



Travel Dynamics International

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

Contact: Marliese Engel, (212) 774-1579

**ANCIENT THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE AT THE RUINS OF EPHEBUS
TO HIGHLIGHT AEGEAN CRUISE ON DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS**

NEW YORK, Monday, December 11—Next September, a **Travel Dynamics International (TDI)** cruise in the Aegean will feature an unusual guest speaker: **Socrates**.

The cruise, scheduled from September 3 – 13, 2007, and titled “*The Origins of the American Democratic Ideal: The Lands that Inspired Jefferson and the Founding Fathers*,” will feature a theatrical adaptation of “The Apology of Socrates” on the steps of the 2nd-century Library of Celsus, the iconic centerpiece of the ruins of Ephesus, Turkey. The performance will be complemented by a candlelight banquet dinner on the Library’s outdoor plaza.

Veteran classical actor **Yannis Simonides** developed the one-man performance from Plato’s “The Apology of Socrates.” The text purports to be a verbatim transcript of the speech Socrates delivered in his own defense at his 399 B.C. trial for “corrupting the youth of Athens.” The “Apology Project,” as Simonides calls it, premiered in 2001 and has since been featured on NBC’s “Today” show, and performed at universities, high schools, and cultural institutions throughout the United States.

“Yannis Simonides’s stunning portrayal of Socrates – as he defends himself brashly and impishly against a flagrantly trumped up charge – would be riveting on any stage,” writes Hunter College Professor Jonathan Kalb, an award-winning theater critic for *Performing Arts Journal*. “Set against the astonishing Library of Ephesus, it is unforgettable, a truly unique instance of stony ancient ruins brought to vivid life by the living pulse of theatrical performance.”

The September 3 – 13, 2007 cruise aboard the all-suite, 114-passenger *Corinthian II* includes guided excursions in Athens, Olympia, Sparta, Santorini, Rhodes, Ephesus, and Chios, and is priced from \$6,995 per person (based upon double occupancy), excluding airfare. Destinations and excursions are principally planned toward gaining an understanding of ancient Greek democratic theory and practice – ideas taken up by Thomas Jefferson in founding American democracy.

“We thought ‘The Apology Project’ was perfect for ‘*The Origins of the American Democratic Ideal*,’” says TDI President Vasos Papagapitos. “It really speaks to the necessity of free thought in a society. To stage it amid ancient columns is utterly magical. It creates an immediate connection between the present and the past. Put together with an *al fresco* banquet, it’s just a very beautiful, very elegant, truly wonderful experience for our guests to have.”

You are welcome to view the enclosed DVD featuring excerpts of last year’s performance.

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Marliese Engel, Publicity Coordinator
132 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021 | Phone: 212-774-1579 / 800-257-5767 | Fax: 212-774-1546
www.TravelDynamicsInternational.com | Email: mengel@travdyn.com



Travel Dynamics International

Travel Dynamics International designs and operates luxury small-ship educational cruises to unusual destinations in the Mediterranean, Black Sea, South America, Africa, and Antarctica. TDI's unique approach to small-ship cruising features distinguished scholars, authors, statesmen, or area experts providing on-board lecture series for an elegant, comprehensive learning adventure.

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