



## PRESS RELEASE

### Readers have selected the winners of the Public Book Awards for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year!

#### *Images from the Land of Books came alive in the packed Concert Hall!*

The Public Book Awards were held yesterday, **Tuesday 26 May 2015**, for a second consecutive year, with unprecedented reader participation, in a process culminating with the **Official Awards Ceremony** in a **packed Athens Concert Hall**. The final winners were selected with the 220,000 votes cast by 100,000 participating readers.

Actively taking part in the star studded evening, intellectuals and artists presented the awards to the winners: Director of the National Gallery - Alexandros Soutzos Museum, **Marina Lambraki - Plaka**, **Christos Karas**, Hellenic Film Academy Chairman, **Vassilis Katsoufis**, journalist and TV host **Maya Tsoklis**, author **Auguste Certeau**, journalist **Lena Aronis**, actress **Ioanna Pappas**, translator **Giorgos Depastas**, Athens School of Fine Arts "Engraving" Department Chairman **Michael Arfaras**, Greek Graphic Designers Association Chairman Mr. **Tzanetos Petropouleas** and baritone Mr. **Christophoros Stamboglis**, and the group of actors of the Black Cat show. In his capacity as Herald of the Elpida Association, **Sakis Rouvas** received from Public the donation of a children's library for the "Marianna V. Vardinoyannis - ELPIDA Children's Oncology Unit" and presented the Award in the Greek Literature for Children category.

The evening of the Official Awards Ceremony sent the hundreds of spectators to the Land of Books under the **directorship** of **Christos Georgiou** and **actor - director Giorgos Nanouris**, who was also the event host. **Excerpts from successful theatre shows** on the Athenian scene that were **based upon books**, were represented live from the actors on the scene, including: "The Last Black Cat," (Η τελευταία μαύρη γάτα) from the novel by Eugene Trivizas, with a number of select actors; the "Big Roads" (Μεγάλοι δρόμοι) from the book by Lena Kitsopoulou, with Eva Lampara; "Ah!" (Αχ!) with the bijoux de kant troupe, based on Constantinos Christomanos' book "Wax Doll" (Κερένια Κούκλα) with Dimitris Mothoneos; "Katherine" (Κατερίνα) from "The Book of Katherine" (το Βιβλίο της Κατερίνας) by Auguste Certeau, with Lena Papaligoura and "Polydouri Street" (Οδός Πολυδούρη) by Roula Georgakopoulou with Ioanna Pappas.

**The winners** were as follows:

**1. Greek novel of the year**

The winner was "Nike" by Christos Chomenides from Patakis Publishing.  
Presenting the award was baritone Christoforos Stamboglis.

**2. Translated novel of the year** (into Greek)



The winner was "Saints of the Shadow Bible" (Άγιος ή αμαρτωλός) by Ian Rankin from Metaixmio Publishing (translated by Vasia Tzanakari). Presenting the award was Giorgos Depastas, theatrical play translator.

**3. Foreign language novel of the year<sup>[1]</sup>**

The winner was "The Dress Thief" by Natalie Meg Evans from Quercus Publishing. Presenting the award was the Hellenic Film Academy Chairman, Vassilis Katsoufis.

**4. Greek non-Fiction** (including: essay, research, biography, testimony, policy, economics, psychology)

The winner was "There is a God" (Υπάρχει Θεός) by Filoktitis Diakomanolis from Iolkos Publishing. Presenting the award was journalist Lena Aronis.

**5. Greek Poetry**

The winner was "The collected poems 1904-1975" (Άπαντα τα ποιητικά 1904-1975) of Costas Varnalis by Kedros Publishing (edited by: Maria Simeonidou) Presenting the award was actress Ioanna Pappas.

**6. Greek Literature for Children**

The winner was "Twelve to twelve" (Δώδεκα παρά δώδεκα) by Eugene Trivizas from Kalentis Publishing. Presenting the award was Sakis Rouvas in his capacity as Herald of the ELPIDA Association.

**7. Greek Literature for adolescents**

The winner was "Diary of a Coward" (Ημερολόγιο ενός δειλού) by Vassilis Papatheodorou from Kastaniotis Publishing. Presenting the award was Public's CEO, Christos Kalogerakis together with the actors from "The Last Black Cat" by Eugene Trivizas. This award was also accompanied by a subsidy award to translate the book into English for promotion abroad.

**8. Well Being (Ευ Ζην)** (Greek Cookery, Self-help, Hobby books) The winner was "You have to try this" (Αυτό πρέπει να το δοκιμάσεις) by Akis Petretzikis from Psychogios Publishing.

Presenting the award was journalist and presenter Maya Tsoklis.

**9. Arts** (Greek architecture, sculpture, visual arts, music, theatre, dance, cinema, photography and comics books)

The winner was "Spinalonga - Through my Eyes" by Gina Xanthaki, from Livanis Publishing. Presenting the award was the artist, Christos Karas.

**10. Surprise category - "The most erotic character"**

The winner was "Twin Moons" (Δίδυμα Φεγγάρια) by Rena Rossi - Zairi, from Psychogios Publishing. Presenting the award was Eva Lampara, lead actor in the "Long Roads" (Μεγάλοι Δρόμοι) show by Lena Kitsopoulou.

Three Special Awards were also awarded:

The **Publishing Footprint Award**, which was voted for by a committee of notable professionals, was awarded to **Icarus Publishing**. Presenting the award was **the Director of the National Gallery - Alexandros Soutzos Museum, Marina Lambraki - Plaka**

The book "Scenes from the life of Matthias Amoncino" by Isidoros Zourgos from Patakis Publishing also won a prize voted for by the booksellers of Public bookstores, the **"Public Bookstores Award."** Presenting the award was last year's winner, **author August Corteau together with a representative from Public Bookstores.**

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<sup>[1]</sup> exclusively regarding foreign publishing houses



The **Award for Best Book Cover** of the year was awarded by a special committee consisting of visual and commercial arts artists to **book "Tibetan Peach Pie"** by Tom Robbins from Eolos Publishing. Presenting the award were **the Athens School of Fine Arts "Engraving" Department Chairman Michael Arfaras and the Greek Graphic Designers Association Chairman Mr. Tzanetos Petropouleas.**

In his acceptance video, author Isidoros Zourgos pointed out: *"If literature is a meeting of authors and readers, then the people working in this industry are the ones who establish and support this meeting. I thank the sales staff of Public bookstores throughout Greece from the bottom of my heart; they are the ones who stand by the books after they depart from the hands of their creators and travel to meet the readers."*

Participation was what sealed this year's success as even more publishers, authors and, more importantly, readers were the ones who embraced Public's efforts to bring books and readers closer together: **150 publishing houses, 1,200 authors** with **2,000 Greek book titles** were involved in the two-month long process.

More than **100,000 people** took part in the voting throughout Greece exceeding previous participations, and with **220,000 votes** selected their favourite book in 10 different categories.

The evening of the Official Awards Ceremony sent the hundreds of spectators to the Land of Books under the **directorship** of **Christos Georgiou** and **actor - director Giorgos Nanouris**, who also hosted the event.

The following excerpts from successful theatre shows on the Athenian scene that were based upon books, were represented live from the actors on the impressive scene that was specially built for the remarkable evening: "The Last Black Cat," (Η τελευταία μαύρη γάτα) from the novel by Eugene Trivizas, with a number of select actors; the "Big Roads" (Μεγάλοι δρόμοι) from the book by Lena Kitsopoulou, with Eva Lampara; "Ah!" (Αχ!) with the bijoux de kant troupe, based on Constantinos Christomanos' book "Wax Doll" (Κερένια Κούκλα) with Dimitris Mothoneos; "Katherine" (Κατερίνα) from "The Book of Katherine" (το Βιβλίο της Κατερίνας) by Auguste Corteau, with Lena Papaligoura and "Polydouri Street" (Οδός Πολυδούρη) by Roula Georgakopoulou with Ioanna Pappas.

**Authors**, representatives from the **publishing industry, artists, journalists** and **readers** attended this important annual celebration for books, paying homage to the tradition. The Public Book Award 2015 sponsors were Samsung (Great Technology Supporter), SKAI 100.3 and Melodia 99.2 (Communications Sponsors).

#### **Directors**

Christos Georgiou and Giorgos Nanouris

#### **Set Designer**

Dimitra Spiridonos

#### **Set Construction**

Freddy Gkizas



**3D mapping**

2monochannels

**Sound Design - Sound**

Spiros Kassimis

**Live Music from the Voyage Jazz Band**

**Lighting Design**

Vassilis Klotsotiras

**Production Design & Supervision**

SocialDoo

**Visual Arts Design & Supervision**

Spicy

*Technology Support*

**SAMSUNG**

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