

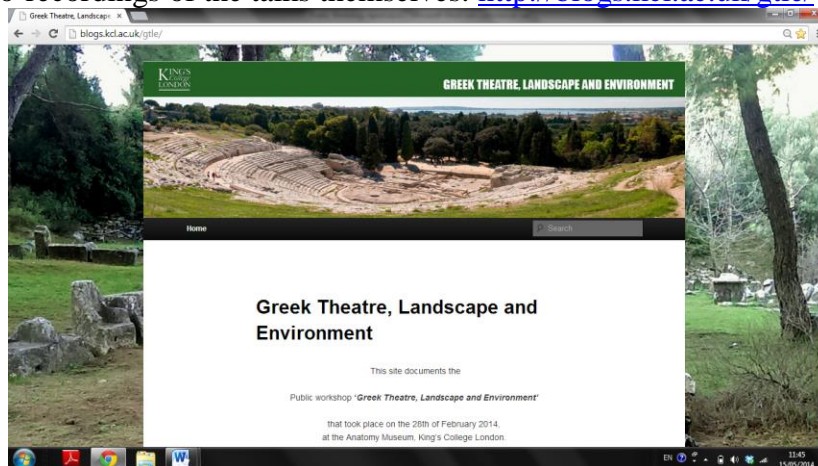
Public Workshop: Greek Theatre, Landscape and Environment 28 February 2014

Report by Emmanuela Bakola, Organiser

I am most grateful to the Hellenic Society for their generous support of the Public Workshop *Greek Theatre, Landscape and Environment*, which took place on the 28 February 2014.

I am delighted to report that the event was a resounding success. The event took place in the space of the state-of-the-art Anatomy Museum in order to make a striking visual statement of the relationship between theatre space, landscape and environment. Photographs from the natural landscape which surrounds the spaces of four Greek theatres were projected on the floor-to-ceiling screens of the Museum space at 360°. During the event, therefore, the audience was ‘engulfed’ by this virtual reproduction of the Greek landscape, providing a constant point of reference for the speakers and inspiring lively exchanges during both the breaks and the formal discussion. The remaining spaces of the Museum were covered in writing with passages from Greek tragedies (and translations) which evoke spaces which would have lain immediately in view of the audience or contain imagery of natural elements, bodies and phenomena. As many members of the audience later told us, the constant virtual (and textual) presence of the landscape around them helped them connect fully with the talks and discussions and to generate ideas of their own, often in unexpected ways.

In total, sixty people attended the workshop, including twenty-one postgraduate students, several teachers of Classics and members from the general public. The enthusiasm for participating in this innovative event was such that all places had been booked only three days after its first advertisement, and the waiting list was as long as the list of registrations. Unfortunately, due to restrictions of the Anatomy Museum space, we could not admit any more participants. However, because of its popularity, we arranged for the event to be video-recorded, and a special website has been created with visual material and the video-recordings of the talks themselves: <http://blogs.kcl.ac.uk/gtle/>



A stellar panel of theatre experts were involved in this event. Four speakers, namely Rush Rehm (Stanford), David Wiles (Exeter), Peter Meineck (New York) and Emmanuela Bakola (King's College London) presented their exciting work on this emerging approach, and the presentations were followed by a lively discussion by Oliver Taplin (Oxford), Fiona Macintosh (Oxford), Chris Carey (UCL), Nick Lowe (RHUL) and Richard Seaford (Exeter). Among the members of the audience were also Pat Easterling, Ruth Padel and William Fitzgerald, who also have a strong interest in the uses of space in classical literature.

The event was **free of charge** and included **two half-hour drinks receptions which allowed plenty of opportunity for interaction and networking** between audience and speakers/discussants. **The number of postgraduate students attending was high (21)**, and around fifteen more students put their names in the waiting list. As **I had no requests for financial assistance with travel**, and after requests by prospective participants in the waiting list, I used the Hellenic Society grant (£260) towards the video-recording of the event (£200) and the creation of a website (£60, see above) which could accommodate the recordings and other visual material. The website now allows easy access of the talks, discussions and images by all, including by the postgraduate students whom we could not accommodate. I am delighted to report that it has had over 500 hits in just two weeks of running. I hope this change in the use of the Hellenic Society grant will be acceptable.