

# DISFF 47

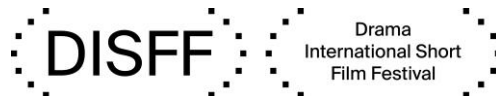
47 Drama International  
Short Film Festival

2 – 8 Sept.  
2024



## 11<sup>th</sup> DRAMA PITCHING LAB 3 – 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

BOOKLET OF PROJECTS



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>1. INTRODUCTION</b> .....  | 2  |
| <b>2. THE PROJECTS</b>  |    |
| 1. <b>Shadows of the Past</b> , by Thien Tran & Arthur De Weerd ..... | 4  |
| 2. <b>Clinic</b> by Penelope Mavropsaridi .....                       | 5  |
| 3. <b>Meadow Mice</b> by Ilayda Iseri .....                           | 6  |
| 4. <b>Blühen</b> by Kostis Charamountanis .....                       | 7  |
| 5. <b>15:16</b> by Konstantinos P. Kakarountas .....                  | 8  |
| 6. <b>Prodigal 12%, The</b> by Megan Smith .....                      | 9  |
| 7. <b>TAXIthaca</b> by Karina Logothesis .....                        | 10 |
| <b>3. THE TUTORS</b> .....  | 12 |

# INTRODUCTION

We are thrilled with the response of filmmakers from all over the world who have honored us with their trust by sending us really interesting and original projects.

As expected, the concerns and anxieties that are spread all over the planet are reflected in the stories of the creators, and so, apart from the always topical personal stories, projects for coming-of-age films, social issues such as the displacement of populations and impoverishment, a multitude of scripts have dealt in various ways with the anxiety about the future of the planet and its possible eschatological course.

Genres such as thriller, sci-fi, metaphysical and poetic elements, as well as the management of landscapes and areas far from the big cities, leading to atmospheric contemporary westerns, projects that take into account the new data in social consciousness about the need to include and accept people with special needs and illnesses that once even their name had to be kept in silence, but also projects using new cutting-edge technologies and their creative use in filmmaking, gave us a variety of extremely interesting projects, making it hard for us to choose.

Barbara Dukas

DISFF Head of Educational Program

## **THE PROJECTS**

# Shadows of the Past

by Thien Tran & Arthur De Weerd

Genre: **Social Drama**

Country: **The Netherlands**



## Logline

Battling his violent past, a Chinese immigrant and ex-crime syndicate member has his dreams for a peaceful new life shattered when escalating racism and threats from local gangs force him to walk the line between vengeance and forging a path toward a peaceful future.

---

## Arthur de Weerd, Writer, Director

Arthur is a director, writer, and producer from The Netherlands and active for over five years within the commercial and music video area. As the owner of Muvipro Films, he has brought multiple large-scale music video projects to life over the years.



## Lin Herong, Actor (Protagonist) & Writer

Lin is an actor & experienced martial artist based in The Netherlands. He appeared on TV, films, and was also part of a performance team of Turandot 2016 in Austria. His latest works include Warner Bros' Jim Button and HBO's Warrior by Bruce Lee.



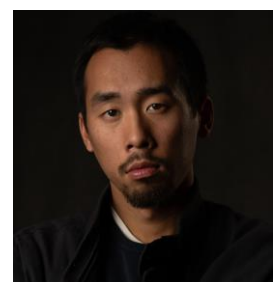
## Nilo Gijbertha, Director of Photography & Writer

Nilo, a filmmaker & DOP from The Netherlands, began his filmmaking journey in 2016. His diverse portfolio includes the acclaimed short film "PRESHON" exploring themes of depression and anxiety. "PRESHON" has earned recognition at prestigious film festivals. Currently Nilo is working on the pilot for "Keep Moving," an unique web-series blending Shonen Anime and live-action.



## Thien Tran, Director, Writer, Actor

Thien, based on the German-Dutch border, started as a unit photographer, expanding into writing, directing, and acting, and deepened his knowledge at The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. For Thien, filmmaking is a collaborative symphony, a shared pursuit of creative storytelling whether he's directing, acting, photographing, or contributing as a co-producer.



# Clinic

by **Penelope Mavropsaridi**

Genre: **Psycho-Drama**

Country: **Greece**



## Logline

When Gina, a patient facing abuse in a psychiatric clinic meets Peter, a mysterious man, they begin a sexual relationship deep inside the forest, but she will soon learn that the real danger is not within the confines of the clinic, but lurks outside.

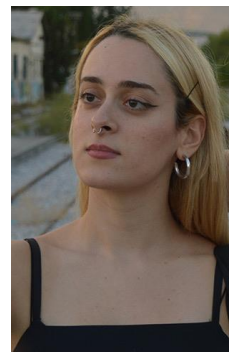
## Synopsis

Gina, a patient facing sexual abuse in a psychiatric clinic, meets Peter, a mysterious yet charismatic man, and they begin a sexual relationship, meeting every two days in the forest outside the clinic. Peter falls for Gina, who he sees as a wounded and helpless little bird, and when it becomes clearer and clearer that his love is one sided, he begins spiralling out of control, and has visions of violence and abuse towards Gina. These visions end up coming true, and he kills her. But she is not really dead, the bird has flown away, and Peter is left alone with his deranged thoughts.

.....

## Penelope Mavropsaridi, Writer, Director

Penelope Mavropsaridi was born in Athens, Greece, in 1996. She has studied film directing in the Hellenic Cinema and Television School Stavrakos, and also theater in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She has worked in film and television productions, in the assistant directing and casting departments. She has also written, produced and directed her student short film, "Why Won't You Dance" (greek title: Giati Den Horeveis?) (2023), which premiered at Drama Short Film Festival in Greece.



# Meadow Mice

by Ilayda Iseri

Genre: **Allegorical Black comedy**

Country: **Turkey**



## Logline

After the sudden collapse of the state, a group of cunning villagers in a remote Balkan village spiral into chaotic and absurd disputes over land ownership, leading to a final reckoning that reveals the land's true owner.

---

## Ilayda Iseri, Writer, Director

Ilayda İşeri (2003, Istanbul) is an emerging writer and director from Turkey. Her short documentaries "Kozan" (2020) and "The Fountain" (2021) were screened at various festivals and gained international recognition. In 2023, she directed her first short narrative film, "Game, Interrupted" with the supports of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT). Currently, she is developing her 2nd narrative short "Meadow Mice" while also continuing her studies in the philosophy and physics departments of Boğaziçi University. In addition, she works as assistant of esteemed directors Tolga Karaçelik and Selman Nacar.



## Ertugrul Evis, Producer

Ertuğrul Evis is an emerging producer and director from Turkey. He studied cinema in the Film Studies Program at Boğaziçi University, where he also received his BA and MA in History. He continued his studies at Shizuoka Prefectural University in Japan, where he directed several films. He has worked in the production department of various international films and series, including Darren Aronofsky's Postcard from Earth and the Netflix series Anotherself. His directorial debut short film "In Vino Veritas" is under post-production. He is currently producing two short films, including Meadow Mice.



## Fahriye İsmayilova, Producer

Fahriye İsmayilova (1988) graduated from Bilkent University, Economics and founded Istanbul-based Parda Film. She produced "Hell is Empty, All the Devils are Here" (2022, dir. Özgürcan Uzunyaşa), which won "Best Film" and "Best Director" at various festivals, including the Jury Special Award at the 59th Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival. Her film "I Don't Need Another Defeat" (2023, dir. Tolga Özdemir) premiered at the 21st Tirana International Film Festival, earning a Special Mention Award. Her feature film "Dump of Untitled Pieces" (2024, dir. Melik Kuru) is in post-production.



# Blühen

by **Kostis Charamountanis**

Genre: **Inner Drama, Experimental**

Country: **Greece**



## Logline

A bedridden elderly woman, overwhelmed by mental illness, descends into a schizophrenic episode, which distorts her reality into fragmented memories and multiple identities. Amid this surreal journey, she seeks to reconcile with the passing of her late lover, struggling to find peace before her own inevitable death.

## Synopsis

In the aftermath of a tragedy, a quiet young woman grappling with anxiety, seeks solace at a local community pool among its patrons. There, she forms a platonic crush on a young man who frequents the pool, and has an unlikely encounter with an expatriate and eccentric middle-aged woman. This woman shares nostalgic stories of her late boyfriend from decades past in Germany—a florist who filled her life with a plethora of flowers. It is revealed that the eccentric woman lost her boyfriend at a young age, triggering a decline in her mental health. As the young woman's pool crush and the eccentric woman's late boyfriend turn out to be the same person, it becomes clear that the narrative unfolds within an imaginative realm. This revelation exposes that the two women are not separate individuals but fragmented aspects of the same person's disjointed memories. These memories and identities ultimately belong to a lonely 90-year-old German woman on her deathbed, whose untreated mental illness and imminent death have blurred the boundaries between reality, past, present, and imagination

.....

## Kostis Charamountanis, Writer, Director

Kostis Charamountanis is a self-taught filmmaker, writer, editor, and composer. His work has received acclaim and awards from festivals like the Athens International Film Festival and the Drama Short Film Festival. The SNF ARTWORKS Fellow (2020), recently completed his debut feature film, "Kyuka Before Summer's End" (2024), which premiered in the prestigious L'ACID section of the Cannes Film Festival in May 2024.





**15:16**

by **Konstantinos P. Kakarountas**

Genre: **Crime-Robbery, Action**

Country: **Greece**



**Logline**

An unstable thug, desperate to save his family from financial ruin, decides to rob a courier truck, but when a dedicated truck driver refuses to protect his precious cargo, it will lead to miracles and redemption.

**Synopsis**

Kostis and Nancy, along with their young daughter, are in a desperate financial situation. Kostis promises that he will change their life by ambushing a courier truck. Vangelis, the truck driver, is eager to return home to deliver his most precious cargo to his son. Their confrontation turns violent as Kostis punches him repeatedly and even shoots Vangelis, but he continues to fight. When Kostis opens the truck, expecting money, he finds only a bicycle—the gift for Vangelis's son. Kostis realizes that his life must change for the sake of his family, while Vangelis is fighting for his life, determined to keep his promise to his son. On Vangelis' watch the time is 15:16.

.....

**Konstantinos P. Kakarountas, Writer, Director, Producer**

The award-winning director, producer, and animator Konstantinos P. Kakarountas is the founder and owner of Dahouse Studio and the President of the Hellenic Animation Association. He studied Fine Arts & Communication Arts in France. He has collaborated with many production companies in Greece and abroad. He has worked as a VFX Supervisor on a plethora of film projects, including directing six short films that have been recognized at festivals. He is a creative thinker who loves to combine art with technology. He is a member of PACT - Media Producers Association.



**Maria Mavroeydi, Producer**

Maria is a Producer and Production Manager at Dahouse Studio. She holds a degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the Polytechnic School of the University of Patras and a Master's degree in Waste Management. Maria has played a key role in creating numerous television and digital advertisements. She has been involved in the production of short fiction films, animation, and documentaries. Recently, her focus has been on the green footprint and sustainability in film and animation productions. She is an active member of the Hellenic Animation Association and a member of PACT - Media Producers Association.



# The Prodigal 12%

by **Megan Smith**

Genre: **Drama**

Country: **UK**



## Logline

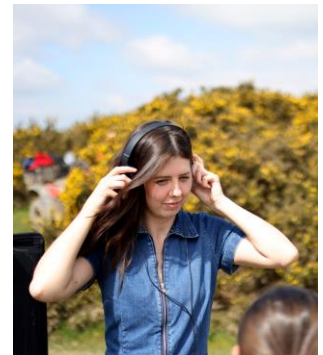
After a DNA ancestry kit reveals Greek heritage, a bitter middle-aged outsider sets off from his hometown in Northern England for the first time to a Greek Island, seeking human connection all the while battling his deep-rooted anger at his place in the world.

The Prodigal 12% is a story that rejects the toxic culture that keeps humanity apart from one another, instead focusing on the beauty and power that is human connection. It looks across countries, cultures and languages.

---

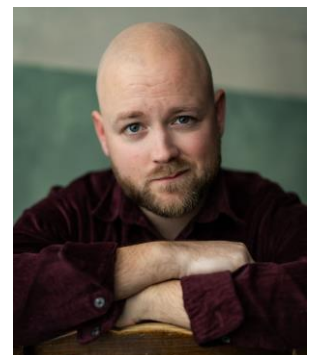
## Megan Smith, Writer, Director

Megan is from rural Northumberland, UK. She is a graduate of The London Library's Emerging Writers Program. She has taken part in Watersprite Writers Hubs and SEEFest Writers Lab. She is also a recipient of the BFI X Female Film Club Scholarship. Megan was a finalist for the Filmarket Hubs Feature Screenplay Competition and a Quarterfinalist for The Academy Nicholl Fellowship. She was also in the top 1.2% of submissions for The Jed Mercurio Mentorship Scheme. Her short film, WOOL COAT, is currently heading into the festival circuit. Her feature film, BE A DARLING, is in development with Argo Films supported by North East Screen. Megan is represented by United Agents in the UK.



## Jeremy Lloyd, Producer

Jeremy is a Producer/Actor from Somerset, UK. He was an original cast member of the Olivier and WhatsOnStage Award Nominated play THE COMEDY ABOUT A BANK ROBBERY with Mischief Theatre which ran for 4 years on London's West End. He has also originated many other roles, most notably in SPIKE by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman. Jeremy moved into producing with a workshop reading of feature film BE A DARLING for industry. He co-produced Megan's short film WOOL COAT. Responsible for raising finances, casting and location. He recently began work with Megan on her audio series SAGA, with Happy Boys Media.



# TAXIthaca

by Karina Logothetis

Genre: **Absurd Musical Comedy with elements of Fantasy and Surrealism**

Country: **Greece**



## Logline

A dishonest and stiff taxi driver who's chased by a violent loan shark who he cannot repay, leaves home and embarks on an absurd comedic magical musical odyssey and must learn how to loosen up, become honest so that he can return to his family, his own Ithaca, all in a Greek taxi!

## Synopsis

Dawn finds our cabbie, Ulysses, waking up in his vehicle having left his family, to protect them from a violent loan shark, Polyphemus, who is chasing him because of his debts. He starts picking up customers, who are all surreal and magically musical, helping him realize his mistakes, so he can overcome them. In the beginning he refuses to take part in the musical acts, feeling as if he is the only grounded person in what he perceives as an absurd world, but eventually he gives in since he realizes that he can beat the loan shark by dancing the most passionate zebekiko and ask for forgiveness from his wife Popi by singing to her. Now he can finally return to his Ithaca.

.....

## Karina Logothetis, Writer, Director

**Karina Logothetis** is a director, photographer, script supervisor and lab producer. She has written and directed short films that have received multiple awards in festivals in Greece and abroad. Her work is taught in universities and schools in Greece. For the past decade she has been working in films, television and commercials as a script supervisor, in Greece, Los Angeles and Mexico. Since 2016, Karina is the producer of Discovery Days, a pitching and script development lab for feature film projects in LAGFF. As a photographer she works in the fashion industry while her personal passion is fine art photography. Karina graduated from TEI of Photography and Audiovisual Arts in Athens. Returning from her Erasmus in Montpellier, France, and after completing a Stage du Cinema in Paris, she studied Digital Filmmaking at SAE on a scholarship. Some selected courses she has completed: Directing Actors at Sundance 2022, Scenography and Production Design AKTO 2012.



## Vasilis Zlatanos, Co-writer & Composer

Vasilis is a musician, composer, music producer, sound designer and foley artist based between Los Angeles and Athens, Greece. He first got into music around 10 years old by playing the electric bass. As a teenager he joined the band Viper Vikings performing at the Rockwave Festival (2008) and Ejekt Festival (2013). He works as a sound designer and music composer for films, theater and dance performances, winning the best original score award at Drama Film Festival in 2018 for the short film “Vourvourou” and best sound design award at Paradise Film Festival 2024 for the short “Please, Wait”. His latest project, Club Zothique, alongside his longtime collaborator and friend Apostolos Papapostolou, focuses on electronic music mixing traditional, classical and out of space sounds. Vasilis is an electronics enthusiast and at the moment dedicates his time building and playing his modular synthesizer.



## Mando Stathi, Producer

Mando Stathi is a producer, born and raised in Athens and currently based in Los Angeles. She received her MA from Goldsmiths University of London and in 2011, she founded Stathi Twins Productions with her twin sister Myrto. Their projects have been screened in top tier film festivals (Cannes, BFI, PÖFF, Sarajevo, SXSW, Palm Springs) and have won awards all over the world, including the Canal+ award in the 60th Semaine de la Critique in the Cannes Film Festival 2021. In 2017 she started working as a producer for Viking Brothers Entertainment, Peter Stormare’s (Jurassic Park, Fargo, Prison Break, Armageddon) and Glenn Lund’s (So Long Marianne, Swedish Dicks) production company. She was one of the creators of the NENT GROUP’s Original Series “The American Runestone” and she was behind the production team of Lionsgate’s TV series Swedish Dicks starring Stormare and Keanu Reeves. At the same time she keeps producing her passion projects in Europe. She is a member of the Television Academy and an EAVE 2023 Alumni.



## Myrto Stathi, Producer

Myrto Stathi was born in Athens in 1986, she has lived and worked in Greece, Italy and the UK and she is currently based in Greece. She studied Production Engineering and Management and in 2010 she completed her MA in Cultural Policy and Management at City University, London. In 2011 she founded with her twin sister Stathi Twins Productions. Her films have been selected in more than 70 film festivals worldwide and have won awards all over the world. Her latest short film “Brutalia, Days of Labour”, was one of the very few Greek shorts to secure a European co-production and it was selected in the competition program of the 60th Semaine de la Critique in the Cannes Film Festival 2021 and won the Canal+ award. In 2022 she joined Byrd, the newly founded Film and TV production arm of Topcut Modiano.



## THE TUTORS



Barbara Dukas is a film director and a trainer. She is the Artistic Director of Municipal and Regional Theater of Corfu Island (Greece). She is the Head of the Educational Program and Pitching Lab / Forum of the International Short Film Festival of the City of Drama (DISFF).

**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 IEK school (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).



**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.

# DISFF 47

47 Drama International  
Short Film Festival

2 – 8 Sept.  
2024