

Ancient Echoes in Greek Expressive Culture



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Greece is “[s]o overshadowed by an illustrious past...that it must humiliatingly always append the suffix ‘modern’ to its name”

(Herzfeld 1997:92)



“Doctrine of survivals”

- Characteristics of culture from an earlier time that have persisted in later stages
 - “Cultural evolution” from “primitive” to “civilized” (E.B. Tylor)



“Doctrine of survivals”

- Survivals in the *Greek* case exemplify not evolution, but *devolution*, a “fall from ancient glory”
 - survivals prove that “fallen” Greece still connected to the ancient past with which the West identifies



Dora Stratou Dance Theater

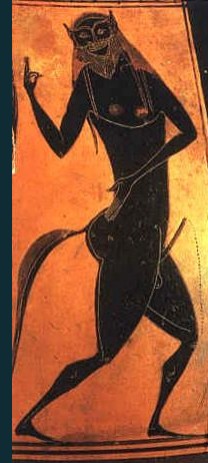
- A “living museum” of dance since 1953
- Conscious linking of dances and costumes to ancient Greek culture



Skyros, Sporades island chain, NW Aegean



Skyrian Carnival as Dionysian ritual?



Skyrian songs as “Byzantine” music

- “My Golden Green Eagle”
 - Giorgos Yiakoumopoulos
- *Axion Esti*
 - Nikos Amorgianos
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhSPCutTX7g>



“Byzantine” as a marker of continuity

- Temporal lineage
 - direct heir of ancient Greece
- Dynamic
 - present is cast in terms of the past
- Spatial nexus
 - point of connection between the Christian Greek world and neighboring societies



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Map courtesy of <http://www.greece-map.net/skyros.htm>

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My Skyrian neighbors, friends and teachers