STOUPA: The Kazantzakis – Zorbas Project

FESTIVAL
In the Footsteps of Kazantzakis and Zorbas
Stoupa, 25–27 September 2026

In collaboration with Mani Lit Fest
https://www.manilitfest.com

The Relevance of Kazantzakis Today

Short Biographies of the Speakers

Jon Thompson

Jon Thompson is a poet, professor emeritus, editor and essayist. He has published five full-length collections of poetry, most recently The Distances (2024), as well as After Paradise, a collection of lyrical essays on American culture. His latest project, Camera Obscura, is a hybrid memoir combining photography, prose and prose poems. He is the founder of the online journal Free Verse: A Journal of Contemporary Poetry & Poetics and has also developed the publishing series Free Verse Editions and Illuminations. He now divides his time between the United States and Greece.

Dr Maklena Nika

Maklena Nika worked as a lecturer in Modern Greek Literature in the Department of Greek Language at the University of Tirana. Her doctoral research focused on a comparative study of French and Greek Surrealism. Since 2009, she has served

as President of the Society of Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis in Albania. In 2022, she was honoured by the Ministry of Culture and the Hellenic Foundation for Culture for her dedication to promoting Greek culture in Albania. She has translated major works of Greek, French and English literature into Albanian. She is also a poet, with works including I, You, We, Oxymoron and Nitroglycerin, the latter two nominated for Albania's National Poetry Prize.

Kelvin Corcoran

Kelvin Corcoran lives in Greece. His first book was published in 1985, and his Collected Poems appeared in 2023, drawing together work from the fifteen books published in the years that followed. His poetry has been commended by the Poetry Society and the Forward Prize committee, and his work is the subject of the critical study The Writing Occurs as Song, edited by Andy Brown. He has also edited and co-edited publications on the work of Lee Harwood and Peter Riley. His most recent publications include the libretto Under Tainaron (2025) and Transparent Blue of Everything (2026). His work has been anthologised in the UK and the USA and translated into Greek.

Pamela Garelick

Pamela Garelick first arrived in the Mani 33 years ago and has lived here full-time for the past 23 years. Her varied career has included work at the Royal Botanic Gardens, audiovisual production, the music industry, audiobook narration and voice-over work, as well as documentary research and distribution. Now based permanently in the Mani, she recently translated Stoupa Remembers into English, helping to bring wider international attention to the relationship between Nikos Kazantzakis and George Zorbas and to their connection with Stoupa. She is actively involved with the NARTURA Cultural Association and its work to preserve, enhance and celebrate the unique cultural history of the area.