# Pole dancing photoshoot at Corfu palace sparks local outrage and debate



A recent incident in Corfu has raised eyebrows and sparked outrage, as a group of pole dancers was filmed conducting a photoshoot in front of the historic Palace of St. Michael and St. George. The palace, a neoclassical monument designed by British architect George Whitmore, was built between 1819 and 1824 to serve as the residence for the British Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands. Today, it is home to the Museum of Asian Art and stands as a prominent example of Regency architecture, carefully preserved within the UNESCO World Heritage site that encompasses Corfu's Old Town.

Footage surfaced showing the dancers, clad in bright red underwear, performing on a pole in the early hours, drawing a mixed reception from the public. Local media outlet Protothema highlighted the community's concerns regarding the appropriateness of such a display at a site of historical significance. Many residents took to social media, expressing their discontent and querying who had authorised the performers to stage their shoot in such close proximity to a monument that has hosted royals and dignitaries.

Commentary on social media ranged from vehement disapproval to a more nuanced understanding of performance art. Critics lamented how the site once graced by notable figures might now be reduced to a backdrop for scantily clad entertainers. One commenter lamented, “If Lord Byron saw pole dancing at the Palaces, he would have returned to England without a second thought,” indicating a deeper cultural lament about the erosion of historical reverence.

Interestingly, amidst the chorus of dissent, some voices defended the dancers. User Bill Metallinos contended that while the notion of pole dancing at such a historic venue could indeed be offensive, it is essential to consider the broader context. He posited that the palace is an open public space, and photography, while perhaps unconventional, should not be summarily dismissed. He remarked on the hypocrisy surrounding concerns for the palace's integrity, suggesting that more significant environmental damage comes from the heavy vehicular traffic that runs through the area.

The palace itself has a rich history, having originally served as a seat of power and governance during the British occupation of Corfu. Its architecture is a reflection of the neoclassical styles that were celebrated in Britain at the time, influencing many public buildings across the former empire. Given its significance, local authorities and cultural organisations have a vested interest in maintaining the dignity of such spaces.

Moreover, the Directorate of the Museum of Asian Art, which operates within the palace, reportedly had no knowledge of the photoshoot, raising questions about oversight and permission for events in public spaces. This lack of clarity has further inflamed the situation, as residents seek accountability for what they perceive as a breach of decorum.

As conversations around the event continue, the juxtaposition of cultural expression against the backdrop of historic preservation remains a contentious topic. The incident serves as a reminder of the fine balance between modern artistic expression and respect for cultural heritage, particularly in sites that carry the weight of history. Local sentiment reflects a broader concern about how today's actions might impact perceptions of the past, particularly in a place like Corfu, rich in both natural beauty and historical significance.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14742361/Fury-half-naked-British-pole-dancers-hold-disgraceful-photoshoot-historic-Greek-palace.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo/the-old-summer-palace.html?blackwhite=1> - This image showcases the Palace of St. Michael and St. George in Corfu, Greece. Built between 1819 and 1824, the palace was designed by British architect George Whitmore in the neoclassical style. It served as the residence of the British Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands and later housed the Ionian Senate and the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Today, it hosts the Museum of Asian Art and the Municipal Art Gallery. The palace is located on the northern side of Spianada Square in Corfu Town.
3. <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/greece/corfu-town/attractions/palace-of-st-michael-st-george/a/poi-sig/1379131/1003356> - The Palace of St. Michael and St. George in Corfu Town, Greece, is a neoclassical building constructed by the British between 1819 and 1824 to house the High Commissioner and the Ionian Parliament. Designed by British architect George Whitmore, it now houses the Museum of Asian Art and two municipal art galleries. The palace is located on the northern side of Spianada Square and is a significant example of Regency-style architecture outside Britain.
4. <https://greece.terrabook.com/corfu/page/palace-st-michael-st-george/> - The Palace of St. Michael and St. George in Corfu is an impressive neoclassical building constructed between 1819 and 1824 during British rule. Designed by British architect George Whitmore, it served as the residence of the British Lord High Commissioner and later housed the Ionian Senate and the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Today, it houses the Museum of Asian Art and the Municipal Art Gallery. The palace is located on the northern side of Spianada Square in Corfu Town.
5. <https://www.travel.gr/en/experiences-ee/travel-en/the-palace-of-st-michael-and-st-george-a-great-monument-on-the-island-of-corfu/> - The Palace of St. Michael and St. George in Corfu was built between 1819 and 1824 during British rule. Designed by British architect George Whitmore, it served as the residence of the British Lord High Commissioner and later housed the Ionian Senate and the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Today, it houses the Museum of Asian Art and the Municipal Art Gallery. The palace is located on the northern side of Spianada Square in Corfu Town.
6. <https://www.bluetours.gr/attractions/the-palace-of-st-michael-and-st-george> - The Palace of St. Michael and St. George in Corfu is an impressive neoclassical building constructed between 1819 and 1824 during British rule. Designed by British architect George Whitmore, it served as the residence of the British Lord High Commissioner and later housed the Ionian Senate and the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Today, it houses the Museum of Asian Art and the Municipal Art Gallery. The palace is located on the northern side of Spianada Square in Corfu Town.
7. <https://atcorfu.com/palace-of-saint-michael-and-george/> - The Palace of St. Michael and St. George in Corfu was built between 1819 and 1824 during British rule. Designed by British architect George Whitmore, it served as the residence of the British Lord High Commissioner and later housed the Ionian Senate and the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Today, it houses the Museum of Asian Art and the Municipal Art Gallery. The palace is located on the northern side of Spianada Square in Corfu Town.