

BOOKLET OF PROJECTS



DRAMA PITCHING LAB 2021

13-17 SEPTEMBER

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INTRODUCTION

Το Διεθνές Φεστιβάλ Ταινιών Μικρού Μήκους Δράμας, ανακοινώνει τα αποτελέσματα των σχεδίων που προκρίνονται για το φετινό 8^ο Pitching Lab & Forum που θα διεξαχθεί από 13-17 Σεπτεμβρίου, διαδικτυακά και δια ζώσης στην πόλη της Δράμας.

Η Επιτροπή, με μεγάλη χαρά παρέλαβε 119 σχέδια κυριολεκτικά από όλον τον κόσμο (Ευρώπη, ΗΠΑ, Καναδά, Ινδία, Ιαπωνία, Θιβέτ, Νότια Αφρική, Αίγυπτο, Καμερούν, Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο, Τουρκία, Αλβανία, Κολομβία, Σερβία, Αρμενία, και φυσικά Ελλάδα και Κύπρο) Ποικιλία θεμάτων, ειδών και ιδεών, ήταν το χαρακτηριστικό μιας χρονιάς που όπως φαίνεται ευνόησε την ανάπτυξη πρωτότυπων σχεδίων, την περισυλλογή και την ευαισθητοποίηση σε θέματα σχέσεων ανθρώπου και φύσης, προσωπικής και συλλογικής ελευθερίας, γυναικείας ενδυνάμωσης και παρουσίας, καθώς και ανάδειξης ιστορικών και κοινωνικών γεγονότων, καθιστώντας την επιλογή μόνο 15 σχεδίων, και αυτή τη φορά ιδιαίτερα δύσκολη.

Το συνολικότερο Εκπαιδευτικό Πρόγραμμα του Φεστιβάλ, όμως, με τη γενναία υποστήριξη του ΥΠΠΟΑ, θεσμών όπως το ΕΚΚ, ο ΕΚΟΜΕ και πάγιων χορηγών του Φεστιβάλ όπως η Raycap και η Finos Film, θα φροντίσει με δράσεις σε όλη τη διάρκεια της χρονιάς, να στηρίξει την ανάπτυξη πολύ περισσότερων σχεδίων, την περαιτέρω εμβάθυνση σε σχέδια που έχουν κατατεθεί και τη στήριξη τους ως την τελική μορφή, με στόχο, τη σύνδεση των δημιουργών με τη σύγχρονη παγκόσμια αγορά, και τη νέα πραγματικότητα της διανομής και παραγωγής μικρού μήκους ταινίας, που αναπτύσσεται με ολοένα και πιο γοργά βήματα.

ΒΑΡΒΑΡΑ ΔΟΥΚΑ

ΥΠΕΥΘΥΝΗ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΟΥ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣ

The International Drama Short Film Festival is happy to announce the projects that have been selected to participate in this year's 8th Pitching Lab & Forum, which will be held from September 13-17, online and in person in the city of Drama.

119 projects were submitted from around the world (Europe, USA, Canada, India, Japan, Tibet, South Africa, Egypt, Cameroon, United Kingdom, Turkey, Albania, Colombia, Serbia, Armenia, and of course Greece and Cyprus). A wide range of themes, genres and ideas, was the hallmark of this year's submissions that seems to have supported the development of innovative projects, in particular raising awareness on the relationship between humans and nature, the idea of personal and collective freedom, women's empowerment and presence, as well as highlighting historical and social events. This has made the selection of our 15 finalists, particularly difficult and challenging

As a consequence, the Educational Program of the Festival, supported by the Ministry of Culture, institutions such as ΕΚΚ (Greek Film Centre), ΕΚΟΜΕ (National Centre of Audiovisual Media and Communication) and our permanent sponsors of the Festival such as Raycap and Finos Film, will provide further opportunities throughout the year, to support the development and enhancement of additional projects, that have been submitted in order to allow creators to connect with the global market, and the new reality of short film production and distribution which is developing at an ever-increasing pace.

Barbara Dukas

LAB / Head of Educational Program

THE PROJECTS

Brakwater

by **Devon Delmar & Jason Jacobs**

Magical realism / **SOUTH AFRICA**

Tagline:

When the wind refuses to turn the blades of his makeshift windpump, a desperate man turns to supernatural means to prevent his village dying of thirst.

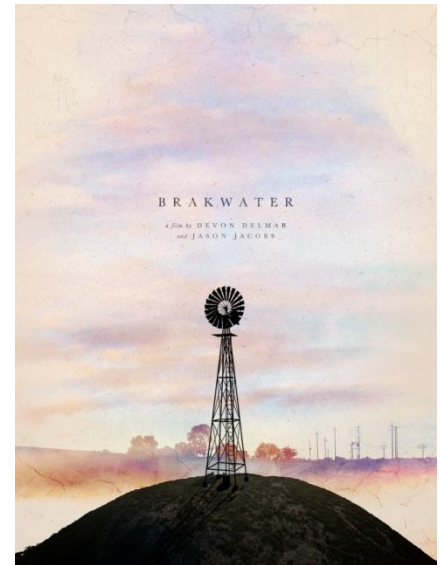
Synopsis:

Elton lives with his ailing father on the outskirts of a small waterless village. The village is covered in sand that drifts in on the tireless wind. It hasn't rained for years. The townspeople queue outside the magistrate with what few possessions they have, bartering for water.

Elton is the town's undertaker. We begin our tale as he and his trusty donkey go along the dusty road with a procession of mourners behind them. Elton trades in his most valuable possession to survive: his wedding ring.

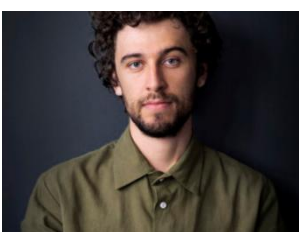
After some teenagers steal the water, Elton begins construction on a windpump. If he can't buy water, he'll find it. He uses a supernatural device called a *mikstok*. Once the windpump is set up, however, the wind refuses to blow.

One night, after he has given up, the wind picks up all of a sudden. But what comes out of the pump isn't water...



Jason Jacobs **Scriptwriter / Director**

Jason Jacobs was honoured in 2017 by Kunste Onbeperk, Klein Karoo National Arts Festival for his contribution to South African Theatre and Performing Arts. Jacobs is a multi-award winning theatre director and recipient of the Theatre Arts Admin Collective Emerging Theatre Director's Bursary. He hails as a playwright, theatre-maker, movement director and published poet (New Contrast). He debuted as a filmmaker and screenwriter at the annual kykNET Silwerskermfees with Nama Swaan.



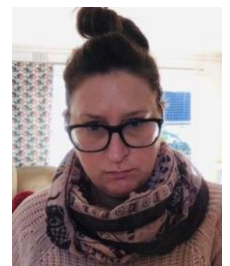
Devon Delmar **Scriptwriter / Director**

Devon Delmar is a writer and director in Cape Town. His short films have been showcased internationally (Kerry IFF, Luxor IFF, Lake International PanAfrican FF) and locally (Cape Town IFM&F, RapidLion, shnit, Grahamstown, Silwerskermfees). His interest lies in exploring alternate perspectives to his own, and seeing the world from the point of view of the non-human. He is a lecturer in the study of magical realism and history of cinema at the University

of Cape Town.

Kate Schalk at Marche Media (www.marche.media) **Producer**

Kate Schalk's recent and current television projects at Marche Media include the highly anticipated KykNET and Showmax drama series 'Die Byl', 'Spreeus', 'Dwaalster', 'Waterfront', '4Mure', 'SLOT', 'Ekstra Medium', the highly successful 'Boer soek 'n vrou' franchise, and Claire Wiese-Wentzel's makeover show 'Mooimaak'. Marche Media are on the forefront of groundbreaking local South African Feature Films, with titles like 'Nobody's Died Laughing (2015)', 'Johnny is nie dood nie (2016)', 'Kanarie (2018)' and 'Die Seemeeu (2018)' and 'Ander Mens' (2019)' under their belt. info@marche.media



The lost Homeland

by **Mikael Nilsson**

Documentary / **SWEDEN**

Tagline:

When people are forced to flee their homes, a question arises: What is a homeland?

Synopsis:

A girl, the film's narrator, walks on a yard carrying a lit candle in her hand. "I'm looking for a human being", she says.

In a attic there is a box with videotapes. In one of the recordings a Pontian older woman, my aunt Sofia, tells of an interrogation in Russia in the 1920s, and about the flight to Greece along the Black Sea's Turkish coast a hundred years ago. The lost homeland – is it possible to express? Zoe, active in a Pontic organization in Sweden, explains what it means to her. Sevil, a Turkish woman in Sweden, talks about her rootlessness based on the legacy of her mother, whose family was forced to move from Peloponnesos in the 1920s.

Stories about the lost. The narrative girl is a witness – like an antique choir. Finally, she leaves the yard. The candle is on the ground and burning.



Mikael K Nilsson **Scriptwriter / Director / Producer**

Born 1964 in Helsingborg, Sweden.

Studies in film directing, Lodz, Poland, 1992–93. Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Stockholm University, 2001.

Journalist, photographer and writer.

Filmography: "Fragments from a childhood" (documentary, 2021), "We should have a movie" (documentary 2020), "A moment on earth" (documentary, 1994), "Thraces" (documentary, 1993), "The path back" (short, 1991), "The triangle" (short, 1989). mikaelnilsson@yahoo.se



The Psychopathology of a Cock

by **Vasia Ntoulia & Petros Kolotouros**

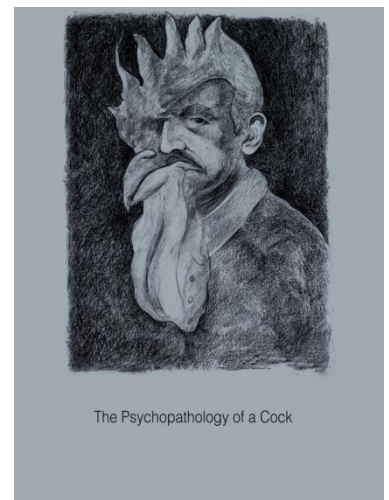
Black Comedy / **GREECE**

Tagline:

Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

Synopsis:

After having spent half of his life at the Court fighting for the rights of others, Stathis, a senior lawyer from Crete decides to buy seven chicks and raise them in the backyard of his house. His initial enthusiasm turns into disappointment when he realizes that all chicks are in fact cockerels. When the continuous crowing begins, Stathis loses his sleep and the hidden traumatic experiences of the past take the lead.



Dimitra Maragkaki Scriptwriter / Producer

Dimitra Maragkaki is a project manager currently based in Berlin. She has led cultural projects, organized events, exhibitions and workshops with a focus on photography and video. She has worked as a project manager at the exhibition space f³ – freiraumfürfotografie in Berlin, as an intern at the Museum of Modern Art in Glasgow and she participated in the programme Transfer International co-organising an art residency in Athens as part of “This is not a feminist project” team. She recently contributed as a scriptwriter in the short film/music video “Τα νέα της Αλεξάνδρας | reclaim” by filmmaker Vasia Ntoulia. dimmaragk@gmail.com



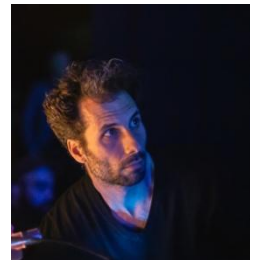
Vasia Ntoulia Director



From the beginning of her career, Vasia Ntoulia has been attracted to videoart and interactive media to engage different communities and examine human characteristics, relationships and situations. After completing her studies in filmmaking at Kingston University, London, she was selected for the first global residency of THE AND project created by The Skin Deep studio, based in New York. In 2018, she produced “This is not a feminist project”, as a fellow for the Start Create Cultural Change program funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung. Her work has been shown at national and international film and media festivals. Currently, she splits her time between multimedia art projects and a creative collaboration as a director.

Petros Kolotouros Director

Petros Kolotouros is an audiovisual artist who bridges the realism of documentary on the one hand, with the abstraction and the sensorial audio-visual poetry, on the other. He studied Mechanical Engineering at the Polytechnic School of the University of Patras in Greece where he graduated in 2011. From a very young age he was engaged with music and photography, activities he practiced professionally in parallel with the polytechnic studies. He has directed several music and dance videos and participated as a cinematographer in the feature documentary “Me and my shadow” about the renowned musician Nikos Papazoglou. Between 2019 and 2021 he attended a Master of Arts on Documentary Film Production at the Aegean University which led to his latest work “Improvisations in parallel mode”, currently in post-production.



Footprints

by **Tathagata Ghosh**

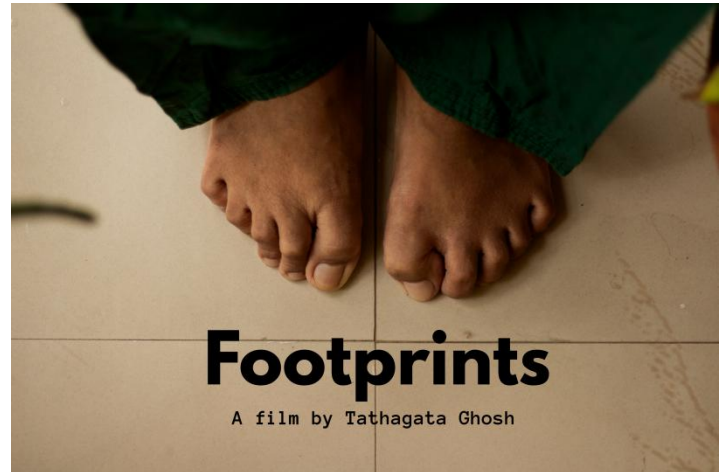
Drama / **INDIA**

Tagline:

Study of our complex social structure through the eyes of a domestic worker.

Synopsis:

Pampa, a domestic worker, faces overwhelming challenges at her work one fine day. As her world comes crashing down, she must stand up for herself by overcoming her own reservations and the class differences.



Tathagata Ghosh Scriptwriter / Director

A Berlinale Talents 2021 alumnus, Tathagata has always believed in telling stories of people from different social backgrounds. People who do not have a voice of their own. His last short films "Miss Man" and "Doitto"(The Demon) have travelled to numerous prestigious international film festivals like BFI Flare, Out on Film, Coalition of South Asian Film Festivals (CoSAFF), Tallgrass Film Festival, Cheries-Cheris, Wicked Queer, International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala to name a few and have won several awards. tathagata314@gmail.com



Carlito (or How I Became A Dog Abuser)

by **Ivana Janošev**

docu fiction / **SERBIA**

Tagline:

After rescuing a stray puppy a young woman finds herself portrayed on social media as abusive by an extremist animal rights organisation.

Synopsis:

Director and protagonist, Ivana, having been an animal lover all her life, hears about Leviathan, an organisation that is fighting against animal violence. A group of bald tattooed guys that hate if someone mistreats an animal and use violence to stop abuse. Ivana likes this extreme approach and approves of it: whatever works if it helps save these poor beings. In the meantime, Ivana rescues a stray puppy from the streets. She adopts him and names him Carlito. One day, while coming home from the vet, Carlito starts to eat something he finds on the street. Ivana tries to stop him and disciplines him as she had been instructed. Someone captures this moment on video, the footage is made viral by Leviathan. People recognise Ivana from her presence on social media. The bullying quickly becomes overwhelming, even bringing Ivana to question whether she is the right person to care for Carlito. After this experience, Ivana wakes up and is forced to acknowledge the political and social situation around her, each day seeing more and more injustice, hate and judgment around her.



Ivana Janošev **Director / Producer**

Ivana Janošev, her short documentary Dead Capital was at festivals: Student cuts

Zagreb, Motovun film festival, Microfaf and Artorium where it was awarded. She directed in the Serbian national theatre, Hungarian theatre in Novi Sad and the theatre for the Young. Her latest theatre project was a part of the Dubrovnik summer festival. Ivana also directed and acted in a popular tv show "Dnevniak" and in the company 888 films she is in charge of film sales. The project Carlito was awarded the best project on the March festival debut film workshop and was a part of SFF Pack and Pitch, Film Plus, Dok Serbia.

ivana@888films.com



My Dream to Fly

by **Asmaa Gamal**

Documentary / **EGYPT**

Tagline:

A group of young men in their twenties from a popular slum area in Egypt, transform the motorcycles they depend on for work in the morning, to a contraption for fantastic performances at night.

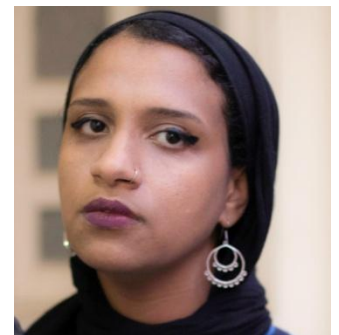
Synopsis:

My Dream to Fly is an observational documentary that follows the daily life of such a group of young people. Ali, Salama, and Helewa have lived in Qalyub, the same neighborhood, since childhood. None of the three young men completed their middle education, like many young people in the region who have to support their families, due to difficult financial conditions. They also share a passion for Chinese motorcycles. In the daytime they earn a living by working in the city's crowded streets on their motorbikes. But at night, their motorbikes switch from being a means of transportation and become the medium for play and - entertainment – transforming their relationship with the city. By following these characters, we will see the world through their eyes – learn about their relationship with the wider world of the slum in which they live, as well as the dreams that help them escape their daily realities rather than become marginalized by them.



Asmaa Gamal **Director**

She Asmaa Gamal works an independent photographer and director. Asmaa studied media and also got a master degree in Drama and television. Following the publication of her first photography book, The Seven Seeds, She was chosen as an theArab photographer to work on a photo book Unforgettable Land in Thailand. Her work has won prizes in many Arab and international photography competitions Such as Nile Media award, and. she was also selected for the Info Nile photojournalism Ddocumentary Award grant. Asmaa hasdirected many independent short films and Video Art such as Astrox, The Meassage you sent and, Masrya, which have been shown in local and international festivals. Her short films won four awards such as the Mentor Arab Film Festival in Jordan, a Platinum Award from the Independent Short Film Festival in Los Angeles, and two Jury Awards from Festivals Cairo short films and the Masr Dot Bokra Festival. asmaagamalmedia@gmail.com



When Sotiris and Helene... sneaked out through the balcony door

by **Athanasia Michopoulou**
Short comedy film / **GREECE**

Tagline:

The trick is to keep moving.

Synopsis:

In the quiet of a nursing home, an elderly couple decides that life is not over because they grew old.

They fall in love with the idea that no matter how old one is, it is never too late to care about someone; that life is always better with friends. So they decide to run away, because it's never too late for a new beginning.

A tender comedy about the beauty of living each and every day, even when the world around you tries to convince you that everything is over, just because you grew old.



Athanasia Michopoulou **Scriptwriter / Director**

My name is Athanasia Michopoulou and I am a junior compositor and motion graphics artist. For the past 11 years, I worked in various production posts in the film industry as well as in film festivals and cultural events.

I have directed 6 short films and currently I am working on two projects, "Hypnos", a sci-fi short, and "When Sotiris and Elene... sneaked out through the balcony door". athanasia.michopoulou@gmail.com



The Killer California Club

by **Vitória Vasconcellos**

Psychological Thriller / U.S.A.

Tagline:

Five A-list Hollywood Latina influencers find themselves trapped on an endless time loop as one of them gets repeatedly murdered by an abusive boyfriend.

Synopsis:

Soon after Carla Villar moves to Los Angeles to support her boyfriend's dreams, she finds herself befriended by the most famous Latinas in Hollywood. Feeling like she's finally part of a community while simultaneously experiencing vivid nightmares where she's buried alive, Carla defies Dean's (the boyfriend) jealousy and continues to hang out with Ayla, Vivian, Amanda, Lali and Helena...or as the LA lifestyle gurus would call them: the "Latina California Club". Tensions grow as Dean invites himself over to a dinner at Ayla's house in hopes of boosting his career and Carla notices the girls' increasingly suspicious interest in her relationship with him. As she struggles to understand the fast and unexpected changes in her life, Carla realizes that the line between her nightmares and reality is a lot thinner than she had thought.



Vitória Vasconcellos Scriptwriter / Director

Vitória Vasconcellos is an actor-director from Recife, Brazil who goes around the world telling stories about female endurance and the peculiar, most intimate bits of the human experience which we often fail to treasure. Her films explore the intersectionality of the female experience and the sensorial poetry that connects us to the world.

Vitória has acted in and directed a variety of short films that have travelled the world. Her short thriller Pathei Mathos was included in the 2021 Festival de Cannes Short Film Corner selection. She has recently graduated with multiple honors from the USC School of Cinematic Arts. vvasconcellosv@gmail.com



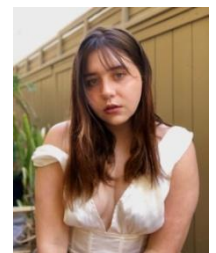
Billy Gould Producer



Billy Gould is a Los Angeles based filmmaker with a deep body of experience in all aspects of the production process. He's a graduate of USC's School of Cinematic Arts and has worked at Sam Raimi's Ghost House Pictures, Grandview Management, Automatik Entertainment, and Blindlight Studios. He's an avid fan of all kinds of stories, but has a penchant for horror and sci-fi films. He's passionate about collaborating with talented artists to bring their unique visions to the screen as honestly as possible.

Jordan Pfeifer Producer

Jordan Pfeifer is the owner and Executive Producer of ONYX Films, a female-led production company. She graduated with a degree in film production from Loyola Marymount University in 2020. She is a lover of women and believes that the power amongst a group of females is unmatched. She is a huge horror fan, spending her college career interning at companies such as Blumhouse, Ghost House Pictures, and Raimi Productions. Her dream has always been to assemble a group of strong, creative women together to make empowering, inspiring and visceral art. onyx.films.contact@gmail.com



Went to Heaven

by **Nicolás Sole**

Fantasy / **SPAIN**

Tagline:

After losing his grandmother, a little boy learns that all the dead go to heaven, so he decides to become a pilot to go up into the sky and bring her back.

Synopsis:

At his grandmother's funeral, a heartbroken little boy is told that all people go to heaven after dying. By learning this, the boy makes a decision: He will become a pilot to find her spirit up in the sky and bring her back to Earth.

For this he does a course in a pilot academy for the underage, gets his licence, goes to an aerodrome, steals a plane, and flies, searching for his grandmother's angel between the clouds. When he finds her, he kidnaps and drags her back to Earth.

A Guardian Angel follows them and rescues the grandmother's angel from the desperate kid, who, in a last attempt to be next to her, disguises himself as an angel and tries to follow them, but is left behind.

Many years later, the boy, now a grown pilot, while flying, remembers this episode of his childhood, and smiles.



Nicolás Sole **Scriptwriter / Director**

Born in Argentina in 1991, he studied Audiovisual Design in the university of Buenos Aires. First he worked in film production in the music industry, but in 2016 he decided to dedicate fully to animation. Since then he worked as an storyboard artist and animator for film, commercials and animated shows. In 2018 he moves to Barcelona, where he does a máster in animation, and does his 4th short film: "Good Night Mr Ted", currently going through festivals around the world. Now he is working doing animation in the new Richard Linklater animation feature "Apolo 10 1/2" at Submarine Studio. nicolaspgsole@gmail.com



White Christmas

by **Antonis Vallindras**

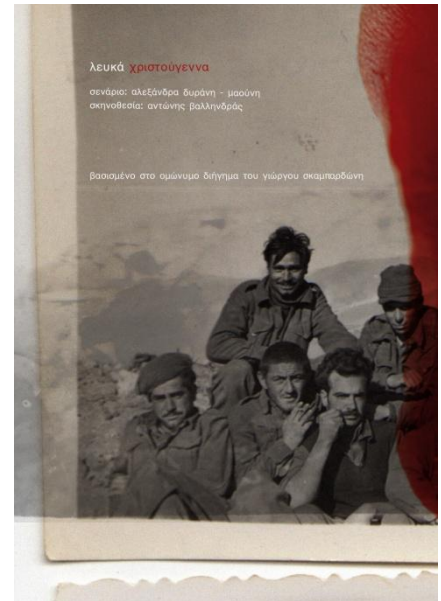
Historical Drama / **GREECE**

Tagline:

In December 1948, an unofficial ceasefire takes place during Christmas Day between the Democratic Army of Greece (communist party) and the National Army. Soldiers of both sides share a moment of peace before resuming the atrocities of the civil war that divided Greeks for the upcoming decades.

Synopsis:

Greece, 1948. Perlepes (27), a romantic risk-taker, soldier of the Democratic Army, decides to take his demoralized comrades on a secret mission. As they covertly journey through the imposing mountains of Northern Greece, a thick fog surrounds them. When they reach the camp of the National Army, Perlepes reveals their mission: he yells at their enemies if they can sing the Christmas carols. They sing to them, emotionally overwhelmed by this rare moment of peace. When they finish, teary-eyed they wish them a Merry Christmas. The soldiers of the National Army want to return the favor. They sing back to them a rebetiko song by Vasilis Tsitsanis, which talks about the unfairness of life. Moved, the comrades start their uphill journey back to camp. But the fog has thickened. The path has disappeared. One wrong turn leads them to a minefield that they themselves had set up for their enemies.



Antonios Vallindras Director

Born in Athens and raised in different cities both in Greece and abroad I began my academic career with a degree in Economics, studying both in Athens and Birmingham. My working experience started by working for Ogilvy Greece, as an account executive and later as a communications consultant, focusing on corporate communications. In 2014, I decided to change my career path and focused on filmmaking. I studied in Bournemouth University, Directing Digital Film and Television and directed a couple of short films. By moving back to Athens and since, I have been working on numerous projects as a director. <https://ladiesfingers.gr>

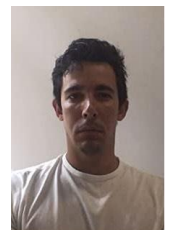


Alexandra Dyrani-Maounis Scriptwriter

Alexandra has a BA in English Literature & Film Studies and an MA in Creative Writing from Brunel University London, and a Screenwriting Diploma from the New York Film Academy and Exeter College, Oxford. As a native English speaker, she has worked as a writer, script editor and translator. She is currently developing two feature films and a TV series. She believes in writing narratives for social profit, as well as entertainment. She has attended the following screenwriting development workshops: EAVE (2014), Script Surgery (London SWF, 2015), Short Stories, Big Ideas (GFC, 2017) & MFI Workshop (2018). www.maouscript.com http://www.imdb.com/name/nm4204063/?ref=fn_al_nm_1

Nicholas Alavanos Producer

Nicholas is the Managing Director of Filmiki since 2016. He studied filmmaking and Production in Athens & UK. He has gained a significant experience in the production of tv commercials, directed by greek and international directors. In the last 5 years he has entered the field cinema and tv productions. Member of the Hellenic Film Academy & Sapoe - Audiovisual Producer's Association of Greece / www.filmiki.gr / <https://m.imdb.com/name/nm2735968/> alavanos@filmiki.gr



Neek

by **Peiman Zekavat**

Drama / UK

Tagline:

A dangerous, new TikTok challenge is testing loyalties and disrupting the status quo at a private school in London.

Synopsis:

Two young men in their late teens are planning a TikTok challenge in an immigrant neighborhood, and they're looking to add a new member to their team.



Peiman Zekavat Director

Peiman is a filmmaker and Canon-commissioned cinematographer, and has been twice BIFA long-listed in the Best Short category. Both his fictional films and observational documentaries focus on social and humanitarian issues. His documentaries aired on Al-Jazeera, Fox and CBC Canada, as well as screened at major documentary film festivals including Dok Leipzig, Full Frame, Big Sky, Hot Spring and Hot Docs.

info@5thseason.uk



Mother, just a smile

by **Cyrielle Raingou**

Creative Documentary / PORTUGAL-CAMEROON

Tagline:

A deceased black mother is not dead; she lives in the blowing wind, in the rising tide of a full moon night in Cabo da Roca

Synopsis:

Isabel Cardoso grew up in a Portuguese plantation in Sao Tome. She moved to Portugal in 1972 and was followed by her mother years later. Having spent their entire life working, they have had rare moments together. Today, Isabel Cardoso shares with her late mother, in different locations some key moments from her past and present life. The emphasis is put on the different elements air, water and earth as if we were feeling more and more the presence of Isabel's mother; to construct and give a rhythm to the narration. This is the odyssey of a black woman and her mother transcending space, time and dimension while highlighting in a very subtle way black womanhood and struggle in Portugal. A story about loss and remembrance.



Cyrielle Raingou Director / Scriptwriter

Cyrielle Raingou is a Cameroonian filmmaker passionate about the concept and development of a certain African cultural identity, its promotion on an international scale and the economic interest it raises. She strongly believes that one can make a living from the art in Africa. She very often uses legends, metaphor, the symbolism of certain animals, to support human stories in their complexity; and the mystery of life. Cyrielle Raingou holds master degrees in law and film production. She just completed a 3rd master degree in documentary film directing from Docnomads Joint Master program.

dcyrielle2@gmail.com



The Return

by **Athena Mandis**

Drama / UK

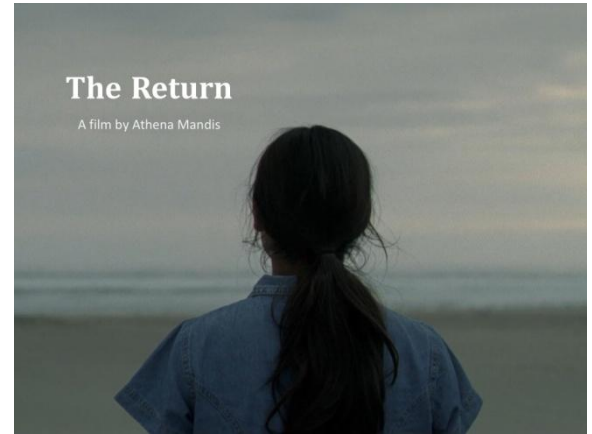
Tagline:

Following the death of their parents, two Greek-Cypriot sisters travel from London to their forgotten homeland, a divided Cyprus, to find the house their family was forced to flee in 1974.

Synopsis:

Driving to what was once their village, the sisters go on a journey of identity. Unlike Irene, Anna still remembers; the olive tree in the garden, the red little case she couldn't take with her, the house, the war. The sisters have to reconcile a lost past with the impact this has had on their lives and how they will move forward.

They arrive. The house in ruins. Anna digs a hole with her hands. She takes off her late mother's crucifix from round her neck, wraps it into a handkerchief and places it into the hole. From her bag she takes out a jar with the earth from their parents' graves and pours it over before covering the hole with the earth. Irene cuts a sprig from the. Anna lays the ghosts of the past to rest and Irene finds the connection to her homeland she has been searching.



Athena Mandis Director / Scriptwriter

Athena is an award-winning filmmaker and Lecturer in Film Practice at QMUL. Her work has screened at festivals world-wide. In 2021 she completed 2 high-end short dramas; LOSING GRACE and DAUGHTER –Losing Grace has won 7 awards to date and selected to the Bafta and Oscar qualifying LA Short Film Festival. THE RETURN was a on ENTER THE PITCH COMPETITION 2021. In 2018 she co-wrote, produced and directed SOUTHGATE TO BRIGHTON, a comedy short. She's currently developing 2 features - POLLY and XENOS. Xenos won best screenplay at Cyprus IFF 2018 and was selected to the Torino Development Lab 2019. athena@aegisfilmproductions.com



Marilena Parouti Producer

Marilena Parouti graduated with an MA in Film Studies and has since become an award-winning film and creative Producer with a decade of industry experience in indie film production and in-house creative broadcaster agencies including ViacomCBS, BBC Studios, and ITV. Marilena has a diverse portfolio of award-winning feature films and shorts, as well as TV ad campaigns. Marilena's feature films Trendy (2018) and Waking David (2017) were both successful with an international release, festival selections, and awards. Marilena has a natural flair for identifying stories that should be developed into film; she is a risk-taker and a strong believer in

showcasing unique talents and vision.

The Sea has No Colour

by **Theo Panagopoulos**

Historical Drama-Fantasy / GREECE

Tagline:

Based in current day Syros, a middle aged fisherman discovers a boat of refugees that started its journey 100 years ago from Smyrna and contains his own grandmother as a child.

Synopsis:

Set in current-day Syros, Vangelis, a middle-aged fisherman witnesses a small boat of refugees during his nightly fishing expedition. While rescuing them, he realises that the people have travelled through time from Smyrna of 1922 to present day Greece. Even though he is in a shocked state, he follows through with the plan of handing them over to the Greek authorities. The following day he discovers that a little girl who carries his grandmother's name has been hiding in his boat. They spend the day together following Vangelis' daily routine and develop a unique bond of grandson and grandmother. At the end of the day, he decides to break the rest of the people out of their detainment and set them free. As a gift of gratitude the people perform music and dance which resemble the rembetiko, the style developed in Syros by refugees from Minor Asia.



Theo Panagopoulos Director / Scriptwriter

Theo Panagopoulos is a Greek-Lebanese-Palestinian filmmaker based in Glasgow and Athens. In 2020 he graduated with an MFA in Documentary Film Directing in Edinburgh College of Art and concluded his creative documentary short "My Own Personal Lebanon" It was screened in multiple BAFTA-Qualifying festivals and was shortlisted for the IRIS award of the Hellenic Film Academy. He is currently developing the short in a feature documentary along with writing multiple upcoming new fiction projects. He is primarily interested in writing and directing films that tackle themes of memory, politics, family and language. theopan9@hotmail.com



Silenced - Լռութիւն

by **Nare Leone Ter-Gabrielyan**

Drama / **ARMENIA**

Tagline:

The ultimate dream is the right to dream.

Synopsis:

Agnes, a 12-year old girl, is among women and children being sent away from a war zone to safety. Trying to deal with the atrocities she has witnessed, Agnes struggles with her feelings while filling in the role of her younger brother's guardian.

Late at night an old Soviet truck stands motionless on a mountain slope, sheltering a group of six. As the temperature drops, the mountain roads get covered with ice, and the truck fails to go up.

One of the passengers is Agnes, who has just bid farewell to her parents, perhaps for good, and is dealing with the trauma of war.

Silenced is a tribute to the innocence murdered during war. The story is about displaced women, deprived of everyday necessities of life and displaced children, whose childhood was taken away from them.

Silenced is based on true events of the night of October 5, 2020.

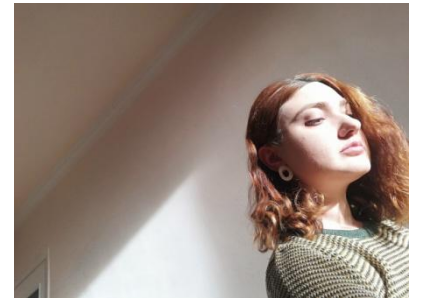


Nare Leone Ter-Gabrielyan Director / Scriptwriter

Nare Leone Ter-Gabrielyan is a filmmaker who has produced films in Estonia, the UK, Armenia, Portugal. She has a joint Master's Degree in film production from Kino Eyes the European Movie Masters.

Nare has produced arthouse film 'Taniel' which has 14 awards, including the Audience Award at the Bermuda International Film Festival. Nare has directed several theatre performances, including 'Something Broken' with domestic violence survivors as actors.

Nare is the founder of Fermata Film production company in Yerevan, which (co)produces films with compelling human stories. Nare's article, "Pictorial Elements of Composition in Cinema" will be published at the 2021 Avanca Cinema Journal.



Tatevik Ayvazyan Producer

Tatevik Ayvazyan is a creative producer and writer, associated with Rebel Republic Films. She is the director of the Armenian Institute in London, an arts and culture charity. Born in Yerevan, Tatevik has lived in the UK over 20 years, working in filmmaking, screenwriting, and programme curating. She has curated, edited and translated the Armenian and English poetry in Rebel Republic Film's multi-award-winning arthouse film, "Taniel" (2018). She is currently adapting Iris Murdoch's "The Italian Girl", a dark tale of a dysfunctional family, which has been optioned by Rebel Republic Films, and working on an upcoming documentary about female DJs. tato.ayvaz@gmail.com;

Pitching Lab conductor- TUTOR


Barbara Dukas is director and trainer. She is Artistic Director of Municipal and Regional Theater of Corfu Island (Greece). Since 2009, she is conductor of the Educational Program and from 2014 the Pitching Lab and Forum of the International Short Film Festival of the City of Drama (DISFF).

TUTOR

Georgina Kakoudaki is a theatre theorist and director. Since 2009, she has been directing youth theatre performances and collaborated with over 30 theatre and dance companies as a dramaturg. She is teaching in numerous public and international organizations specializing in educating adults through theatre and film. She has taught film dramaturgy and aesthetics at the AKMI IEKschool (2006-2011). She was head of the National Theatre of Greece Library and Archive (1997-2004). She co-wrote the books: Theatre education for adults (IDEKE 2007) and Paths of Experiential Learning (Kedros publications 2011). She is the author of the Arts Schools Students' Course book specializing in Theatre Directing and Film Directing / Film Aesthetics (IEΠ 2015) and organized large number of New Artists festivals alongside a series of organizations and theatres in Greece. From 2016 to 2019 she was the cocurator of the Educational Programs of the Athens and Epidaurus Festival and the Artistic Director of the Epidaurus Lyceum, an international school for actors focusing on ancient drama. She

collaborates with Olympia International Festival for Children and Young People and with Athens International Children Film Festival. Since 2021 she is the Artistic Director of the summer school for ancient drama Summer Oracle (Municipal Theatre of Ioannina/ Dodona)

**GUEST TUTOR****Stathis Paraskevopoulos**

Since my humble beginnings as a radio announcer in Australia and producer of promotional trailers for a start-up TV Channel in Athens, Greece I have worked as Programming Strategy and Acquisitions Director for several TV channels before entering the VOD arena in 2008 managing SEE and CE for Vubiquity. In between I have taught script writing, have worked as a Script Doctor and Reader and Pitching to young aspiring Script writers. It is an honour to be invited once again to present during the 2021 Pitching Lab.



GUEST TUTOR
Sari Volanen

Sari Volanen is a commissioning editor at Yle (Finnish Broadcasting company). She works at YLE's Film Team producing short films mainly with Finnish independent film makers and producers. She is in charge of a strand called "New Cinema" on Yle Teema channel. New Cinema is an open-end strand on Tuesdays at 23.00. The main focus of New Cinema is on cinematic, surprising, original and quirky films. The films in the strand are acquired through co-productions (main producer Finnish), prebuys (international) and acquisitions.



GUEST TUTOR
John Stephens

John Stephens is a Script Editor and Script Consultant who has advised on many short films and feature projects. A self-confessed 'story geek', he is passionate about all things narrative and has run several workshops on script development and story theory in Greece and North Macedonia. He is also the Film Selection Coordinator for this year's edition of the *KineNova* International Film Festival, Skopje.
