

The space in between

Upcoming Buffer Fringe Festival will straddle the two sides of Nicosia to present works inspired by the buffer zone reports
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The Buffer Fringe festival returns to Nicosia next weekend, reclaiming its original site where, for three days, participants from north and south and overseas, in an imaginative and creative inversion of the capital's Green Line buffer zone function will expand on the theme 'Defining the buffer zone, in between spaces'.

"The questions we will be asking this year during the festival are very important and potent. We invited both Cypriot and international artists to focus on defining not only the geographical buffer zone where the festival is taking place but also many other 'in between spaces' that have to do with various aspects of our identity and the choices we make, connected with them... We asked artists to tell us about their personal 'in between spaces' but also to look into colonisation and sensationalisation of the others. We wanted to explore as many aspects of this theme as possible," artistic and executive director of the Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival 2019 Ellada Evangelou told the *Sunday Mail*.

With a touch of pride, she added that 180 artists from 45 countries applied to participate in the festival, which organisers eventually whittled down to 22.

Among six works custom-made for Buffer Fringe 2019 are pieces by the Cypriot creative team Aristi Pavlou, by the Swiss-Cypriot theatre company Alma Alba, and a Puerto Rican dance production entitled *Oscilo*.

Lefki Papachrysostomou, the Nicosia-born founder of Alma Alba said the work she is bringing to the festival is based on her childhood memories of Sunday walks with her father along the Green Line. "My father loved history, not just the one written with a capital H,



but also the history of ordinary people. He used to take me and my brother for a walk in old Nicosia every Sunday. He would show us different abandoned old houses along the Green Line and tell us about the people who used to live there. Some of them were famous people and some were just my father's friends. I looked at these houses as if they were full of ghosts, souls that were unable to move on, and this is what my performance *Heteroclitite Buffer Memory* is about," she said.

Papachrysostomou, 43, who set up her theatre company in Geneva in 2011, said she is very excited to bring her work to Nicosia. "It is the first time I will be able to show a production of mine in the place where I was born. Of course, I am very excited and honoured to be here. And I am looking forward to hearing what my father will say about this work that was so much inspired by him."

now finally it will get to its destination."

The three-day long festival takes place at three different venues: Bar 1984 in north Nicosia's old town on Friday, October 25; Home For Cooperation and Ledra Palace Hotel on Saturday, October 26; and Dancehouse Nicosia in Ayios Andreas in Nicosia on Sunday, October 27.

According to Evangelou, all three days of the festival offer "must see/don't miss" events. The first and third days focus heavily on theatre and dance performances. Saturday is pretty much concentrated inside the buffer zone proper, resembling nothing less than a big fair. There will be an Open Mic session during which any and all are welcome to take to the stage for five minutes to express their thoughts on the buffer zone and other "in between spaces". Another feature will be a long table discussion on the Arts and Community.

"We have had many volunteers working with us to help organise this festival - altogether, some 100 people have been hard at work putting it all together," Evangelou said. "So now, what is left is to pray for good weather and wait for a big crowd to come and enjoy what we have prepared for them."



A strong connection is needed between the two players on a beach volleyball team. For one of the most successful in Cyprus that comes naturally discovers
ALIX NORMAN



Supporting siblings are pretty common: Serena and Venus, Andy and Jamie, and New Zealand's trio of rugby-playing Barrett brothers spring to mind. But twins are a little rarer. Which is a surprise, because you'd think all that special connection might come in very useful on a pitch, court or track.

Among our world-class sporting twins, we've got Australian football players Adam and Joel Griffiths, former Vancouver Canucks ice hockey forwards Henrik and Daniel Sedin, and NBA players Brook and Robin Lopez - though as they play for different teams, the subliminal link may slightly less effective. But perhaps it's as a team of two that twins really come into their own: as doubles partners on the tennis court, the Bryan twins, Bob and Mike, were perhaps the most successful tennis duo of all time. And the football-playing twin prodigies, Rio and Steffi Hardy, who played for local club Apollon Ladies FC, have been much in the news of late. We even have our own more local set of sporting twins - a duo who not only play for Cyprus, but have represented the country worldwide. Their sport? Beach volleyball. And the mind-reading? Well, it's a maybe...

Playing together from the age of 12, and at an international level since they turned 17, Natasa and Katerina Yia-