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10TH ATHENS AVANTE-GARDE FILM FESTIVAL

20 NOVEMBER - 5 DECEMBER 2019

GREEK FILM ARCHIVE

10 YEARS AAGFF!

The Athens Avant-Garde Film Festival, the Greek Film Archive's favourite establishment has its birthday in November: it turns ten years old, and it will celebrate with many surprises.

The 10th AAGFF will take place from **November 20 until December 5 2019**, at the **Greek Film Archive (theatres A,B)** and **ExileRoom**, whilst some of its screenings will be hosted at the **Institut Français**; aspiring to bring to the foreground, that which is most fresh and groundbreaking in international, contemporary cinema.

The **opening (Wednesday 20/11)** and **closing ceremonies (Saturday 30/11)** of the 10th AAGFF will be curated and directed by **Yannis Sakaridis**. **Entrance only by invitation.**

*This years, incredible rich, **International Competition Section** of the 10th AAGFF will include **nine films** pre-dominantly by young directors, who have experimented with new forms of narration; whilst frequently using techniques that combine fiction with documentary, in order to examine issues concerning identity; tensions within multi-cultural societies or the consequences of todays crisis in the youth — whilst often bringing to the fore, those who have been marginalised.

Narrative fiction films but also documentaries will be presented from **France, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Portugal, Japan, Argentina, Brazil, Iran, India, Algeria** and **Qatar** — films that have arrived from great film festivals (**from Cannes to Locarno**), nearly all of which will have their **Greek premieres** — films attempting to break the barriers established by genres and categories. The festival's mission, is to discover and charter the new grounds that have been broken by modern cinema of our age.

Directors Ronny Sen (*Cat Sticks*) and Ehsan Khoshbakht (*Filmfarsi*), as well as the lead actress of the film *Love Me Tender*, Barbara Giordano, will be in Athens to present their films.

International Competition Jury:

Haden Guest (American professor, director of the Harvard Film Archive), Vasilis K. Karamitsanis (director of the Anima Syros - International Animation Festival and chairman of the B of D of the National Opera of Greece), Dimitris Koutsibasakos (distinguished greek director), Irena Bilic (french-serbian director and director of the festival L'Europe autour de l'Europe in Paris), Gaëlle Jones (french film producer).

The 10th Athens Avant Garde Film Festival has secured a series of exceptional tributes:

*To the great portuguese director **Manoel de Oliveira**, in collaboration with the Portuguese Film Archive and the Embassy of Portugal in Greece. 12 short, mid-length and feature films will be screened, most of which will be presented in their **Greek** or **Athenian Premieres**.

It is no coincidence that the beautiful, expressive face that dominate's this years poster of the 10th AAGFF, is that of Oliveira's muse, Leonor Silveira who stars in *Vale Abraão (Abraham's Valley)*.

Born in 1908, in Porto, by wealthy parents, Oliveira was initiated to cinema in 1927. He died in 2015, aged 106 with a remarkable cinematic career spanning 88-years.

Keynote speaker for Oliveira will be José Manuel Costa (director of the Portuguese Film Archive), whilst for Oliveira's early films the speaker will be Miguel Seabra Lopes, screenwriter of the film *The Fever (A Febre)* by Maya Da-Rin, that will be screened in the **Athenian Premieres** section of our Festival. In this same section, the recently Golden Leopard Awarded film by Pedro Costa, *Vitalina Varela*, will be screened, among other films. This film will also be presented to the public by José Manuel Costa.

*To the distinguished Italian director **Marco Bellocchio**, in collaboration with the Istituto Italiano di Culture: Atene. Marco Bellocchio is one of the most important and prolific directors of Italian Cinema. In the 10th AAGFF's tribute, we will showcase his anti-conformist cinematic gaze, through 6 of his emblematic films. Throughout his career, Bellocchio was engaged in Italy's political unrest, whilst his work never stopped listening to the source of evil in the face of fascism — political violence and the mafia.

*To the important Greek documentarian, **Eva Stefani**, who will showcase a significant portion of her body of work (15 films that were chosen in collaboration with the Director). Since the beginning of her career, Eva Stefani has devoted herself to Observational Cinema (*Letters to Albatros*, *The Box* etc), focusing her lens on those that society has made invisible (prisoners, the institutionalised, the homeless and sleepless, the unemployed and workless, the elderly), but later also excelled in a more poetic form of experimental documentary (*Acropolis*, *Manuscript*).

Eva Stefani will give a **Masterclass** on **Monday 25/11 (15:30, Greek Film Archive — Theatre A)**

*The important French documentarian **Florent Marcie** is also an official guest of the 10th AAGFF, for whom the festival has also prepared a separate section with 7 films. For 30 years now, Florent Marcie has been crossing war-fronts and battlefields around the world, and has recorded with his camera wars, uprisings, emancipations, but also the most glaring of deprivations of our time — at the crossroad of journalism, video-art, war photo-reportage and cinema; far from conventional journalism. Marcie shoots, edits and funds his own films, using new digital audio-visual technology in a radical method as his own answer to the propaganda of media. His axiom is “as long as we don’t see for ourselves, we can’t know what’s going out there”.

*We will also see the work of the pioneering and bold French film director **Marie Losier**, who will present the tribute on her work, that was recently hosted at the Museum of Modern Art in New York (MoMA), and will introduce her latest film *Felix in Wonderland*, on the well known musician Felix Kubin (electronic music). The film will be screened in its **Greek premiere**.

Marie Losier, filmmaker and curator, studied literature in France and Fine Arts in New York, where she worked for twenty-two years. Her films have been screened at the biggest festivals and museums, such as the Berlinale, Tribeca Film Festival, Tate Modern, MoMA and the Cinémathèque Française. In the age of digital cinema, Losier insists in using analogue film. She has filmed the cinematic portraits of many avant-garde artists (directors, musicians and composers) — unconventional portraits that examine the life and work of these artists; whom she persuades to re-enact scenes from their life.

Florent Marcie and **Marie Losier** will give separate **Masterclass’s** — the former on **Wednesday 27/11 (15.30, Greek Film Archive — Theatre B)**, and the later on **Thursday 28/11 (19:00, Exile Room)**.

*One of the surprises of this year's festival; on occasion of the recent American documentary is **Hitchcock/Truffaut** (based on the book of the same name that records a series of Alfred Hitchcock "marathon" interviews by the young François Truffaut, in 1962, when Hitchcock was wrapping up the editing of *The Birds*). A significant number of films by each director will be screened, creating a "conversation" between the two creators. We will see films from such as *Psycho* to *Finally, Sunday!* (*Vivement, Dimanche!*) and *The Man Who Loved Women*, but also Truffaut's two favourite Hitchcock films: *Spellbound* and *Notorious*.

Amongst other films, the **silent Hitchcock film *The Tenant* (1927)** will be presented on **Sunday 1/12 (17:00, Greek Film Archive — Theatre A)**. **Minas I. Alexiadis** will **accompany the film with an original score and composition** of his own.

*Our programme also includes the tribute "**Libération sexuelles, révolutions visuelles**" curated by Nicole Brenez and Stéphane Gérard, with provocatively interesting films that explore various expressions of sexuality — films which according to the curator: "with their courage, energy and beauty provoked in their time, and then later contributed to our own liberation", as well as one more tribute to the **American Experimental cinema**: selections from the work (short and feature) of the avant-garde filmmaker and influential artist, **Robert Beavers** — a close collaborator of Gregory Markopoulos, will be presented. Robert Beavers will also present the work of his partner: the German film director and professor **Ute Aurand**.

In the same tribute, the work of the important artist of the American avant-garde, the animator **Suzan Pitt** will be presented, who only recently left us — curated by the director of the Harvard Film Archive, professor and President of the International Competition Jury of our Festival, **Haden Guest**.

Robert Beavers will give a **Masterclass** on **Tuesday 26/11 (16:00, Greek Film Archive — Theatre A)**.

*Greek cinema will be represented by two tributes that will include landmark films in its history: **The Modern as an Experiment**, curated by Maria Komninos, observes the influences in the 1930's up to the delayed emergence of modernity in Greek cinema, (*The Ogre of Athens*) as well as the emergence of Greek experimental and visual-art cinema (K. Sfikas, Th. Rentzis, A. Angelidi).

There's something about the family, curated by Dimitris Papanikolaou, includes films by

Cacoyannis and Angelopoulos, Lanthimos, Economides and Koutras, as well as a recent series of short films, dealing with the issues of the Greek family. As Maria Komninos notes, “The exploration of family secrets that sharpened the modernist sentiment of Angelopoulos and Cacoyannis, has led to the emergence of a new weird wave, that will refresh contemporary greek cinema”.

A great opportunity for us to re-watch films which wrote history, on the big screen: from *Reconstruction*, to *Matchbox* and from *The Fear* to *Dogtooth* and *Strella*. This tribute has been designed as a cinematic reference to Professor Dimitris Papanikolaou’s book: **There’s something about the Family: Nation, Desire and Relationship** (Patakis 2018), where all these films are analysed.

On **Thursday 21/11**, at **21:15**, after the screening of the film *A Matter of Dignity* by Michael Cacoyannis (**19:00, Greek Film Archive — Theatre B**), a discussion will follow with Dimitris Papanikolaou; the director of the AAGFF Maria Komninos; the author Maria Efstathiadou and the academic Ioulia Mermiga.

*For the first time we will have a **Student Film Festival** section, with official guests students of the university of Karlsruhe, and their professor **João Tabarra** — who will present their own films to the audience of the 10th AAGFF. Meanwhile, students of the Department of Communication & Media Studies from the UoA, and of the Film Department from the AUTH, will present their own work. We will also have selections from the Hellenic Parliament's TV Station, broadcast “Studentwitters (Fititivismata)”. Entrance to Exile Room will be free of charge.

*Simultaneously, we will once again have the popular and well regarded section of the AAGFF **“Some Like It Short”** (with greek and foreign selections, most of which will be premieres). As Nina Veligradi its curator notes: “it is a place for independent filmmakers who chose to express their thoughts in a more comprehensive way... Creations from all over the world, settings from Skopje to London’s Trafalgar Square, and from the Louvre to a backyard pool. Fiction, video essays, architecture and poetry come together to form one of the festival's densest sections”.

*Lastly, the favourite section of the AAGFF **“Restored and Beautiful”**, could not be missing. This year it includes the opening film, *L’age d’Or* by Luis Buñuel; the closing film *Miracle in Milan* by Vittorio De Sica and the iconic films *The Circus* by Charles Chaplin and *Easy Rider* by Dennis Hopper.

The closing ceremony will also feature the new short film by Yorgos Lanthimos, **Nimic**, starring Matt Dillon and Daphne Patakia.

*A **Masterclass** will also be given by professor **João Tabarra (Friday 22/11, 19:00, Exile Room)**, whilst on **Thursday 28/11 (Greek Film Archive — Theatre A, 16:00)** a discussion will be held with the producer and member of the jury **Gaëlle Jones** on issues concerning production and co-production.

Lastly, the director **Menelaos Karamaghiolis** will give a presentation titled “From Jace to the Afro-Greeks” (**Tuesday 3/12, 16:00, Greek Film Archive, Theatre A**).

TICKET PRE-SALES:

At the Greek Film Archive’s cashier and viva.gr:

<https://www.viva.gr/tickets/cinemas/tainiothiki-tis-ellados-lais/10o-festival-protoporiakou-kinimatografou/>

General Entry: 5 euro.

Card for 5 screenings: 20 euro

Card for 10 screenings: 35 euro

Card for 20 screenings: 65 euro

Special card for 10 screenings (*Amea care, unemployed, students, teachers, exemptions and people over the age of 65*): 25 euro

Notice: Card availability is limited. They will be available from October 29 until they are sold out.

Entry for all screenings at Exile Room, as well as the screening that will take place at the Institut Français, (*Tomorrow Tripoli*, by Florent Marcie, on Tuesday 26/11, 8pm) are free.

Greek Film Archive

Iera Odos 48 & Megalou Alexandrou, metro Keramikos, tel. 210 3612046

Exile Room

Athinas 12, 3rd floor, metro Monastiraki, tel.210 3223395



USEFUL LINKS

- **Tickets** 10th AAGFF: <http://bit.do/10thAAGFF-vivagr>
- **Trailer** 10th AAGFF: <https://youtu.be/hLAdTJWA-Po>
- **Schedule** 10th AAGFF: <http://bit.do/10thAAGFF-Schedule>
- **Facebook event:** [10th AAGFF](#)
- **Microsite:** 10aagff.tainiothiki.gr [will be activated by the end of the week]
- **Website:** www.tainiothiki.gr

PRESS RELEASES:

PR Tributes to Oliveira & Bellocchio:

<http://bit.do/10thAAGFF-Oliveira-Bellocchio>

<http://bit.do/10thAAGFF-Oliveira-Bellocchio-EN>

PR International Competition:

<http://bit.do/10thAAGFF-International-Competition>

<http://bit.do/10thAAGFF-International-Competition-EN>



Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης

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