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## **Zorba's Cinematic Dance: Global Fame, Local Claim Beyond Studios and Screens**

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### **Abstract**

Zorba's cinematic dance is an 'invented' dance which was rapidly dedicated as a symbol of national identity that gained global fame. Drawing upon the concepts of 'invented tradition' and 'staged authenticity' this paper addresses the way people in Chania, Crete, negotiate the locality of this invention by embodying the prestige of Zorba's cinematic dance. They establish their claim by incorporating it in their staged dancing performances. Furthermore they focus on specific local elements about its creation. It will be argued that people claim its 'Cretanness' through a 'game of differentiation and sameness' in order to enforce their association to 'significant cultural stuff' with great touristic interest. Such demands reveal that the way people define 'our' cultural stuff tends to be fluid and transformed strategically by their interests.

Key words: Zorba's cinematic dance, invented traditions, staged authenticity