

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Richard Stockton College Presents “The Memoirs of Makriyiannis with Yannis Simonides”

For Immediate Release

Monday, February 02, 2009

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Galloway Township, NJ- On Saturday, March 21, 2008, the Friends of Hellenic Studies of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will present a bilingual reading and performance by Yannis Simonides on the 187th anniversary of the Greek War of Liberation from the Ottoman Turks.

Mr. Simonides narrates the historical background in English and intersperses his recitation with the words of General Ioannis Makriyiannis (1797-1864), a legendary military leader who at a young age emerged as a key general of the Greek Revolutionary army, and afterwards, as one of the founders of the Modern Greek State. Makriyiannis learned to read and write expressly in order to produce this extraordinary document of the period during and after the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Turks. Through his memoirs, his only work, he has come to be regarded as one of the most important Greek literary figures of the last two centuries.

Yannis Simonides recites in Greek, immediately followed by an English translation. These narrations are complemented by recordings of Greek revolutionary songs of the period (kleftika tragoudia) and a slide presentation that illustrates the text. Revolutionary war battles are depicted via slides of paintings by Zografos, which were sponsored and directed by Makriyiannis himself and are now at the Gennadios Library in Athens.

Mr. Simonides is known worldwide for his role as Socrates in a dramatized version of Plato's "Apologia". Born in Constantinople and raised in Athens, he is a Yale Drama School trained actor/writer and Emmy-winning documentary producer. His performance work includes plays by Euripides, Aristophanes, Shakespeare, Brecht, Korres and Pontikas, along with solo and ensemble pieces culled from the writings of C.P. Cavafy, General Makriyiannis, Nikolai Gogol and Plato. He has received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Greek Ministries of Culture and Foreign Affairs, the A. Onassis, L. Kostopoulos and Levendis Foundations, Time Warner and the Mobil Foundation.

For information about this performance, please call Dawn Kanaan at (609) 652-4830.

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