

= Greece in the Eurovision Song Contest 2006 =

Anna Vissi represented Greece in the Eurovision Song Contest 2006 with her song " Everything " . The Greek national broadcaster , Ellinikí Radiofonía Tileórasi (ERT) , internally selected Vissi to represent the country at the contest , which took place in Athens after Greece 's win at the 2005 contest with the song " My Number One " performed by Elena Paparizou . " Everything " , composed by Nikos Karvelas and written by Anna Vissi herself , was selected on March 14 , 2006 at a national final by a combination of a televoting / SMS vote (60 %) and expert jury (40 %) . At Eurovision , Vissi placed 9th , receiving 128 points .

= = Background = =

The Eurovision Song Contest 2006 marked Greece 's twenty @-@ seventh participation in the Contest since its first entry in 1974 . It won for the first time at the previous contest in 2005 with the song " My Number One " performed by Elena Paparizou , and had been placed third twice up to the Contest : in 2001 with the song " Die for You " performed by the duo Antique and in 2004 with " Shake It " performed by Sakis Rouvas . Following the introduction of semi @-@ finals for the 2004 contest , Greece has had a top ten placing each year . Greece 's least successful result was in 1998 when it placed twentieth with the song " Mia Krifi Evesthisia " by Thalassa , receiving only twelve points in total , all from Cyprus .

The Greek national broadcaster , Ellinikí Radiofonía Tileórasi (ERT) broadcasts the event in Greece each year and organizes the selection process for its entry . From 2001 to 2003 , ERT held a national final with several artists , but for 2004 and 2005 , it selected high @-@ profile artists internally and set up national finals to choose their song . ERT continued the internal selection of the artist for 2006 and subsequently held a national final to select the song .

= = Performer = =

As it had done in 2005 , ERT asked 2004 entrant Sakis Rouvas to represent Greece in the 2006 contest , but he once again denied . In an interview with Down Town magazine Rouvas recalled getting the proposal from the network in " either August or September " and considering it briefly ; however , he ultimately found there was no reason for him to go , especially when Greece was the reigning champion , making chances of winning little to none . Nevertheless , ERT still wanted Rouvas involved in some way and they asked him to host the competition , which he accepted . With the news leaked by the newspaper Ethnos , a public announcement was made on 1 November 2005 . Rouvas said of his decision " but when I received the proposal for the hosting of Eurovision I found it intriguing " and that it would challenge him . American television personality and actress Maria Menounos would eventually be announced as his female co @-@ host . The two presented all of the major Eurovision events , including the allocation draw , in addition to the semi @-@ final and final .

On August 6 , 2005 , MAD TV reported that Despina Vandi was " seriously considering " representing Greece in 2006 and would be or possibly already had been proposed to by ERT to be the Greek entrant . Vandi had been asked previously to represent the country at the 2005 contest , but declined , fearing a bad result while her international career was going well . A few months later on December 12 , 2005 , Star Channel announced that ERT would soon officially propose to a different artist , Anna Vissi , to be the representative . Vissi said in reply that she " never [excludes] a Eurovision Song Contest participation as long as everything is organized well " . She had participated in the contest twice before : in 1980 with " Autostop " for Greece and in 1982 for Cyprus with the song " Mono I Agapi " , placing 13th and 5th respectively . She had also attempted to take part in the contest on several other years , either failing to win against other artists or having deals not materialize . An official announcement was not made soon after as no agreement could be made at the time , but one month later on January 24 , 2006 , Vissi was officially announced as the artist for 2006 . A few days later in an interview with the press , she said " finally [a decision is made

] , I want to go to Eurovision too much " . She said the reason that the final decision took so long to be announced was because she was still debating entering ; using opinion polls along with talking to her usual collaborators . It was also announced that Vissi would sing either four or five songs live at the national final to choose her song .

= = National final = =

The date of the final was set for March 14 , 2006 and took place at club Votanikos ; broadcast live as a television program titled Feel the Party . The show was hosted by Giorgos Capountzides and Zeta Makripoulia from the Greek television series Sto Para Pente and included a recap of Greece 's entries from 1974 to 2005 . Past entries such as " Mathima Solfege " , " Stop " , " I Anixi " , and " I Would Die for You " were shown on a large screen along with a video message by 2006 Eurovision host Maria Menounos , while Sakis Rouvas , Elena Papparizou , and Nana Mouskouri all sent personal messages via satellite . During the show , guest acts representing other countries partaking in Eurovision performed their entries and they included : Fabrizio Faniello of Malta with " I Do " , Sibel Tuzun of Turkey with " Süper Star " , Mihai Traistariu of Romania with " Tornerò " , Christine Guldbrandsen of Norway with " Alvedansen " , and Annet Artani of Cyprus with " Why Angels Cry " .

Four candidate songs were decided on for Vissi to sing at the national final by ERT : " Who Cares About Love " which was written and composed by Nikos Karvelas , " Everything " which was also composed by Karvelas , with lyrics by Anna Vissi , " Welcome to the Party " which was composed by Dimitris Kontopoulos with lyrics by Dimitris S , and " A Beautiful Night " which was written and composed by Pegasos (Antonis and Dimitris Papavomvolakis) . " Everything " is described as a ballad , while the three others are more upbeat .

The winning song was chosen by the public through televoting and a jury weighted at 60 % and 40 % of the result respectively . The jury panel was made up of Mimis Plessas , Antonis Andrikakis , Dimitris Starovas , Themis Anastasiadis , Christina Politi , Evangelia Piskera , Antonis Karatzikos , Rena Kapitsala , and a ninth vote was split between Sietse Bakker of ESCToday and Fotis Konstantopoulos of Oikotimes .

= = Result of national final = = =

" Everything " was proclaimed the winner after receiving 47 @. @ 79 % of the total vote , representing over 200 @. @ 000 televotes . She received 55 @. @ 66 % of the vote from the viewers and 35 @. @ 98 % from the jury . " Welcome to the Party " placed second with 26 @. @ 32 % (27 @. @ 69 % from the viewers ; 24 @. @ 27 % from the jury) , 13 @. @ 72 % (7 @. @ 25 % from the viewers ; 24 @. @ 43 % from the jury) for " Who Cares About Love " in third place , and 12 @. @ 6 % (9 @. @ 39 % from the viewers ; 16 @. @ 32 % from the jury) for " A Beautiful Night " which placed last . Vissi stated that she liked all four songs , and after seeing the results , pledged to sing " Everything " " from the heart and give all her best for Greece " .

= = Promotion = =

Before her appearance at the contest , Vissi went on a promotional tour , singing her song in several Eurovision countries . The first stop was Moscow on March 25 , 2006 , Greek Independence Day , and she attended a reception at the Greek embassy . She stayed for three days and gave seven television appearances , three newspaper interviews and posed for several magazines . Following Russia , Vissi traveled to Malta and then Cyprus where she performed at a large club in Nicosia . Cyprus was followed by Albania , where she appeared at the " Albania Awards Kult " , an awards show , and also gave a few interviews . The next stop was Serbia and Montenegro , followed by Romania . By the end of April , Vissi had visited Sweden where she gave several more interviews to the local press . Bosnia and Herzegovina was next at the beginning of May , followed by Belgium on the fourth . She met with Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Panteleimon of Belgium to

whom she offered an autographed copy of her CD single " Everything " after having spoken to the media . Vissi then attended a reception at the Greek embassy before meeting up with Belgium entrant Kate Ryan with whom she visited a chocolate museum . After Belgium , Vissi returned to Greece for a break before leaving for Israel , the last stop on the tour , where she remained for ten days .

On April 25 , 2006 , Vissi re @-@ released her most recent album at the time , Nylon , as Nylon : Euro Edition to include the four tracks from the national final and to coincide with the ongoing international promotional tour . At the same time , " Welcome to the Party " had entered the American market , already being played on some radio stations .

= = At Eurovision = =

At a press conference on May 16 , Anna Vissi thanked her fans and God for everything that had been given to her . She also explained how important the competition was to her saying that she " really , really [wants] to win " and she also received several gifts from journalists and fans .

" Everything " was considered a favorite at the contest , placing in the top three in a majority of fan polls and first in online betting houses . British commentator for the semi @-@ final stated that " she 's massive in Greece , she 's even bigger than the country itself " . " None of the rehearsals were attended by so many people as Anna Vissi 's " , noted Sietse Bakker , one of the jury members from the national final , " not only a large amount of fans and journalists took seat in the arena [...] but the president of Greek broadcaster ERT also entered the arena to see how ' his ' artist was doing " .

= = = Final = = =

As the winning country of the 2005 edition , Greece was automatically qualified for the final of the 2006 contest , and was drawn to present its song 16th on the night of the final , after the United Kingdom and before Finland .

At the final , held on May 20 , 2006 , Anna Vissi appeared on stage surrounded by a fog effect created by dry ice . She was alone on the large stage and wore an exclusive Jean Paul Gaultier black and white outfit with black leggings . By the end of the song , she was down on her knees singing . Her choreography for the final was arranged by Mia Michaels . Although considered a favorite , a ninth @-@ place finish was all Vissi could manage . She received 128 points , including the coveted " douze points " from Bulgaria and Cyprus .

The ninth @-@ place finish guaranteed Greece a place in the final of the Eurovision Song Contest 2007 .

= = After Eurovision = =

The day after the contest , Vissi could be seen crying in front of cameras while recounting her experience , but thanking the Greek public for all their love and support . She soon re @-@ released Nylon again as a dual disc with music videos , and also a remix of " Everything " by Valentino and Siganos . After Eurovision Vissi went on hiatus from the Greek music industry , performing a worldwide tour for the Greek diaspora in 2007 as well as recording English @-@ language material for her planned international album in Los Angeles , California with her then @-@ producer Greg Ladanyi . A court case also further postponed her Greek career . Since the second re @-@ release of Nylon in autumn 2006 , Vissi had not released any new material until October 29 , 2008 , when she released the song " To Parelthon Mou " (my past) as the lead soundtrack single for the Greek movie Bank Bang . On December 9 , 2008 she released the album Apagorevmeno (2008) which was certified double platinum in Greece under the new 2009 thresholds , denoting shipments of 24 thousand copies , one of her lowest selling albums and lowest of the 2000s . It was certified triple platinum in her native Cyprus . Her first album in the 2010s , Agapi Einai Esi , performed worse than its predecessor , being certified gold for shipments of six thousand copies and falling off of the charts after two months , while her concert attendances generally did not meet expectations ,

despite heavy promotion .

While Vissi 's popularity and commercial appeal had already begun declining by the early 2000s , as seen by the sales of albums such as *Nylon* ? which although successful had relatively low sales compared to her other albums ? Eurovision was considered to have had a detrimental affect to her career . The Greeks viewed the sudden departure and abstaining completely from the media as Vissi being ashamed about her result in the contest , furthered by Vissi 's own statements of the participation being a mistake . Although this was partially due to hardships faced by the Greek music industry including piracy , the financial crisis , and changing musical tastes , leading to a general decline of the *laïko* @-@ pop scene and image @-@ based singers , her career choices , such as the pursuit of an international career at a relatively advanced age , leading to several long absences from Greece and attempting to use Eurovision as a gateway , were thought to be major components . In an article about the " golden trio of Greek pop " consisting of Vissi , Despina Vandi , and Sakis Rouvas , Anna Vlavianou of *To Vima* considered Vissi to have " the most vociferous " decline of the group . Vlavianou interpreted her tears on the night :

" When America looked to big to be won , Anna Vissi turned towards Europe . She took part in Eurovision to conquer the summit of the Alps and lost Mount Olympus too . Her tears on the evening of the contest in 2006 , following her failure , showed that she was fully aware of her situation : not only had she not conquered the European audience , but she had lost the Greek one too . "

Vissi 's music rival Despina Vandi also became less prominent . While the supposed rivalry between the two was once a grand topic in the media , with speculation as to who would come out on top , the possible overexposure of the story and their subsequent absences allowed fellow *laïko* @-@ pop singer Elena Paparizou , fresh off of the momentum of her 2005 Eurovision win , to ultimately overshadow the two during the second half of the decade . While reviewing *Apagorevmeno* , Haris Simvoulidis of *Avopolis* felt that Vissi appeared to be attempting to catch up to her contemporaries , Paparizou and Peggy Zina . Vissi continued to make music and while her career never fully recovered to its previous state , she did continue to have some impact , being placed 15th in *Forbes* list of the most powerful and influential Greece celebrities in 2010 . Her time on hiatus in the late 2000s was filmed and used for a reality show called *Oso Eho Foni* in 2011 .