



**DRM INTL
SHORT FLM
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DISFF

5-11

SEP

20:22

DRAMA PITCHING LAB 2022

5-11 SEPTEMBER

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INTRODUCTION

We are very pleased that the Pitching Lab received numerous projects (fiction, animation and doc) this year, and, as has been the case in recent years, the rapporteurs had a very difficult time choosing the final projects that will participate in the three-day Workshop and the Pitching Forum.

This year, the main features of all the projects from all corners of the world that has suffered after two years of pandemic, are the anxiety for survival, the spread of an implicit violence, identity and gender issues, the rights of excluded groups, living with an illness or disability, tolerance of diversity, and the coming of age, in a colourful and unpredictable planet.

From Peru and Nepal, to Kazakhstan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Portugal and Finland, our souls were filled with the images that young filmmakers want to narrate. All these unknown original subjects that we never realized that exist in different corners of the Earth, have made us richer. Unfortunately, among this explosion of colours and ideas, we could only choose 16 of the 117 proposals that were sent to us, yearning for communication and creation.

The Greek creators, with their plurality of projects, ambitious productions and a wide variety of themes, won a special place this year.

The Pitching Forum, in response to the Greek market needs, will try through the shortlisted projects to assist the selected Greek projects that will participate in the Lab this year to communicate with other festivals and forums abroad, contributing to the extroversion and the encouragement of co-producers.

For this reason, in addition to the projects that will come to Drama, the Forum will choose 5 more Greek projects that will be able to participate in a development workshop, which will take place within the framework of the two-day "Drama Festival in Athens" September 17-18 , in the Greek Film Archive. We will announce details soon as well as the schedule of our new workshop, which we hope will become a small institution- "landmark in Athens" for the Pitching Lab and Forum.

BARBARA DOUKA

DISFF Educational Program Manager

THE PROJECTS

War Hero

by **Perttu Inkilä**

Drama-FICTION / **Finland**

Tagline:

One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter.

Synopsis:

Delawar, A 12-year-old boy from Afghanistan is seeking asylum with his family from Finland. Before receiving a negative result for the application he is being helped by Joutsijärvi, a Finnish peacekeeper. A couple of years after the incident these two strangers meet again, this time in the night of Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan. Delawar has been recruited by extremists, and his dreadful task is interrupted by Joutsijärvi, who is working on a crisis management operation.



War Hero

SHORT FILM

Perttu Inkilä **Scriptwriter / Director**

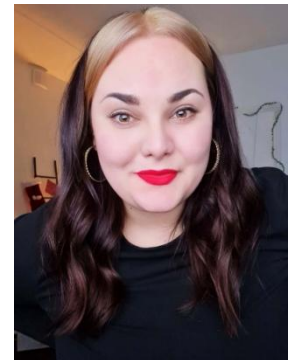
Perttu Inkilä is a cinematographer and director graduated from Metropolia University of Applied Sciences Helsinki. He has directed and shot 10 short films and more than 30 music videos. Latest work includes Strangers in the Dark, an experimental short documentary about glow worms and light pollution, funded by the Finnish Film Foundation, premiere early 2023.



Oona Saari **Producer**

Oona studied Film and tv at Metropolia University of Applied Sciences and graduated 2018. Her latest films as a production manager are music documentary Then the times, they changed, 2022 (dir. Antti Kuivalainen), award winning co-production School of Hope, 2020 (dir. Mohamed El Aboudi) and Little Red Bunch, 2020 (Dir. Jouko Aaltonen). Oona has also worked as a project and content producer and owns an extensive expertise from the field of multimedia. Right now, she is working with various productions in different stages as a producer. She is attending EURODOC 2022 with the project The Cello.

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#bagets rider FREE HD

by **Lester Cristal**

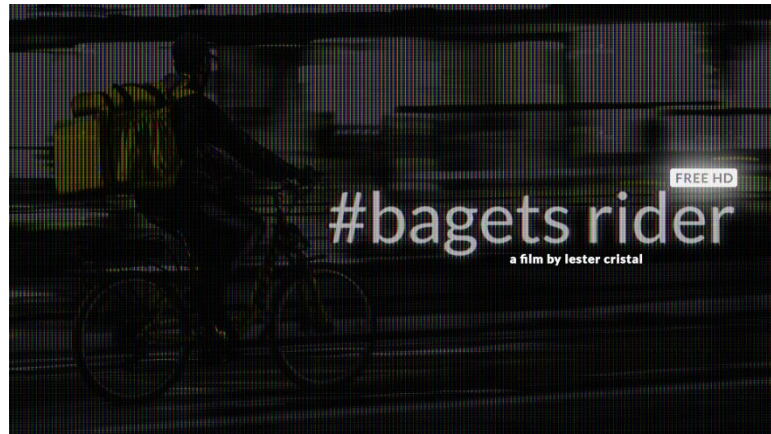
Social Drama-Coming of Age -FICTION / **The Philippines**

Tagline:

Young. Wild. Exploited.

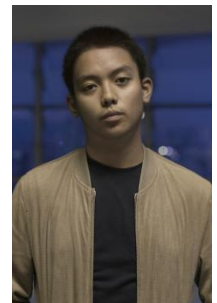
Synopsis:

19-year-old Bryan, who works as a food delivery rider in a big city, is anonymous on his bicycle. As he cycles around the streets to remove his 16-year-old wank video circulating online, he begins to be recognized. An adult content mogul asks him to ride with the sensation of his viral video and to record another one under an alternate name #bagets rider. By choosing between being passively consumed by his offline life or the online world, Bryan tries to reclaim his body from exploitation.



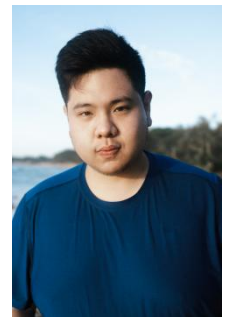
Lester Cristal **Scriptwriter / Director**

Young, gay, and a native of the Manila slums, Cristal is no stranger to the harsh realities of life. The human experience and its many complexities triumph through his stories. He completed his Bachelor of Arts in Digital Filmmaking at the School of Design and Arts of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde as a scholar. He was nominated for Best Short Film in the Philippines' oldest award-giving body for cinema, the 68th FAMAS Awards.



Tim Rone Villanueva **Producer**

Renowned for his short film 'Santa Nena!', Villanueva is an independent Filipino producer and filmmaker. He produces films that expose the truth and challenge socio-cultural norms in the Philippines. Working with up-and-coming and young filmmakers like him, these productions have won local and international awards and screened at festivals in South Africa, North America, Europe, and Asia. Through his fellowship and work at North Luzon Cinema Guild, he supports filmmakers, storytellers, cultural workers, and human rights advocates in the regions of the Philippines.



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The Weight of Air

by **Carlos Ormeño Palma**

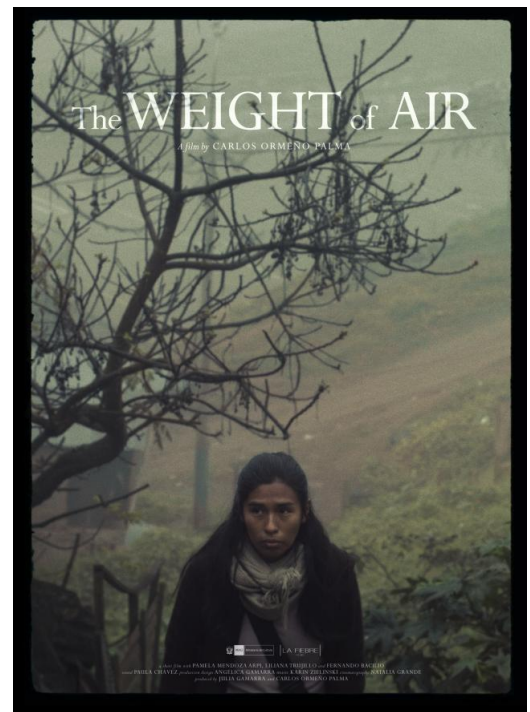
Drama -FICTION / **Peru**

Tagline:

The force of a woman blooms before our eyes.

Synopsis:

Rocio (20), a tailor of festive Chinese dragons, faces the injustice of the Peruvian legal system when her father is released from prison as he returns home searching for the son he had with her when she was fifteen. From that day on, Rocio's life becomes a nightmare until one day, she discovers the force living within her as she transforms herself into a dragon.



Carlos Ormeño Palma **Scriptwriter / Director / Producer**

Carlos Ormeño Palma is a Peruvian filmmaker and alumnus of La Fémis UE, Berlinale Talents, Oberhausen Seminar, and Talents Buenos Aires. His passion as a filmmaker arose from the memories of his family, his identity, and social justice. His recent short “The Distance of Time” has been selected at the 68° Oberhausen, 29° Raindance, 45° Mill Valley, 40° Reeling Chicago and 40° Uruguay IFF, among others. His second short, “The Weight of Air,” won the Peruvian National Fund for Shorts. He’s currently developing his first feature film, “The Scent of Walls,” with the support of CineQuaNonLab.



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Julia Gamarra Hinostroza **Producer**

Julia Gamarra Hinostroza is a Peruvian film producer and distributor with more than 15 years of working with interculturalism, women's justice, and human rights films. She’s a Locarno São Paulo Industry Academy alumni. She has worked in the production field of films such as “We Are Nothing” (69° San Sebastian IFF, 23° BAFICI), “The Search” (26° Hot Docs, 28° Biarritz - Audience Award), “I can only show you the color” (64° Berlinale Shorts), and the transmedia Quipu Project. In 2015 she specialized in Film Marketing and Business at the Escola Superior de Cinema i Audiovisuals de Catalunya – ESCAC.



All Souls Day

by **Amanda Costa de Sousa**
Drama / Comedy -FICTION / **Hungary**

Tagline:

As Laura unexpectedly befriends a senile lady, the sixteen-year-old girl faces the challenges and traumas of adulthood.

Synopsis:

Every weekend, sixteen-year-old Laura visits old lady Marta at a nursing home. They look like granddaughter and grandmother having a good time, but their relationship reveals to be more intricate one day when Marta is different, confused. She thinks they are at her former house, that her belated husband will come for dinner. Laura tries to calm her “granny”, but a realization hits Marta: that girl is not her real granddaughter. Agitated, she screams for help, making a scene. Laura leaves in tears and goes to knock at Cláudia’s door, the daughter of Marta, and everything is clear: Laura is being paid to pretend to be the lady’s granddaughter. Taken by guilty, she quits the job. Weeks later, on All Souls’ Day, the girl visits her mother’s grave and finds Marta at the cemetery. Laura has a new chance to truthfully introduce herself and to regain Marta’s friendship.



Amanda Costa de Sousa **Scriptwriter / Director**

Amanda Costa de Sousa is a director, writer & editor born and raised in Brazil. She holds an MA in Film Studies from Eötvös Loránd University, in Budapest, Hungary, where she currently lives and works. After graduating with honours in 2021, her thesis short film, *Guy at the Bridge*, was awarded with the FIPRESCI (International Federation of Film Critics) Prize on its premiere at the 17th CineFest Miskolc International Film Festival, and it has been screened in many festivals since. After finished with her studies, Amanda has directed music videos and has been working on the script of *All Souls’ Day*, a story inspired by her grandmother.



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Aftermath

by **Dino Jacovides**

Comedy -FICTION / **UK**

Tagline:

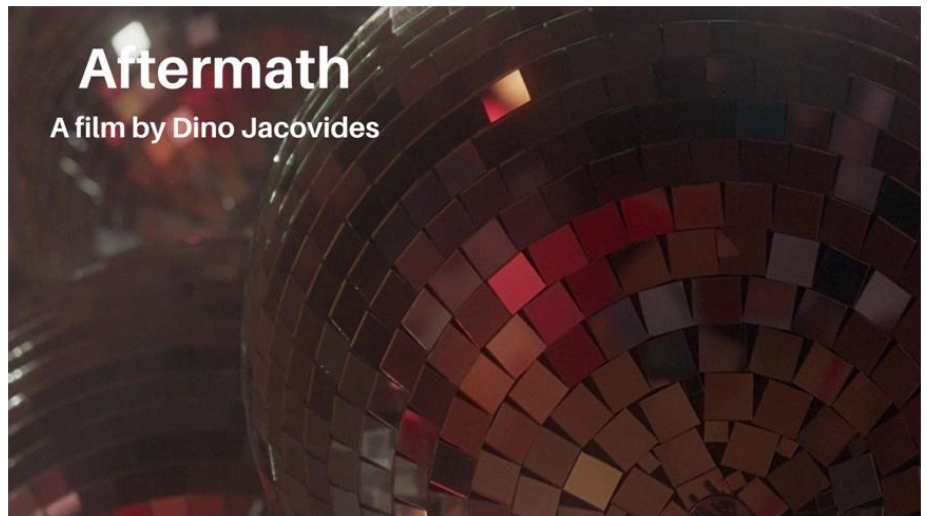
Just when their relationship couldn't get any worse

Synopsis:

Chris and Amanda's marriage is on the rocks. They arrive at a 50th birthday party in a dilapidated hall, trying to rekindle some fun. Entering the arena of flat prosecco and middle-aged stares, they are latched onto and separated.

Chris, by beer swilling men, Amanda by a gaggle of drunken, Louis Vuitton mums. Amanda starts to feel uncomfortable; Chris is pinned by a drunken tearful man. The Birthday boy makes an announcement: he's divorcing his wife, and his son isn't his. Everyone cheers! ABBA plays loudly.

Chris sprints for the door whilst Amanda is bundled to the dance floor. They lock eyes as she disappears into the melee. Chris abandons his exit to save his wife. They find each other. They scramble to leave, the doors have been locked, broken couples everywhere. Chris and Amanda battle the sweaty rabble and escape, out of the toilet window. They kiss, together again.



Dino Jacovides **Scriptwriter / Director**

Dino is a Writer/director and Lead film Lecturer at SAE Media Institute London. He is currently in post production of his second short Film, "3 Birds." Dino has worked for 20 years as a performer and director in countless community theatre and sight specific pieces. He's uses this expertise to focus on expressive abstract comedy on screen where he feels most at home.



Athena Mandis **Producer**

Athena Mandis is an award-winning filmmaker and a Lecturer in Film Practice at QMUL, she has directed and produced seven short films and three feature documentaries.

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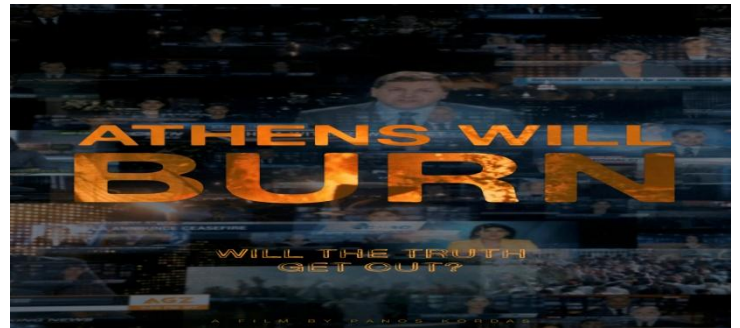
ATHENS WILL BURN

by **Panos Kordas**

Political Drama-FICTION / **Greece-UK**

Tagline:

A young idealistic tv journalist goes head to head with her editor when he refuses to broadcast explosive evidence that re-contextualises a police shooting.



Synopsis:

A young man lies dead at the hands of the police. The official narrative is that police were attacked, firing in self-defence. The country is in turmoil.

With less than an hour until broadcast, Xenia, a young and idealistic television reporter, bursts into the news room, playing tape that proves that there was no attack.

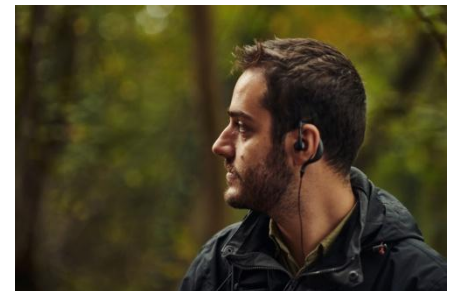
Despite the unprecedented exclusive, Makis, the news editor, hesitates to broadcast Xenia's story as it goes against the station's politics. Xenia threatens to take her story elsewhere, forcing Makis into a meeting with ownership. They agree to broadcast the tape.

Xenia's tape goes on air - but - it has been altered to resemble a riot.

Xenia runs to the control room to find Grigoris, the elusive channel owner, helping the broadcast. Confronted, Grigoris lays out what Xenia had suspected and claims that her story, if broadcast in full, would trigger riots and "Athens will burn."

Panos Kordas **Scriptwriter / Director**

Panos Kordas is an aspiring writer/director from Patras, Greece. He has produced and directed music videos for artists such as Orchid Mantis and Vasilis Kostas, and the short documentaries "Hunting for Ink" (2018) and "The Impartial Gaze of the Harlequins" (2019). He has also written 3 short films for award-winning Romanian director Iacob Pastina with whom he is developing his first feature. Kordas holds a BA in Film and Television from the University of the Arts London and has worked in film development and production for Lionsgate Entertainment and Marvel Studios.



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Summer of Goodbyes

by **Minsho Limbu**

Drama -FICTION / **Nepal**

Tagline:

A funeral reunites a family at their ancestral home and are forced to confront their individual complexities as they work together in the long & patriarchal funeral proceedings.

Synopsis:



Minsho Limbu **Scriptwriter / Director**

Minsho Limbu is a Kathmandu based filmmaker. He has a diploma in screenwriting and film direction from Everest Film Academy. His work invites the audience to look closer at the private, the profound and sometimes painful elements that make us. His debut short film “Junko” gave him his first international exposure with selection in Torino International Film Festival, Fribourg International Film Festival, Drama International Short Film Festival, POFF Shorts, Washington DC International Film Festival and Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival etc.

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Prem Prasad Adhikary **Producer**

Prem Prasad Adhikary is a producer and founder of boutique production company Simal Cinema. An alumnus of Oscar International College (2014), Produire au Sud (2020) and Busan Asian Film School (2022).

His credits as a producer include; Junko (Drama ISFF, Fribourg, Torino, POFF Shorts Tallinn Black Nights FF,2021), The Mirage (Raindance FF, 2021), Divination (Film School Fest Munich, London SFF 2021) and Confusion (Vancouver, Tasveer SAFF, 2021). Now he is developing his debut feature film project, The Flowers of Wild Sugarcane, written by Santosh Dahal.



Back to Paternal Home

by **Thanasis Megalopoulos and Stratis Chatzielenoudas**

Horror / Drama-ANIMATION / **Greece**

Tagline:

A dark silent story about the exile of human existence.

Synopsis:

A war-stricken land. A remote village. An isolated inn by the river. After a long time, a man returns from a cozy and sunny place to his destroyed hometown and to his paternal home to meet his widow mother and his sister. The two women running the inn, live in total isolation from the rest of the world, and they murder and rob their few clients. When they fail to recognize him, he decides to pretend to be a client looking for a room to spend the night.



Thanasis Megalopoulos **Scriptwriter / Director**

Born in Thessaloniki, Greece. He graduated with honors from the National Theatre of Northern Greece in 2010. He has taken part in performances of the National Theatre of Greece, the National Theatre of Northern Greece, the Onassis Stegi, the International Blacksea Theatre Festival and the Bursa International Balkan Countries Theatre Festival. Since 2011 he has been working both with teen and adult drama groups and since 2018 he has been a teacher and director of the educational programme of Physical Theatre with teenagers, of the National Theatre of Greece.



Stratis Chatzielenoudas **Scriptwriter / Director**

Stratis Chatzielenoudas lives and works in Athens as a scriptwriter and film-director. His short films have been presented in many international film festivals. He is an alumnus of the programmes for emerging directors Sarajevo Talents and IDFAcademy. His debut feature documentary Back to the top won the Audience Award at the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival and has screened in many international film festivals. He is currently developing his first feature fiction film and in production for his second feature documentary film. His podcast "The letters I have read about her" won Best Podcast Award at 62nd Thessaloniki International Film Festival.



Kyriaki Virou **Producer**

Kyriaki started her professional career in the production company Bad Movies with the most memorable film "Cheap Smokes". She always defined part of her happiness as having control over her own work and so she founded AbFab Productions in 2004. She developed the company through methodical strategic planning, managing to maintain a steady course establishing AbFab as one of the leading localization companies in Greece. After 20 years in the industry and having established strong ties with employees, clients and partners, she expands the activities to the film sector where she started from, to ensure AbFab's continued growth and stability.

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Tavern of Shadows

by İlyas Soner Yıldırım

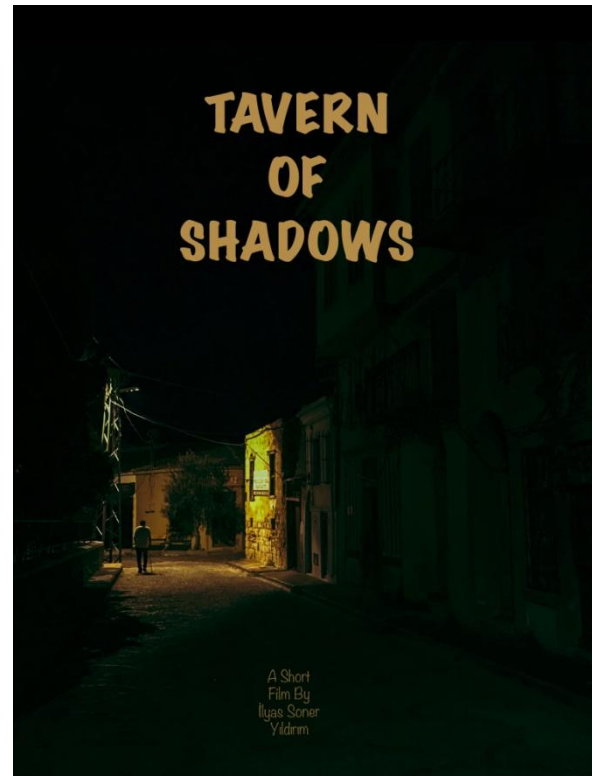
Thriller / Drama -FICTION / **Turkey**

Tagline:

“...and maybe someday, from a different direction, we’ll meet.”

Synopsis:

Aliki, a young Greek girl from Lesbos, attends a friendship night organized by a group of Turks and Greeks in Ayvalık. The people she encounters transform this journey into a mystical experience which makes Aliki face the emotions of her ancestors.



İlyas Soner Yıldırım **Scriptwriter / Director / Producer**

İlyas Soner Yıldırım was born in 1988, Turkey. He studied filmmaking, directing and creative writing at various film academies. He written, directed and produced two short films named “Embers” and “Alkarısı”. He is currently leading the festival journey of his last short film and continues his education in Istanbul University, Department of Sociology.

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Good Friday

by **Loukia Tzortzopoulou**

Drama-ANIMATION / **Greece**

Tagline:

During Easter Week of 1944 in occupied Greek countryside, 7-year- old Anastasia wants to offer a poppy to a young prisoner that has just been transferred to the local prison near her house.

Synopsis:

1944, Holy Week in Axis-Occupied Greek countryside. Little Anastasia picks flowers in the field near her house where the town prison lies. Several prisoners arrive. One of the Resistance captives smiles at Anastasia before he is thrown in his cell and Anastasia decides to offer him a flower. Next day, Anastasia slides a poppy at the wall but is seen by her collaborator uncle and is sent back home. Later that day, Anastasia attends the Mass of Holy Thursday, is appalled by the imagery of the Crucifixion and runs out to the church yard. She sees prisoners digging large holes. At dawn, Anastasia is awoken by harsh voices and multiple steps. From her window, she watches the prisoners forming lines. She can't imagine what is about to happen.



Loukia Tzortzopoulou **Scriptwriter / Director**

Loukia Tzortzopoulou graduated from National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (English Language Department). As a member of the Student Cultural Club of Athens University, she organized the animation screenings and workshops from 2008 until 2012. She is a comics creator since 2013 and works as a storyboard artist/poster creator in film and television. She has created live action and animated short films. Her stop motion claymation film Dens Sapientiae participated in Animasyros International Animation Festival (Student Panorama), 2013. She organizes animation workshops for adults and kids in collaboration with public schools and cultural clubs in various cities in Greece.



Vasilis Kalamakis **Producer**

Vasilis Kalamakis Studied Economics at the Economic University of Athens. He graduated from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh with Distinction in Bachelor's degree in Film & TV Directing. He has worked as a scriptwriter, director and producer in short films, feature films and advertisements. His work as a writer, director and producer includes The Caller (Ο Περραστικός) [short,2009], Cutdamn! (Κοφ'το!) [short-2011], Driving lessons (Μαθήματα Οδήγησης) [short-2013], The Student (Ο Φοιτητής) [short- 2021]. Since 2021, he is the founder of Grumpy Gorilla Films production house.



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One Way

by **Antonis Boubas**

Drama / Road Movie-FICTION / **Greece**

Tagline:

The path to redemption has no turning back

Synopsis:

On his birthday, the quiet Agis (30), who does not drink, smoke or stay up all night, prepares to travel from Athens to Chalkida – a route he makes every year on the same day and only his mother and his psychologist know about.

A general strike that has paralyzed everything forces him to turn to alternative ways to carry out his itinerary. Dedication to his goal and his personal demons do not let him give up the effort, despite countless difficulties and obstacles.

People he meets on his way become an occasion for him to be more stubborn and to reach his destination at all costs.

Struggling to close the open wounds of the past that changed his entire life, Agis exhausts every opportunity to lead himself to the redemption and forgiveness he has been desperately seeking for the past ten years.



Antonis Boubas Scriptwriter

Journalist specializing in cultural reporting and screenwriter, originally from the Cycladic island of Syros. He is a graduate of Ant1's Screenplay School. Author of plays that have been presented by amateur theater groups of Syros and dialogue writer in television series. Graduated from the Department of French Language and Philology in Athens. His short story entitled "With my boat hope" has been included in the collection of poems and short stories "A Day like this". He lives in Athens.

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The Beast Who Walks like a Man

by **Zoe Sigalou & Marina Siotou**

Action / Drama-FICTION / **Greece**

Tagline:

A coming of age story into the wilderness of the woods.

Synopsis:

In a dystopian future, where the world has been destroyed, a group of children live in the forest sustaining their own society with remnants of early civilization and vague memories of the past. They hunt, wrestle, and fish. The youngest member, Alpha, a thirteen year old girl, trains as her rite's path to adulthood is near. She will have to earn her position in the group and the adult world by standing in front of the beast of the forest, the great brown bear. The day of adulthood of Alpha has arrived. The bear woke up earlier from her hibernation. Through a whirlwind of fires, drums and howlings and under everyone's pressure, Alpha is summoned to face her at dawn.



Zoe Sigalou **Scriptwriter**

Zoe Sigalou (b. 1993) is an actress, performer and scriptwriter, based in Athens, Greece. She studied Translation and Interpreting at Ionian University and Performing Arts at Arhi Drama School. She has collaborated with Syllas Tzoumerkas, Christos Passalis, Youla Boundali, Nelly Karra. In 2020, she co-wrote with Marina Siotou, the films, *Corona Australis* (TIFF, 2020) and *The Beast who Walks Like a Man* (EPT award at Olympia IFF). In 2022, she will present her play "The Perseids or How to Party Hard" in theatres in Germany and Greece, with the program New Stages Southeast by the Goethe Institut.



Marina Siotou **Scriptwriter**

Marina Siotou (b.1995) is an actress and scriptwriter from Athens, Greece. She studied International and European Studies at University of Pireaus and Performing Arts at Arhi Drama School. She has collaborated with Syllas Tzoumerkas, Christos Passalis, Nelly Karra. In 2020, she co-wrote with Zoe Sigalou the films *Corona Australis* (TIFF, 2020) and *The Beast who Walks Like a Man* (ERT award at Olympia IFF). In 2021 she was selected for the New Stages Southeast Program by Goethe Institut with her play "The Perseids or How to Party Hard" which will be presented in theatres in Germany and Greece.



Nikos Kolioukos **Director**



Nikos Kolioukos (b. 1996) is a film director based in Greece. He studies filmmaking at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. His film "Small Talk With the Bad Man", has won two audience awards and participated in the S.E. European FF (L.A.), in Balkans BBFF (Kosovo) etc. He worked as DoP in feature film "Sarmako" (61st Thessaloniki IFF). He collaborated with Syllas Tzoumerkas in "The City and the City" (Casting Director) and in Ancient Theater of Epidaurous. Now he is in production of his thesis film "The Chaos She Left Behind" and in preproduction of "The Beast who Walks Like a Man".



Alexandros Tiliopoulos **Producer**

Alexandros Tiliopoulos (b. 1991) the CEO of Open Borders Productions based in Athens, is active in the field of audiovisual production. Addressing a global audience, he has been involved in film productions, television shows and commercials. His business activities expanded to create the "opbo studio" which hosts film productions, videos and commercials. He has worked at the AFI Film Festival in Los Angeles.

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Three comma fourteen

by **Joana Nogueira & Patrícia Rodrigues**

Drama / Adventure-ANIMATION / **Portugal**

Tagline:

An inner and striking journey on the condition of children diagnosed with ADHD.

Synopsis:

An inner journey on the condition of children diagnosed with ADHD that must struggle with what's expected of them and their own vision of the world. An allegory where society seeks to normalize the mind and behavior of these children to better deal with them, without truly integrating them.



Joana Nogueira & Patrícia Rodrigues **Scriptwriter / Director**

Joana Nogueira is a visual artist who works with ceramics, illustration, stop-motion animation and theater scenography. She graduated in Fine Arts at ESAD.CR (Portugal) and mastered in Illustration and Animation in IPCA (Portugal). Most of the time she is a freelancer as an artist and educator.

Since 2014, Patrícia Rodrigues have been working in animation stop-motion, as animator, filmmaker, in sets/props and puppets. Graduated in Communication Design at ESART-IPCB (PT). And mastered in Illustration and Animation in ESD-IPCA (PT). Also, she is an educator of children, young people and adults in the animation field.

Joana and Patrícia collaborated with Animais Studio, coordinating the set and props makers, in the projects: "Roupa Velha" by Alice Eça Guimarães, and "Pink Jacket" by Monica Santos. Also, they create a collective of educators to teach animation - "Caixa de Óculos".

As a pair, they co-directed the short-film "Pronto, era assim" (2015) and the ep. 7: Platypus for the TV show "Crias" (2019). Currently, they start the pre-production as filmmakers of the short-film "Three coma Fourteen" (2022).



Vanessa Ventura **Producer**

Graduated in Anthropology (Cultural Studies), she was director and responsible for programming, managing and production at Casa da Animação in Porto, between 2001 and 2018, joining the company Animais in 2012 as manager and producer responsible for the development and the production of animation shorts and series, and also working as scripdoctoring and scriptwriter.

She has produced 10 short animations, presently producing 4 short animations (in different stages), a special TV and a series for children.



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HAG- ΔΙΔΥΜΟΚΟΡΦΟ

by **Achilleas Gatsopoulos**

Greek Folk Horror-FICTION / **Germany-Greece**

Tagline:

On a trip to Epirus, Greece, a young girl is confronted by the superstitious inhabitants of a male-dominated village, in the face of the horrors of gynecide.

Synopsis:

NIKI, a tomboy with blue eyes, drives to a deserted village and asks the Cafe patrons for directions. Everyone leaves and BABIS starts recounting a story:

His cousin NASOS moved away with his family 40 years before. Nasos returned to the village for the first time for his father's funeral with his wife, mother-in-law and little daughter. One evening, Babis visited Nasos and ended up spending the night. He witnessed two old hags eating Nasos.

At the funeral, Babis reveals what he saw and traps the two women. Fire accidentally erupts and they burn alive. The little girl was then adopted in Athens. Niki secretly puts something in Babis' drink and toasts. MONTAGE: Babis poisoning Nasos / Babis forcing himself on Nasos' wife / Babis setting the church fire. An old newspaper article reads: FAMILY TRAGEDY IN DIDYMOKORFO. ONE SURVIVOR. A photo shows a little girl with blue eyes.



Achilleas Gatsopoulos **Scriptwriter / Director**

Coming from a Fine Arts background, Greek born Achilleas Gatsopoulos studied VFX and Production Design in London. Achilleas worked in the Art Department of films such as Knives Out 2, The Lost Daughter, Harry Potter, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory etc while simultaneously creating stage and motion design for clients such as Mercedes Benz, Volkswagen, Vodafone, Absolut and more.

Achilleas has been visualising music for artists such as Pet Shop Boys, James Blunt, Solomun, Steven Wilson and Skin to name a few. Achilleas splits his time between Athens and Berlin since 2009 and is currently working on his feature debut.



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Asteris Kutulas **Producer**

Asteris Kutulas is a film and theater producer, writer, director and event organizer living in Berlin.

He has translated numerous works of Cavafy, Seferis, Ritsos and Elytis into German. Since 1981, he has produced 30 CDs and organised over 100 concerts worldwide for MIKIS THEODORAKIS. Director of the films Recycling Medea (2014) and Dance Fight Love Die (2018) as well as Founder and creative director of the Berlin Greek Film Festival: Hellas Filmbox Berlin (2015-2019). Most recently, his multimedia installation ELECTRA 21 was awarded the "Hans-Vogt-Filmpreis" award at the prestigious Hof International Film Festival in Germany in 2021.



Impromptu

by **Maya Vitkova-Kosev**

Drama-FICTION / **Bulgaria**

Tagline:

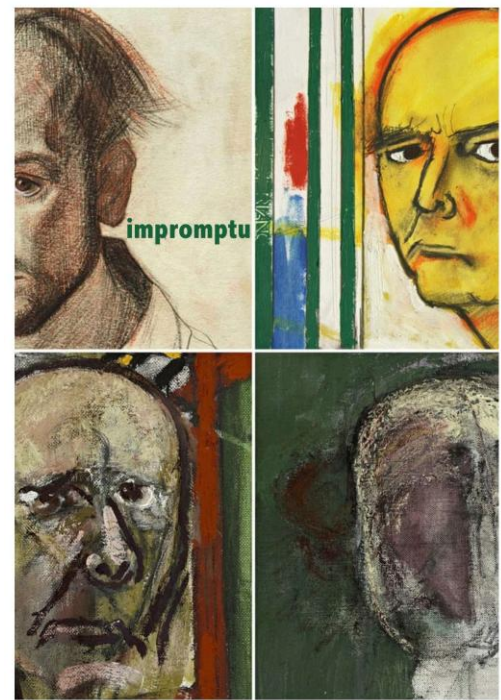
On a winter night the Daughter and the Mother are unexpectedly involved in a dramatic situation that puts a musical finale to a long prelude.

Synopsis:

The Daughter (40) and the Mother (67), live on the top floor of an apartment building. They share the floor with three other families.

Their neighbor Lyakov (79), a retired piano teacher, starts behaving strangely. He greets, something he has never done before, he smiles and finally tries kissing the Daughter, which puts an end to the good neighborly relations. All this shortly before Lyakov forgets who he is, where he is and why he lives.

On a winter night the Mother and the Daughter are unexpectedly involved in a dramatic situation that puts a musical finale to a long prelude.

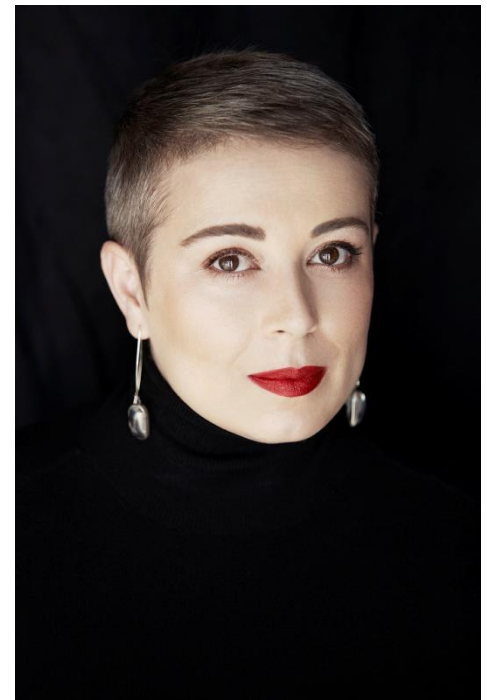


Maya Vitkova-Kosev **Scriptwriter / Director / Producer**

Maya Vitkova-Kosev is a writer-director and producer born in Sofia. In 2008 she executive produced Kamen Kalev's *Eastern Plays*, which premiered at the Cannes Directors' Fortnight. Maya directed and produced two shorts, written by the Golden Bear winner Radu Jude – *Stanka Goes Home* (2010), which premiered as a special screening at the Cannes Critic's Week and *My Tired Father* (2011), which premiered in competition at the CFC Worldwide SFF, Toronto. Both shorts were selected for more than 130 international film festivals. They won awards at Sarajevo, Huesca and Athens, among others, and are distributed by the KurzFilmAgentur Hamburg e.V.

Her debut film *Viktorija* (2014) was the first Bulgarian feature in competition at Sundance and Rotterdam. *Viktorija* was screened at Karlovy Vary, Busan, Göteborg, AFI Fest, Munich, Galway, Chicago, Seattle, BFI London and others. *Viktorija* had more than 70 selections and 10 awards, making it to number 4 of the best films of 2016 according to The New Yorker, whilst Vitkova-Kosev was pointed one of the five best directors in the world by the magazine: <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/the-best-movies-of-2016>

Viktorija Films is a boutique production company, currently in development of seven features - *Afrika* (development support by the Bulgarian National Film Center, Creative Europe programme MEDIA) and *One Month* (development and production support by the NFC), both in co-production with Sweden and Romania, *Bumba-meu-Boi*, *Saint Seraphim* and *Ruzha* (development support by the NFC), *Happy New Year* and *40, Maria Luisa Boulevard* by Kristina Spassovska (production support by the NFC), along with three shorts – *Lyubima*, *Impromptu* and *The Reptiles* by Kristina Spassovska in co-production with France. *Afrika* was developed at the Cinelink, ScripTeast, Sundance Screenwriters Lab and TIFF Filmmaker Lab. *Afrika* won the “Krzysztof Kieslowski ScripTeast Award for the Best Eastern European Script” in Cannes and Maya was awarded a TIFF Canada Goose Fellowship.



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Cleaning Day (AKA Insignificant Quantity)

by **Alexandros Romanos Lizardos**

Dark Comedy-FICTION / **Greece**

Tagline:

A role play game serves its purpose -no more.

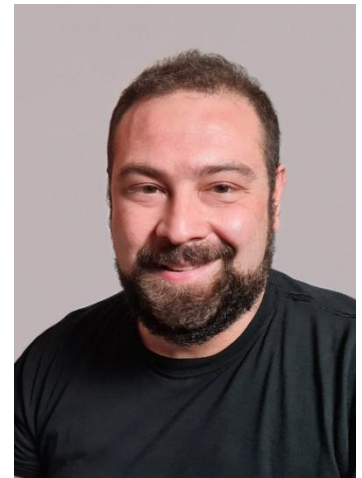
Synopsis:

The Africans Mark and David meet at the bus station reticent Antonis, who carries a bucketful of cleaning materials. When they get home, they all feel quite awkward and Antonis is still not breathing a word. A series of humiliating acts and misunderstandings follow while Antonis sets to clean diligently not only the house but all sorts of dirt and urine the two Africans deliberately spread around. All this scares Antonis stiff, and although he is trying to conceal his feelings, they are subtly evident. The feeling of awkwardness peaks, when the two Africans, who up to that moment had not spoken a word in Greek, begin to dance at the rhythm of retro Greek songs embraced tightly, stark naked. When night falls all three of them are seen quite relaxed to be sleeping on different couches. All this was no more than a role play game, a game to let off steam, which in all likelihood in the case of the two homosexual Africans has its roots in their suppressed rage from racism and social marginalization they have been experiencing. Another angle may be the satisfaction the role of manipulators of a white man gives them over their old-time exploiters.



Alexandros Romanos Lizardos **Scriptwriter / Director / Producer**

Alexandros Romanos Lizardos is a director, producer, screenwriter, film critic, theatrologist and PhD candidate at the Polytechnic University of Athens. He has collaborated with international co-productions including "Before Midnight" and "Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life". He has directed the documentary "Invisible Time Threads" for television as well as thematic broadcasts for international film festivals & awards. The animated short film he co-directed with Akis Melachris entitled "Cast-Outs" has traveled to more than 20 festivals around the world winning international awards. His script "Un-clipped" has won the first prize of the Association of Greek Screenwriters in the 8th Screen Writing Competition. He has recently completed the shooting of his latest short film "Even Camels Drink Water" shot in Morocco and Greece.



The Girl and The Well

(OUT OF COMPETITION)

by **Anngelica-Marie Eshesimua**

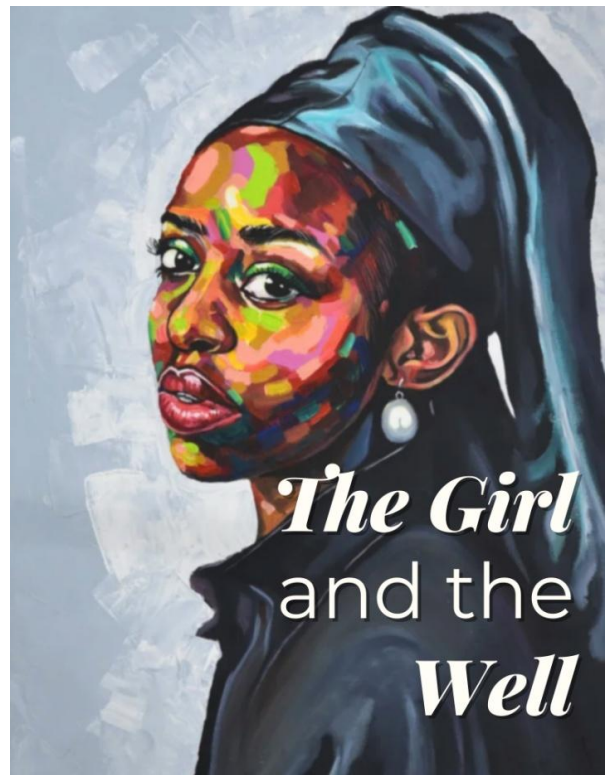
Musical Drama-FICTION / **France**

Tagline:

All's Well That Ends Well

Synopsis:

Set in the 18th century, a picturesque French village devolves into madness when Aglaé, the mayor's cherished daughter, goes missing; the last person who knew her whereabouts? The outcast Placide, who is immediately accused of her disappearance. In the days preceding his widely publicized and frenzied trial, Placide must piece together the final days of Aglaé's life—before he loses his own.



Anngelica-Marie Eshesimua **Scriptwriter / Director**

Anngelica-Marie's artistic journey began at eight as she watched her mother create her award-winning short about her career as a civil rights attorney. Inspired, Anngelica-Marie attended the University of Southern California and worked as a Writers' Assistant on Netflix's *Family Reunion*.

Her musical works explore women who dismantle prejudiced systems as they reinvent their identities. Anngelica-Marie has garnered several awards for her films and screenplays; the Finos Pitching Award at The Drama Short Film Fest for *The Broken Key*, Semifinalist at the Atlanta Film Festival for [Roll Call](#), and more. Her journey was featured in [Final Draft's](#) Interview series.

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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 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. In 2021 she was 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 Consultant and Reader/Reviewer and taught Pitching techniques to aspiring Script writers. It is an honour to be invited once again to present during the 2022 Pitching Lab.

GUEST TUTOR

John Stephens



John Stephens is a Script Editor and Script Consultant who has advised on many short films and feature projects. In addition to running workshops on script development and story theory, he has been a teacher of English Literature and Language for several years. He has also been a Reader, Script Doctor and Film Selection Coordinator for KineNova International Film Festival. As a self-confessed 'Story Geek', he is passionate about narrative theory and helping others write better scripts. He is honoured to be participating once again in what is now his sixth edition of the Drama Pitching Lab.