



Επιστήμη του Χορού  
Τόμος 3, 2009

Ηλεκτρονικό Περιοδικό  
Electronic Journal

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Science of Dance  
Volume 3, 2009

[www.elepex.gr](http://www.elepex.gr)

ISSN 1790-7527

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**Tradition and Folklore in Greek Traditional Dance:  
The Case of Milia Dance in Lefkada**

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**Abstract**

Greek folk dance as any other cultural phenomenon, transforms its form and function through time in relation to the economic, political or social needs and changes. This transformation sometimes is well received, other times it is not. In the first case, the transformation is perceived as the creative outcome of the process of adaptation, in the second as the result of an unthinkable use of folk dance tradition in the frame of folklorisation. The aim of this paper is to examine these two points of view through the study of the dance tradition and folklore on the Ionian island of Lefkada. In particular, the paper looks at the traditional and folkloristic form of the Lefkadian dance *miliá*. The data was gathered through fieldwork and analysed through the morphological-comparative method. The results proved that between the traditional and folkloristic form of the Lefkadian dance *miliá* there is a number of differences concerning the choreography, the model of dance form, the use of space, the handhold etc which are indicative of the existence of a transformational process. In fact, the two forms constitute two different kinds of codified kinetic behaviour that reflect the system of kinetic/dance expression of the local people in a particular time and place.

Key words: Greek folk dance, tradition, folklorismus, «*miliá*» dance of Lefkada