and upcoming artists until September 30. The "Athens by Art" panorama of Greek contemporary art is spread along the pedestrianized Dionysiou Areopagitou, Apostolou Pavlou and Ermou streets, Omonia, Koumoundourou and Monastiraki squares, Pireos street, the National Gardens and Philopappou Hill. The exhibition is organized by Athens Municipality's Cultural Organization.

HELBI'S PEOPLE

Athens gets ready for party of Olympic proportions

Tomorrow we move from the road marathon to a singing marathon at the closing ceremonies. The race concludes both the Games and our own marathon as a nation — the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, the first since Spyros Louis entered the Panathenaic Stadium as the marathon winner in the 1896 Games. When the winner enters the same stadium tomorrow evening, people will head off to the main Olympic complex for the closing ceremonies, once again directed by Dimitris Papaioannou. "It will be a party like those we used to have up on the roof, with the record player going and us dancing, singing and falling in love under the stars," said the director, describing the show. Only instead of records on the turntable, we will have before us all the great voices of Greece — from Domna Samiou, the golden voice of Greek folk song,



Athens 2004's Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki with Games mascots.

to the singers of the greatest hits of all time: Marinella, Giorgos Dalaras, Haris Alexiou, Dimitra Galani and

Yiannis Parios in the first half, directed by Stavros Xarchakos. Composer-singer Dionysis Savvopoulos

takes over in the second half, with singers Eleftheria Arvanitaki, Anna Vissi, Alkistis Protopsalti, Antonis Remos, Michalis Hadziyiannis and the cherry on the cake — Sakis Rouvas, of Eurovision hit "Shake It" fame. A field of golden wheat in the center of the stadium where the lake was situated in the opening ceremony is where a typical Greek wedding is to take place, with bride and groom, music and traditional dances which will launch the party, followed by the victory ceremony for the marathon winners and another ceremony to honor the legendary Spyros Louis, whose name became synonymous in the Greek language for anyone who could run like the wind, an indication that the victory of this Greek man from a humble background, who defeated sporting heroes and experienced runners, has survived through successive generations. Then it will be

the athletes' turn to enter the stadium, led by a band this time, not a DJ, the farewell speeches by Athens 2004 President Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, IOC President Jacques Rogge and the handing over of the flag to Beijing, which is to stage the 2008 Olympics, and a farewell to the flame to music by Manos Hadjidakis. It is then that the spectators will be invited to join in and dance under a shower of balloons, lightning and fireworks — there are no trees in the Olympic Stadium, so no fear of fires! The show will be broadcast under the direction of Manolo Romero, who successfully filmed the opening ceremonies. After we extinguish the flame, no doubt a lively debate will begin in Athens and culprits sought for the Games' huge cost. There is another apt phrase in Greek for situations such as these, loosely translated as: "Pay at the counter!"

Japan warms up in preparation for Nagano Commemorative Marathon

From far-off snow-covered Nagano, Japan, where the Winter Olympics were held in 1998, Kensuke Kosaka, who publishes the Shinano Mainichi Shimbun (circulation 500,000) daily has come to see the Olympic marathon. Kosaka's grandfather founded the newspaper, which was first published on July 5, 1873 and is one of the oldest in Japan. Nagano is known as the Gate to Japan's Northern Alps. After the Winter Olympics, which trained the eyes of the world on the town, it was at Kosaka's initiative that the "The Nagano Olympic Commemorative Marathon" was first held, aimed at keeping alive the Olympic spirit in the town. The next time it is to be held is on April 17, 2005 in the city's Sports Park over a classic course of 42.195 kilometers (26.2 miles). This will be the seventh annual race, in which 2,000 runners will take part, watched by a crowd of 100,000 and helped by 2,500 volunteers. Much of the course follows a riverbank overhung with the cherry trees that will be in blossom at that time of year. Kosaka supports the marathon for his newspaper, honoring its own "marathon through

time," because when the Nagano Winter Olympics were held, the newspaper celebrated its 125th anniversary. Kosaka, a former swimmer, believes in the need for sport that takes place in the open air, requires stamina, discipline and faith in victory. Kosaka visited Kathimerini headquarters recently with the head of the newspaper's foreign desk, Yashushi Aoki, and their interpreter, Mrs Takeuchi, for talks with Managing Editor Christos Panagopoulos and Editor of Kathimerini's English Edition Nikos Konstandaras, senior staff members and board member Martha Dertili. Talk focused on Kathimerini, whose history began in 1919 and witnessed the major events in Greece's recent history, and the climate in Olympic Athens. The guests asked about the marathon, inspected books on the race and on the Panathenaic Stadium where the race ends. (For further information about the Nagano Commemorative Marathon, tel [+81] 2252.7687, e-mail: info@naganomathon.gr.jp. Nagano Marathon Office: 1-3-8 Hakoshimizu, Nagano City, 380-0801, Japan.)



Kensuke Kosaka (second from left) and associates at Kathimerini, with Managing Editor Christos Panagopoulos (far left) and Helbi (far right). Left: Spectators at Nagano's Commemorative Marathon.

A celebration of humanity

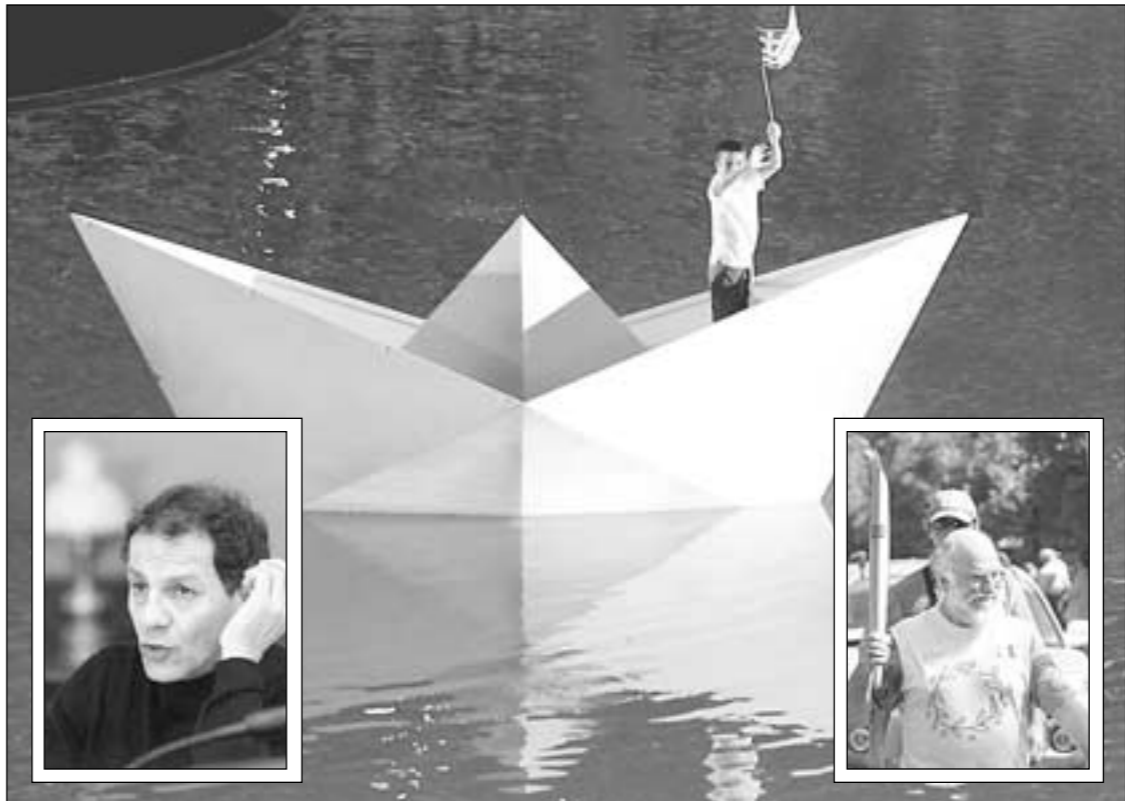
A taste of Greece in store for tomorrow's closing ceremony of the Olympic Games

In the opening ceremony, we looked at an ancient statue straight in the eye, while in the closing ceremony, we will gaze upon a human face when it is dancing and celebrating. It won't be just the spectators dancing but the athletes as well and there will also be lots of fireworks."

Dimitris Papaioannou tried to convey the atmosphere of the end to the Olympic festivities, as he has conceived it and the way it will be staged tomorrow at the Olympic stadium. "It will be a celebration of humanity, full of music and songs. We will dance in the Greek way and we will have a mosaic of musical pieces from all over Greece which will flow constantly, like a river of energy," he added.

In the first part of the ceremony, vocalists Chronis Aidonidis, Domna Samiou, Marinella, Giorgos Dalaras, Haris Alexiou, Dimitra Galani and Yiannis Parios will participate, under the direction of Stavros Xarchakos. The second part, directed by Dionysis Savvopoulos, will feature singers Eleftheria Arvanitaki, Anna Vissi, Alkistis Protopsalti, Antonis Remos, Michalis Hadziyiannis, Sakis Rouvas and Dionysis Savvopoulos himself.

For a few minutes, the stadium's arena will turn into a huge granary which will replace the striking lake



Stavros Xarchakos (l) and Dionysis Savvopoulos (r) will direct the show, designed by Dimitris Papaioannou.

of the opening ceremony. On this field of 14,000 stalks of wheat, groups that are "a powerful part of Greek tradition" will dance. "Participants will include 100 bell-carriers (kouounatoi), who date back to ancient times, and 60 Pontian

dancers." For the first time, the award ceremony for the men's marathon race has been incorporated into the closing ceremony, to honor Spyros Louis who won the marathon race in 1896. The race itself will also take place tomorrow.

After the award ceremony, the parade of the athletes will start to the sounds of a percussion band. Speeches by Athens Mayor Dora Bakoyannis and IOC President Jacques Rogge will follow and then, in an eight-minute ceremony, the

Olympic Flame will be handed over to Beijing, which will host the 2008 Olympic Games. Eight volunteers who were chosen by lot will take the Olympic Flag down and then we will bid farewell to the flame, accompanied by Manos Hadjidakis's music.

"At that point, the party with all the Greek singers will start. We will invite everyone to dance and 250,000 balloons will be let loose." The lyrical, dreamy and poetic atmosphere of the opening ceremony will give way to an explosive and festive atmosphere, which will overcome the sadness of goodbye and of the return to impersonal daily routine.

The feast seems perfectly suitable to an Olympiad hailed as successful and will also stamp on it the character of the country, its traditions and its people.

When asked whether he feared comparison with the much-praised opening ceremony, Papaioannou said that this is "something else" and he seemed satisfied with the way the opening ceremony had been broadcast on television: "Television coverage outdid itself. I had a very close collaboration with those responsible for months. Manolo Romero did a very good job. The moral standards and style arising from a different mentality came across." **FOTIS KOLLIAS**

'Taverna' provides insight into details of Greece's daily life

Every night the city center is abuzz and, for once, great amounts of art feature prominently in parks, gardens and pedestrian streets like never before. People enjoy approaching the works and playing with them. Broad as this may sound, it particularly applies to "Taverna," Takis Zerdevas and Makis Faros's work of art on display at the pedestrianized part of Ermou Street (at the level of Kerameikos), which is one of the most popular exhibits. The title is indicative of the content: the work reincarnates a Greek taverna. On the surfaces of the six tables, video images of groups of friends sharing local delicacies are projected. At the same time,

we hear their views, secrets, disagreements and quarrels. This interactive taverna provides a delicious insight into Greek life and is part of the "Catch the Light" program, organized by Athens 2004. The main idea was to create a space where private conversations could be expressed in public. "We don't refer to words said on television, where people are talking in a 'protected' environment, are serious and know the rules," said Zerdevas. "We were interested in words exchanged privately in a public place which, however, does not render the conversation official. Chatting in a taverna has no formality, we are

not cautious about what we say." Eavesdropping on the conversations, we can hear men discussing women and women deconstructing men. A conversation about football or zodiac signs could hardly be absent, while, at a nearby table, a few "intellectuals" talk without understanding each other; their words sound very serious, but are incoherent. At the only lonely table, a man plays with his worry beads. "As a work of art, 'Taverna' could be displayed in a museum. While the subject itself is familiar, the venue (a museum or a gallery) removes that familiarity. We would like to see this contradiction." All the works of "Catch the Light" will be



The work of art is on display at the pedestrianized part of Ermou Street.

removed after the end of the Games on Sunday. "There have been some contacts about continuing the work or displaying it under different circumstances, but I wonder if there is a point there," said Zerdevas, who has spent these days next to "Taverna." "People like it, I see that almost every night. This story is embedded in Greek people's soul." **DIMITRIS RIGOPOULOS**