

16TH GREEK FILM FESTIVAL



Melbourne
Sydney
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Adelaide

2-13 September 2009
Palace Cinema Como

www.greekfilmfestival.com.au



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16TH GREEK FILM FESTIVAL

The 16th Antipodes Greek Film Festival is an initiative of the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne & Victoria.

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The Greek Film Festival is managed by the
National Network of Hellenic Festivals.

WELCOME

Greeks invented
everything!

*Cinema, from the Greek word kinema (ki-ni-ma)
meaning 'motion' or 'movement'.*

Now that we've got the clichés out of the way – one of very few in this
year's program – we'd like to welcome you to the 16th Greek Film Festival.

It's been over a decade since a Greek film made official selection at the
Cannes Film Festival and this year, Yorgos Lanthimos' *Dogtooth* not only
made it to the French Riviera, but went on to win the festival's prestigious
Un Certain Regard Award. We're honoured to have it screening as part of
our program.

This year, we introduce a number of emerging filmmakers who have made the
leap from short to long and we're thrilled to be screening their debut features.

Our Opening Night film, *Bang Bang Wedding* is Christine Crokos' first feature
film, and Alexis Alexiou also makes his debut with the psychological thriller *Tale 52*.
Vassillis Mirianthopoulos gives us *Just Broken Up*, a modern-day farce of
coincidences and confusion, and Spiros Stathouloupoulos retells a true Colombian
hostage story in his gripping *PVC-1*, a film shot in one continuous take.

You may want to leave the grandparents at home for *A Woman's Way*:
Strella, a mesmerising tale of perceived immortality from the director of *Real
Life* (2005 Greek Film Festival), Panos H. Koutras. Leading actress Mina Orfanou
gives a stunning debut performance and she, along with the entire adult
female cast, is not anatomically a woman.

The selection also includes two documentaries straight from the Greek
Panorama section of this year's Thessaloniki Documentary Festival. *Bombing*
takes us through the coloured streets of Athens, as seen through the eyes of
hip-hop graffiti artists, while *Schoolwave on the Rocks* takes a behind-the-
scenes look at the title's music festival and is guaranteed to inspire the
formation of a few new rock groups.

We also hope you enjoy the small, but strong selection of locally made short
films covering themes of genocide, masculinity, love and family.

As you flick through this program, we're certain you'll find something to inspire
and move you or give you reason to laugh. One particular film may even make
you reconsider the next Tupperware party invitation!

Above all, we're giving you 22 great reasons to take some time out from the
craziness, enter a darkened room and switch off from the rest of world...
except for Greece, of course.

Penny Kyprianou
Festival Director

MESSAGES



I am pleased to announce the opening of the Antipodes Greek Film Festival, now into its 16th year.

The Antipodes Greek Film Festival is acknowledged as a forum whereby Greek cinema not only can be enjoyed and observed but evaluated by its patrons. Films that are participating in this year's Festival, such as *A Woman's Way: Strella* and *Dogtooth* (winner of this year's prestigious Un Certain Regard award at Cannes Film Festival), have toured the international film festival circuit with success. Additionally, we are privileged to be screening Spiros Stathoulopoulos' *PVC-1*, a film that has attracted great acclaim by critics.

This year's Festival program also reveals a resurgence of the comedy genre that was a significant form of entertainment during the 1950s and 1960s. Contemporary comedies such as *Bang Bang Wedding*, *Just Broken Up* and *Elias of the 16th Precinct*, combined with a selection of strong documentaries by emerging overseas directors and short films by local filmmakers, make this year's program one of broad appeal.

The Festival package is indicative of the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne & Victoria's commitment to promote Greek cinema and directors of Greek heritage and to share it with the wider community. The Festival now forms a critical part of the cultural fabric of cinema in Victoria.

Bill Papastergiadis
President, Greek Orthodox Community
of Melbourne & Victoria



From its humble beginnings sixteen years ago, the Greek Film Festival is now celebrated in four major cities of Australia (Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide). It is with great pleasure that this year we present to you a selection of diverse films that represents not only a contemporary portrait of Greek cinema, but acquaints the audience with the works of filmmakers of the Hellenic diaspora.

The Festival will be launched with the Australian premiere of *Bang Bang Wedding*, a romantic comedy directed by Christine Crokos (a Greek-American) and stars our very own Alex Dimitriadis. This is an important example of the innovative works and collaborations that are currently taking place within the Greek film industry.

This year's Festival program provides a mosaic of award-winning films from accomplished and emerging directors. *Well Kept Secrets-Athanasia*, an intimate insight into human relationships, received numerous awards at the 2008 Thessaloniki International Film Festival. We have also secured the screening of the most successful box office films in Greece for the year 2008-2009, such as *First Time Godfather*, directed by Olga Malea and *Just Broken Up*, by Vassilis Mirianthopoulos.

The Board of the Antipodes Festival invites you to enjoy and explore the unique cinematic experience of this year's Greek Film Festival.

Leonidas D Vlahakis
Chair, Antipodes Festival

TICKETING AND VENUE INFORMATION

VENUE

PALACE CINEMA COMO

Corner Chapel Street and Toorak Rd
South Yarra VIC 3141
T: (03) 9827 7533

OPENING NIGHT EVENT

Australian Premiere
Christine Crokos' *Bang Bang Wedding*
After party at Como Centre.
Time: 7.00pm
Date: Wednesday 2nd September
Venue: Palace Cinema Como
All tickets \$44.00

TICKETS

Single Session Tickets
Adult \$16.50
Concession \$14.00

Eligible Concessions:

Palace Movie Club members (max 2),
Full-time Students (photo ID required),
Senior Citizens, Health Care card holders
& Pensioners. The cardholder must
present a current ID card in order to gain
the concession.

Multiple Film Passes

5 film pass \$70.00
(Multiple film passes are for separate, pre-selected sessions for one person. All films must be chosen in advance to different films at the time of purchase and can only be redeemed at the cinema of purchase (eg. a pass purchased at Cinema Como will only be valid for festival screenings at Cinema Como). Multiple film passes are only available in person at the Cinema Como box office.

HOW TO BUY



In Person
Palace Cinema Como
12noon - 8.30pm daily
There are no booking fees for purchasing at cinemas.



Online
Tickets are available
securely online 24hrs via the
Palace Cinemas website.
www.palacecinemas.com.au/st.como.asp
Booking fees apply.
(You will be required to present the credit card used for online purchases and all relevant concession card/s when collecting tickets from the box office. Invalid or incorrect concession purchases may result in the voiding of your sale without refund)



By Phone
(03) 9827 7533
Tickets may be purchased using all major credit cards by phone during box office hours.
(Credit card is debited at time of booking and must be produced when collecting tickets. Patrons are encouraged to collect tickets 30 minutes prior to the session to avoid queues. Credit card transactions by phone will incur a fee of \$1 per ticket.)

GETTING THERE



Public Transport
Train
South Yarra train station is located approximately 250 metres from the Como centre on Toorak Road.



Tram
Stop number 31 on the 008 Toorak Tram, from Toorak or the City.



Parking
Paid parking is available at the Como Centre.
Mon – Fri: Flat rate of \$7.00 after 5pm
Sat – Sun: Flat rate of \$7.00



Accessibility
Palace Cinema Como is equipped with disabled facilities, located on level 2A when exiting the lifts.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne & Victoria
T: (03) 9662 2722
info@greekcommunity.com.au

FESTIVAL CONDITIONS

All Festival films are restricted to persons 18 years of age and over unless specified. This relates not necessarily to the content of the films, but to the legal requirements of holding the Festival, as set by the Office of Film and Literature Classification (OFLC). Festival tickets, once acquired, are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. Lost or stolen tickets will not be replaced or refunded. All seating is reserved. We anticipate that door sales will be available for most sessions, however this cannot be guaranteed. Patrons are urged to purchase their tickets in advance to avoid disappointment. Palace Cinema passes and other complimentary passes, cinema promotions and free ticket offers are not valid for festival screenings. Dates, times and programs are correct at the time of publication, but may need to be altered. We reluctantly reserve the right to withdraw, change and replace programs without notice. All non-English language films have English subtitles.



Bang Bang Wedding

(Το Γαμήλιο Πάρτυ)

dir: Christine Crokos

Starring Australia's own Alex Dimitriades and directed by a New Yorker also of Greek heritage, *Bang Bang Wedding* is a fast-paced, light-hearted and stylish road-trip set against a spectacular backdrop in Crete.

Ilias (Alex Dimitriades) and Marina (Faye Xila) exchange vows without a hitch, but when they set off for the reception, a small yet important typo on the invitation ensures whatever can go wrong will go wrong. A collision causes amnesia for one guest, with only a veterinarian available for

treatment, while others become embroiled in a little illegal activity and gatecrash a party of a very different nature.

"It's an invitation to taste a modern/tradition Greek wedding, starting at the altar and evolving into a crazy ride on the way to the reception." - Greek Film Centre

Greek with English subtitles

Greece | 2008 | 89mins | Digibeta

Written by: Ifigeneia Kotsoni

Producer: Panos Papahadzis

Cast: Alex Dimitriades, Faye Xila, Chrysa Ropa, Giorgos Karamichos, Betty Maggira

About the Director

Born and reared in the USA, Christine Crokos studied film at USC Cinema School and worked with Warner Bros Studios, Copper Media and Runaway Editing. *Bang Bang Wedding* is her first feature film.



My Life In Ruins

dir: Donald Petrie

The writer and star of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, Nia Vardalos, goes to Greece in this uplifting comedy about a girl seeking her kefi (mojo).

Georgia works as a travel guide, leading a rag-tag group of tourists across her native Greece while waiting to land her dream job. Opening their eyes to an exotic foreign land, she too begins to see things in new ways, finding her kefi and possibly even love in the process.

Did you know...the song Georgia sings on the beach is Never on Sunday (Pote tin Kyriaki), the Oscar-winning song from the 1960 movie of the same title. My Life in Ruins is also the first Hollywood film to be given permission to shoot at the Acropolis since Boy on a Dolphin (1957).

English language

USA/Spain | 2009 | 95mins | 35mm

Written by: Mike Reiss

Producer: Michelle Chydzik Sowa

Cast: Nia Vardalos, Richard Dreyfuss, Alexis Georgoulis, Alistair McGowan

About the Director

This actor switched careers mid-stream and became a director of film and TV in the mid-1980s. The son of TV producer Dorothea Petrie and director Daniel Petrie.

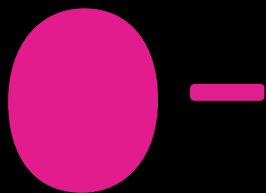
At the urging of his father, Petrie attended the American Film Institute, where he made *The Expert*, an award-winning student short about a day in the life of a doctor who must supervise a gas-chamber execution. Since, he has directed films such as *Grumpy Old Men* (1993), *Richie Rich* (1994), *Miss Congeniality* (2000), *How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days* (2003), and *Just My Luck* (2006).

NE

With names like Hippocrates, Aristotle and Socrates decorating Greek history, there's little argument Greeks are great innovators and thinkers.

In keeping with this highly distinguished lineage, the 16th Greek Film Festival acts as a barometer for the current climate of neo-Greek cinema, which, in the proud Hellenic tradition, comes complete with surprises that push at predisposed boundaries.

This year's Festival program reflects a mini renaissance domestically in Greece with cinema admissions surging. Some telling examples include the remarkable *Dogtooth* – the first Greek film in many years to attract the attention of the Cannes judges, and an intense example of iconoclastic filmmaking unlike any story told before. The confronting *A Woman's Way: Strella* is a post-modern Greek tragedy that boldly



Contemporary Greek Cinema written by Emma Westwood

CINEMA

challenges the more conservative aspects of Greek society. The unconventional fantasy-thriller *Tale 52* is another Greek feature that has attracted considerable attention in foreign markets.

As the Greek Diaspora continues to meld into the most far-flung countries across the globe, what it means to be Greek, and the stories that accompany such nationalistic definitions, take on new and revelatory forms. The telling of a Greek story isn't solely reserved to those of Greek heritage, but speaks to people of all ethnicities and persuasions. As someone famous once said, a good story crosses cultural barriers.

The inclusion of such a rollercoaster ride as *PVC-1* in the Festival program – essentially, a Spanish language film set in South America, but produced and directed by a filmmaker of Greek heritage – also demonstrates how Greeks relate to other peoples. The film's passionate reception in Greece could relate to its preponderance on religious faith (in *PVC-1*'s case, Catholicism), which plays a significant role in Greek society.

A clear voice for the emigrant Greek in this year's Festival can be heard through the short films of Sotiris



Dounoukos, who compellingly details the conundrums experienced by Greek families, particularly men, in Australia and dispels stereotypical myths of 'the immigrant'. Our Closing Night feature, *My Life in Ruins*, is the latest Hollywood blockbuster from *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*'s Nia Vardalos, who almost single-handedly boosted the profile of Greeks internationally, along with cinematic auteurs Costa-Gavras (*Eden is West*) and Theo Angelopoulos (*Trilogy 2: The Dust of Time*).

This year's Festival program continues to boast the runaway hits that have coloured Greek cinema in recent decades. But for those wary of parochialism that hardly extends beyond the Athenian city limits, the Festival's offering is as broad as the reach of the Greek Diaspora itself. To witness Alex Dimitriades (a Greek-Australian) star in our Opening Night feature, *Bang Bang Wedding*, directed by Christine Crokos (a Greek-American) and shot in spectacular Crete proves that neo-Greek cinema knows no limits.





Tale 52

(Ιστορία 52)

dir: Alexis Alexiou

Tale 52 straddles the line between psychological family drama and fantasy thriller in its depiction of the end and the beginning of an affair. An elliptical reality bender, it's essentially a story about obsessive love; about a man attempting to transcend himself in order to win back the woman he desires.

Mutual friends act as go-betweens in bringing Iasonas and Penelope together. The match appears to be a good one, with the relationship finding momentum immediately, and Penelope taking up residence with Iasonas. One morning,

Iasonas wakes to find Penelope missing. He struggles to reconstruct the events prior to her disappearance.

"Alexiou has aimed high with his feature debut and hits his mark square on, the end result a truly potent work on the relationship between perception, reality and our own minds." - Variety

Greek with English subtitles

Greece | 2008 | 97mins | 35mm

Written & produced by: Alexis Alexiou

Cast: Giorgos Kakanakis, Serafita Grigoriadou

About the Director

Born in 1976, Alexis Alexiou obtained a degree in physics from the University of Athens before studying cinema in Greece. His short films have participated in numerous international film festivals. *Tale 52* is his debut feature.



A Woman's Way: Strella (Στρέλλα)

dir: Panos H. Koutras

A post-modern Greek tragedy unfurling against the glowing nights of Athens, *A Woman's Way: Strella* follows a man, Yiorgos, on his first evening out of prison where he meets a young transsexual prostitute, Strella, with whom he falls in love.

Portraying people who live on the fringes of society, questioning preconceived ideas, feelings and the collective imagination; this touching film presents a parallel world, generally considered as immoral and suspect by the larger masses. But this is a world that

doesn't for a moment doubt its own core values: humanity and compassion.

"Defies the taboos of the ancients to end up portraying a happy alternative family. The production combines dingy realism, the divine Maria Callas and plenty of sex and campy dialogue." - Variety

Warnings: Strong sex scenes

Nudity | Occasional coarse language

Subject matter may offend some viewers

Greek with English subtitles

Greece | 2009 | 113 mins | 35mm

Written by Panos H. Koutras

Producer: Panos H. Koutras

Cast: Mina Orfanou, Giannis Kokiasmenos



About the Director

Born in Athens, Panos H. Koutras studied at the London International Film School and the Sorbonne in Paris. In 1995, he founded 100% Synthetic Films and started working on his first feature film, *The Attack of the Giant Mousaka* (2000). His second feature film, *Real Life* (2005 GFF), won the Greek National Critics Award.





The Last Homecoming

(Ο Τελευταίος Γυρισμός)

dir: Corinna Avraamidou

Filmmaker Corinna Avraamidiou shows us the vulnerability of a small community at a very specific moment in history – immediately before their lives are besieged by war. Such uncertainty and upheaval comes counterpointed with the blossoming of a love affair and the sheer beauty of the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, where the colours and sounds of nature reflect a seemingly carefree environment. During the course of what seems to be an idyllic Mediterranean summer, a Greek-Cypriot family are asked to re-evaluate their

relationships, as compelling desires and needs begin to unfold. Passions, infidelities and betrayal emerge, while political mumblings are heard in the distance. The year is 1974. Soon their world will change forever.

Greek with English subtitles

Cyprus | 2008 | 85mins | 35mm

Written by: Corinna Avraamidou

Producer: Kyriakos Tofaridis

Cast: Stavros Louras, Christopher Creco, Maria Kitsou, Popi Avraam

About the Director

Corinna Avraamidou was born in Cyprus in 1971 and studied film and television in London and New York. Her 25-minute film, *The Secret of the First Day*, won the prize for Best Screenplay at the 2nd Cyprus Short Film Festival. *The Last Homecoming* is her first feature film.



Dogtooth

(Κυνόδοντας)

dir: Yorgos Lanthimos

The first Greek film to make official selection at the Cannes Film Festival in a decade and winner of the festival's prestigious Un Certain Regard award, the highly stylised and absurdist *Dogtooth* sees a Josef Fritzl-like father and wife construct a domestic 'Eden' where their docile teens can be protected from a contaminated world.

Unfolding in a deadpan fashion with a satirical black comic vein, the film depicts a hermetically enclosed compound, which even has its own innocuous vocabulary, where a 'vagina' is a keyboard, a

'zombie' is a yellow flower and cats are considered ruthless predators. Very few outsiders venture inside their walls, until the father engages a female security worker to assist his son with a necessary bodily function – sexual release.

Warnings: Explicit sex scenes
Nudity | Medium level violence

Greek with English subtitles

Greece | 2009 | 94 mins | Digibeta

Written by: Efthymis Filippou

& Yorgos Lanthimos

Producer: Yorgos Lanthimos

Cast: Christos Stergioglou, Michele Valley, Aggeliki Papoulia, Christos Passalis, Mary Tsoni, Anna Kalaintzidou



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About the Director

Yorgos Lanthimos studied film and television direction at Stavrakou School in Athens. Since 1995, he has directed films *Kinetta* (2005), theatre plays, video, dance and a large number of TV commercials. He was also a member of the creative team of Dimitris Papaioannou for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.



PVC-1

dir: Spiros Stathoulopoulos

Shot in one, continuous take, Spiros Stathoulopoulos' debut feature, *PVC-1*, is an edge-of-the-seat thriller that has proved a revelation at festivals worldwide, taking out a number of awards (including Award of the City of Rome at Cannes).

Based on a true story, a rural Colombian mother is turned into a human time bomb after criminals secure a collar produced from PVC piping to her neck in an unusual act of terrorism. The film unfolds over a mile of physical territory in jungle terrain in what has proved

an amazing feat of production 'choreography'. A combination of professional and amateur actors were prepped to ensure an awareness of the precise positioning of the camera at all times to create a taut sense of the real-time crisis.

Warning: Medium level violence

Spanish with English subtitles

Colombia | 2007 | 85mins | Digibeta

Written by: Spiros Stathoulopoulos & Dwight Istanbulian

Produced by: Spiros Stathoulopoulos & Jace Hall

Cast: Merida Urquiza, Daniel Paez, Alberto Sornoza, Hugo Pereira

About the Director

Born in Thessaloniki, Spiros Stathoulopoulos began making movies at an early age. At fourteen, seven years after his family moved to Colombia, he earned his first award for the fiction video short *Dimension*. He later edited the feature film *Habitos Sucios* for renowned Colombian director Carlos Palau, and then decided to move to Los Angeles for formal training. *PVC-1* is his first feature film, and was screened at the Director's Fortnight at Cannes IFF 2007.

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16TH GREEK FILM FESTIVAL

Melbourne
Screening
Schedule

2 - 13 September

Palace Cinema Como
Corner Chapel St
and Toorak Rd
South Yarra VIC 3141
T: (03) 9827 7533

Wednesday 2 September			7pm	
			OPENING NIGHT BANG BANG WEDDING	
Thursday 3 September			7pm	
			GUINNESS	Short: Paper & Sand PVC-1
Friday 4 September			7pm	
			JUST BROKEN UP	DOGTTOOTH
Saturday 5 September			7pm	
	2.45pm	4.45pm		9pm
	THE LOVERS FROM AXOS	Shorts: Spike Up & Bombing SCHOOLWAVE ON THE ROCKS	FIRST TIME GODFATHER	WELL KEPT SECRETS - ATHANASIA
Sunday 6 September			7pm	
	2.30pm	4.45pm	6:45pm	9pm
	Short: Pontos THE LAST HOMECOMING	SMALL CRIME	I'M DYING FOR YOU!	ELIAS OF THE 16TH PRECINCT
Monday 7 September			7pm	
			JUST BROKEN UP	TALE 52
Tuesday 8 September			7pm	
			S.E.X	Short: Bombshell A WOMAN'S WAY: STRELLA
Wednesday 9 September			7pm	
			Short: Pontos THE LAST HOMECOMING	Shorts: Spike Up & Bombing SCHOOLWAVE ON THE ROCKS
Thursday 10 September			7pm	
			S.E.X	DOGTTOOTH
Friday 11 September			7pm	
			6:45pm	9:15pm
			Short: Mona Lisa WELL KEPT SECRETS - ATHANASIA	Short: Bombshell A WOMAN'S WAY: STRELLA
Saturday 12 September			7pm	
	2.45pm	5pm		9pm
	Short: Paper & Sand PVC-1	GUINNESS	BANG BANG WEDDING	ELIAS OF THE 16TH PRECINCT
Sunday 13 September			7pm	
	2.45pm	4.45pm	6:45pm	9pm
	FIRST TIME GODFATHER	SMALL CRIME	I'M DYING FOR YOU!	CLOSING NIGHT MY LIFE IN RUINS
Monday 14 September			6:45pm	
			Best of Festival (Popular Demand)	Best of Festival (Popular Demand)



ΤΩΡΑ ΟΛΗ Η ΕΛΛΑΔΑ ΣΕ ΕΝΑ ΚΑΝΑΛΙ

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Guinness

(Γκίνες)

dir: Alexis Kardaras

With the tagline 'the most unfortunate comedy of the year', *Guinness* takes an offbeat approach at illustrating how fickle luck can be – one moment you have it, the next moment it's gone.

Threatened by his debtors, rocked by a broken heart and driven by greed, a charming gambler arrives at a middle-of-nowhere tavern in search of a case of gold. Instead, he attracts the attentions of the grumpy tavern owner's unhappy wife, whose affection complicates his plan and perpetuates his spell of misfortune.

Guinness was the closing night feature of this year's Los Angeles Greek Film Festival where it also won the award for Best Dramatic Feature.

Greek with English subtitles

Greece | 2009 | 94mins | 35mm

Written by: Alexis Kardaras

& Nikos Panayiotopoulos

Producer: Konstantinos Moriatis

Cast: Giorgos Pyrpassopoulos,
Markella Giannatou, Stelios Mainas,
Dimitris Alexandris

About the Director

Born in Athens in 1965 Alexis Kardaras studied filmmaking at NYU Film School and modern art history. He made a number of short films before making his feature debut with *The Robbery* in 1999.



Well Kept Secrets, Athanasia

(Καλά Κρυμμένα Μυστικά, Αθανασία)

dir: Panos Karkanevatos

A compelling personal epic that trips across the globe embracing the worldwide Greek diaspora, *Well Kept Secrets, Athanasia* was the winner of the critics' FIPRESCI Prize at last year's Thessaloniki Film Festival.

A young American woman, Angela, returns to her Greek roots in an effort to uncover the identity of her real father. In the process, she shatters the very myths constructed to protect her, exposing an unlikely relationship between a nomadic photojournalist captivated by a

Greek island girl who was exiled by her community. When Angela eventually meets her father, his stories paint a vivid picture of her mother, Athanassia, and the strange paths of love she walked.

Well-Kept Secrets, Athanasia is a woman's legacy and a telling reminder of the many hidden layers of those closest to us.

Greek with English subtitles

Cyprus/USA/Netherlands/Belgium | 2008 | 100 mins | 35mm

Written & produced by: Panos Karkanevatos
Cast: Robert H. Thomson, Stavroula Logotheti, Marina Kalogirou, Yorgos Karamichos

About the Director

Panos Karkanevatos studied Cinema in Athens and Europe and is an EAVE 1991 graduate. He founded Vergi Film Productions in 1993 and has produced and directed feature films and creative documentaries, many of which have been distributed in Europe and the US.



Small Crime

(Μικρό Έγκλημα)

dir: Christos Georgiou

The intricacies and eccentricities of a small village are vividly expressed in this exquisite drama about a young police officer begrudgingly assigned to a small island in the Aegean.

Leonidas believes he should be in the big city solving important crimes, rather than putting up 'no nudism' signs and watching the island's favourite daughter, Angeliki, appear daily on her own morning TV show. But when someone is found dead, Leonidas suspects foul-play rather than a drunken tumble. His investigations

lead directly to Angeliki and he finds himself falling under her spell. It appears everyone here has their own version of the truth.

"Unfolding in a beautiful, remote location that practically becomes a character in itself, this appealing second feature from Christos Georgiou humorously captures the mentality of a small island community." - Variety

Greek with English subtitles

Greece/Cyprus | 2008 | 85 mins | 35mm

Written by: Christos Georgiou
Produced by: Christos Georgiou & Thanassis Karathanos
Cast: Aris Servetalis, Viky Papadopoulou

About the Director

Born in London in 1966 to Greek-Cypriot parents, Christos Georgiou studied Film Direction in the UK and Poland. His award winning short films *Grandmother's Hands*, *Jal Uthna*, *Tomasz* and *The Baptism* were selected for broadcast by Channel Four in Britain. *Small Crime* has also screened at this year's Seattle IFF, Karlovy Vary IFF, Palm Springs IFF and the LA Greek Film Festival.



Just Broken Up

(Μόλις Χώρισα)

dir: Vasilis Mirianthopoulos

Filmmaker Vasilis Mirianthopoulos draws from his theatrical origins with this modern-day farce of coincidences and confusion, which he wrote and directed to considerable acclaim for Athens' Omada Drasis Theatre Company. Electra's surprise birthday party is meant to be a time for celebration until her lover, Petros, leaves a message on her answering machine calling an end to their relationship. Her friends intercept, opting to hide the news from an unsuspecting Electra, which is where the misunderstanding

stems. Things get even more complicated with the introduction of Victor from Spain, an uninvited lady called Titika Karlatira and a food delivery boy.

As the calamities escalate, so do the laughs. In all the fuss, questions rise to the fore: how are Batman, mammoths, strip shows, pizzas and Tupperware ladies related to the break-up?

Greek with English subtitles

Greece | 2008 | 90mins | Digibeta
Written by: Vasilis Mirianthopoulos
Produced by: Manos Krezias, Kostas Lambropoulos & Dionyssis Samiotis
Cast: Giannis Tsimitselis, Zeta Makripoulia

About the Director

Born in Piraeus in 1965, Vasilis Mirianthopoulos is an established theatre artist. He studied theatre (P. Katseli Drama School, Peiraios Syndesmos Drama School), painting (G. Bournazakis) and dance (Zozo Nikoloudi, Giannis Metsis, Konrad Bukes), and works as a director, actor, dancer and choreographer. *Just Broken Up* is his feature film directorial debut, and his second film, *Soula Ela Xana (S.E.X)* also screens at this festival.



I'm Dying For You!

(Πεθαίνω Για Σένα)

dir: Nikos Karapanagiotis

Inspired by Eleni Rantou's hit play, *Mum Don't Run*, which had record-breaking crowds doubled over with laughter for three consecutive seasons in Athens and Thessaloniki, comes a riotous and rambunctious story of an average Greek family immersed in a not-so average romantic debacle.

Consider what could happen when a mother (a former dancer and tango instructor), her teenage son (an identity challenged teenager) and the stereotypical Greek father (a traffic controlling police officer) all desire the same man? This love

triangle – or, more appropriately, 'love square' – leads to confusion among feuding family members when a mysterious death suddenly occurs. Is it an unfortunate accident or maybe a crime of passion between star-crossed lovers? Many say it, but few mean it... I would die for you.

Warning: Frequent coarse language

Greek with English subtitles

Greece | 2009 | 102mins | Digibeta
Written by: Eleni Rantou & Filippas Desillas
Producer: Giorgos Louizos
Cast: Eleni Rantou, Fanis Mouratidis, Sifis Polyzoidis, Michalis Iatropoulos



S.E.X

(Σούλα Έλα Ξανά)

dir: Vasilis Mirianthopoulos

As its cheeky acronym title suggests, *S.E.X* is an irreverent wink at contemporary Greek life, as seen through the eyes of a blonde, buxom and beautiful Cretan, Soula Saribougouki; the kind of girl who's been wearing Chanel No.19 since her teen years.

Single by choice, Soula receives some unexpected gifts for her 30th birthday: four proposals of marriage. What's even more surprising is she decides to accept one. Her three aunts are thrilled. Her two friends rush to help her. And the four candidate grooms head to Spetses

where Soula works as a teacher. A test will help her make her final choice, but things get a little complicated...

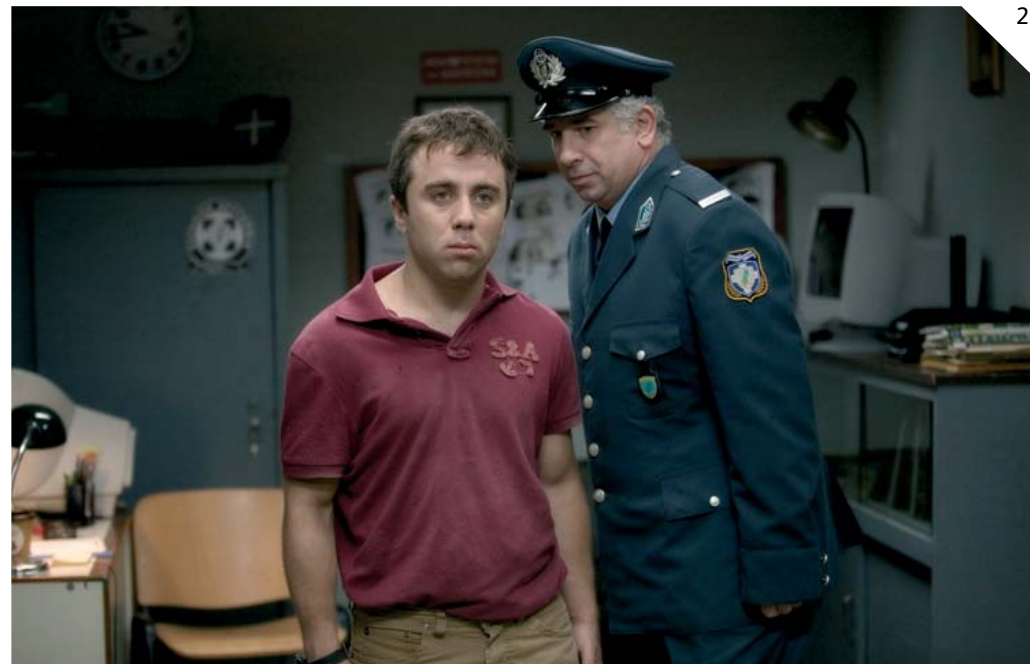
Evoking the ebullience and matrimonial conundrums of *Mamma Mia*, this feel-good film will leave your toes tapping and a smile on your face.

Greek with English subtitles

Greece | 2009 | 85mins | Digibeta
Written by: Vasilis Mirianthopoulos & Olga Michalopoulou
Produced by: Nikos Hasid, Manos Krezias, Kostas Lambropoulos & Dionyssi Samiotis
Cast: Zeta Makripoulia, Maria Androutsou, Fedra Drouka, Mina Adamaki

About the Director

Born in Piraeus in 1965, Vasilis Mirianthopoulos is an established theatre artist. He studied theatre (P. Katseli Drama School, Peiraios Syndesmos Drama School), painting (G. Bournazakis) and dance (Zozo Nikoloudi, Giannis Metsis, Konrad Bukes), and works as a director, actor, dancer and choreographer. He made his feature film directorial debut in 2008 with *Just Broken Up*, which also screens at this festival.



Elias Of The 16th Precinct

(Ο Ηλίας του 16ου)

dir: Nikos Zapatinas

Alekos Sakellarios' much-loved film from 1959, based on a play by Sakellarios-Giannakopoulos, gets a working over for a whole new generation, proving good humour never dates.

Elias of the 16th Precinct follows three friends – Elias, Thomas and Vangelis – who face considerable financial hurdles with their debts rivaling the size of Everest. They decide the only solution is to snatch money from Vangelis' boss, Labros; a cafeteria owner, pawnbroker and fence. While Thomas will attempt the breaking

and entering, Elias will be disguised as a police officer – for security reasons, of course. Hilarity ensues as this comedy of errors sends their plan spiralling off in a totally different direction.

Greek with English subtitles

Greece | 2008 | 90mins | DVD
Written by: Katia Kissonergi
Produced by: Odeon/CL Productions
Cast: Petros Filippidis, Thanassis Tsaltabassis, Kostas Apostolakis, Tasos Kostis

About the Director

Born in Athens, Nikos Zapatinas studied maths (Aristoteleion University of Thessaloniki), cinema (Paris III) and music in various academies. He has directed television series, documentaries and films, including *Feedback* (1974), *Nannies* (1979) and *Bonus* (2001).



First Time Godfather

(Πρώτη Φορά Νοός)

dir: Olga Malea

This hilarious tale dives into Greek culture with the same abundant humour as *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, but with a realistic edge due to its basis on an autobiographical short story by Nikos Papandreou, son of a former Greek prime minister. Raised in America, 11 year-old Alex travels to Crete to step in for his politician father at a local christening. His foreign looks, his difficulty with the Greek language, the Cretans' particularities and the tests he's forced to endure to be accepted as the worthy son of the leader culminate in a comedy with

political wrangling, existential distresses and tragicomic situations. Alex's first initiation in the art and tricks of politics will mark him for the rest of his life.

Check website for changes to this film's classification.

Greek and English language with English subtitles

Greece | 2007 | 86mins | 35mm

Written by: Olga Malea & Nikos Papandreou
Producers: Manos Krezia & Dionyssi Samiotis

Cast: Antonis Kafetzopoulos, Eleni Kastani, Giorgos Kimoulis, Tex Pardue

About the Director

Olga Malea had an unusual experience for a Greek filmmaker. Her first feature film, a comedy about coming of age in the Greek countryside, entitled *The Cow's Orgasm*, created a stir at Greek box offices within days of its release. In the following months, it proceeded to outsell every other Greek film in recent history.

Olga Malea was born in Athens, Greece, in 1960. She studied Law at Athens University (LL.M.) and Psychology (Ph.D.) at Yale. Her first three features became instant box-office hits in Greece.



Schoolwave on the Rocks

dir: Alexandros Grammatopoulos

Rock, metal, pop, hip-hop, punk, ska and traditional... Over the past five years, a three-day, annual music festival known as 'Schoolwave' has collected together students from the remotest corners of Greece in Athens. Documentary-makers descended on the amazing Theatro Vrahon (theatre on the rocks) in 2008 to capture the frenzied rhythms of these talented music students on stage, as well as the electricity and anticipation back-stage.

Greek with English subtitles

Greece | 2008 | 43mins | Digibeta

Written & produced by: Schooligans



The Lovers from Axos

(Οι Εραστές της Αξού)

dir: Nicos Ligouris

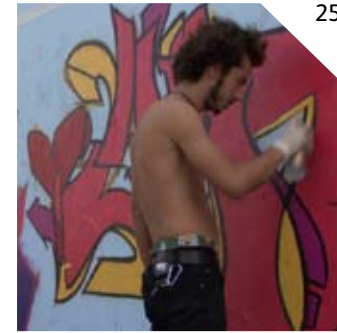
Filmmaker Nicos Ligouris happened upon the subject of his documentary by chance. Travelling in the mountains of Crete, he met 73 year-old Jorgos who guided him through a Byzantine chapel on Mount Ida. Jorgos also offered to show him something more beautiful: his 69 year-old wife, Maria, working at her loom.

Ligouris immortalises the love that binds Jorgos and Maria; a love that has deepened over 55 years. But something clouds their happiness: Jorgos is ill and could die any minute. *"I thought to myself that I could not, and did, not want to explain the secret of their love. But I could chronicle it, steal individual moments in their lives, which at first seem unspectacular, but on closer inspection are magical."* - Nicos Ligouris

Greek with English subtitles

Greece/Germany | 2008 | 80mins | Digibeta

Written & produced by: Nicos Ligouris



Bombing

dir: Aggelos Athanasopoulos & Dimitri Nikolopoulos

A street documentary, *Bombing* tracks the everyday life of Thodoris, Vangelis, Thomas and Giannis (aka. Jef82), Mr Phaz, Eversor and JK-1 – hip-hop graffiti artists and self-proclaimed "correspondents of events". Their daily quest sends them through Athens searching for right colours, true rhymes and the adventure of 'bombing'.

"We like bombing, the illegal. Legal graffiti doesn't express how we feel and we don't want it." - Jef82

Greek with English subtitles

Greece | 2009 | 27mins | Digibeta

Written by: Aggelos Athanasopoulos

Producers: Aggelos Athanasopoulos & Myrto Boutsis



This year we are proud to present a selection of short films from Greek-Australian filmmakers or films dealing with Greek subject matter and characters.

Spike Up 2007 AFI Award, Best Short Fiction Film
dir: Anthony Maras

Family, friendship and drug mules are inextricably entwined in this sobering meditation on police ethics and responsibilities, in the tradition of *Serpico* and *Blue Murder*. An encounter with a drug-addled Aboriginal, his wife's infidelities and an old friend's dark secret leaves a cop wrestling with a crisis of conscience, warping his previously straight-edged moral code.

English language | Australia | 2007 | 29mins | Digibeta
Cast: Roy Billing, Marcus Graham, Lisa Flanagan, Louisa Mignone



Pontos dir: Peter Stefanidis

Filmmaker Peter Stefanidis uses the Pontian genocide of 1919 to provide a searing insight into soul-blinding hatred, redemption and then resolution. A Pontian farmer suffers an attack by a Turkish soldier that kicks off a catastrophic chain of events.

"Pontos manages in a few minutes what Hollywood blockbusters cannot achieve in grinding hours." - Neos Kosmos

English language | Australia | 2008 | 10mins | Digibeta
Cast: Lee Mason, Ross Black, Michele Cele, Tara Ross



Paper And Sand dir: Sotiris Dounoukos

An evocative exploration of love and freedom, *Paper and Sand* introduces Bahram and Samira who, after a year in immigration detention, are on their way to a new home with relatives in country New South Wales. As they bide their time saving money by the beach in Sydney, their different concepts of what home might be become glaringly apparent.

English language | Australia | 2005 | 17mins | Digibeta
Cast: Eddy Ariya, Arezo Behdasht, Callum McInerney



Mona Lisa dir: Sotiris Dounoukos

Mona Lisa is Sotiris Dounoukos' graduating film from the Victorian College of the Arts, and winner of Best Student Production at the 53rd Melbourne International Film Festival.

Over a single night in their suburban home, widow Helen and her only child, George (aged 34), play out a volatile family ritual as they struggle with the intensity and intimacy of their co-dependent lives.

English language | Australia | 2003 | 14mins | Digibeta
Cast: Steve Mouzakis, Irini Pappas



Bombshell dir: Kim Farrant

A loaded bombshell is thrown into the laps of two Greek-Australian brothers forcing them to question their traditional beliefs and machismo identities as men. George and Yianni are 'blokey' in the extreme sense of the word – men's men – but when their father is hospitalised after a brutal bashing, their family façade and the backbone of their masculinity comes crashing to the ground.

English language | Australia | 2008 | 29mins | DVD
Cast: Paul Pantano, Ashley Lyons, Tony Nikolakopoulos, Zoe Carides



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