

12th LOS ANGELES GREEK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2018 ORPHEUS AWARD WINNERS

George Chakiris is Orpheus Award Honoree



The 12th Annual Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (LAGFF) came to a close on Sunday, June 10, with a Red Carpet extravaganza. The Closing Night feature film “Perfect Strangers” preceded the star-studded Orpheus Awards Ceremony, followed by a Greek feast under the Hollywood stars at the Egyptian courtyard. This year’s Honoree George Chakiris, (Best Supporting Actor of “West Side Story”) was presented his Award by close friend, actress Rita Moreno. She belongs to an elite group of only 12 living performers who have won entertainment’s grand slam of the industry’s most prestigious awards: The Oscar, The Emmy, The Tony and The Grammy.

“Orpheus Awards” were given to the most outstanding new films in the dramatic, documentary and short film category. The theme of this year’s “Orpheus Awards” is “*The Academy of Greeks*”, paying tribute to Greek artists who have received an Academy Award or Oscar Nomination since 1935.

Orpheus Awards Winners

- Best Fiction Feature Film: Polyxeni by Dora Masclavanou
- Best Feature Directing: Thodoris Atheridis for Perfect Strangers
- Best Performance: Katia Goulioni in Polyxeni
- Best Documentary: Dolphin Man by Lefteris Charitos
- Documentary Honorable Mention: Golden Dawn Girls by Håvard Bustnes
- Special Jury Award: 1968 by Tassos Boulmetis
- Best Short Film: Goldfish by Yorgos Angelopoulos

The esteemed Jury Panel were Aliko Theofilopoulos, Christian Stephen, Jennifer Bertling, Beve Regas, Valorie Massalas, Thaa Penghlis, Vanessa Newell, Glenn Gebhard and Alexander Koht.

“This has been a very successful festival in many important areas for the future of this organization,” explains Aristotle Katopodis, Artistic & Festival Director. “We give special thanks to all the talented filmmakers as well as our entertainment on Closing Night; comedian ANT, musicians Dimitris Mann, Taso Comanescu and Alexis Cohen, and Emcee Chuck Dukas.

IPDF Awards Winners (International Project Discovery Forum is the industry program of the Festival)

IPDF HONORABLE MENTION

TWO RACCOONS

WRITER\DIRECTOR: NASOS GATZOULIS

IPDF MFI SCHOLARSHIP

PROMETHEUS

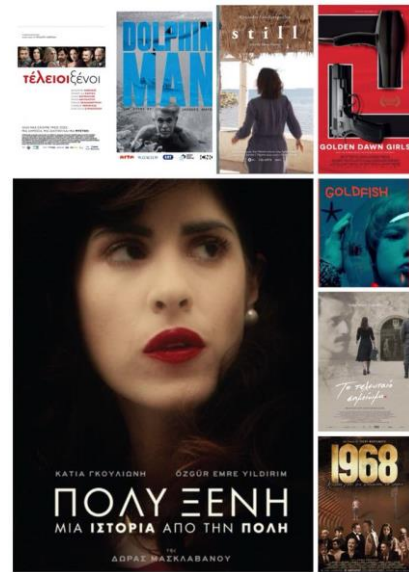
WRITER/ DIRECTOR: YORGOS FOURTOUNIS

IPDF AEGEAN AWARD

BALAU

WRITER/DIRECTOR: OCTAV CHELARU

PRODUCER: RADU STANCU



IPDF Jurors, From the American Cinemateque Gwen Deglise, Publicist Tatiana Detlofson, Producers Thanassis Karathanos and Josh Mandel, from Film Independent's Global Media Makers program Shari Page.

The five day Festival celebrated the best of new films from Greek filmmakers worldwide and promotes Greek cinema and cultural exchange while bridging the gap between the filmmakers and Hollywood. This year, a record number of film submissions (over 175) were received ranging in subjects from immigration and economy collapse to documentaries about the beauty and history of Greece.

Festival Sponsors

The Greek National Tourist Organization (GNTO).

Platinum Patrons: Aegean Entertainment & The Metropoulos Family. Marianne Metropoulos, President of Aegean Entertainment, founded the company in 1999. Currently in post-production is a feature film titled CLIFFS OF FREEDOM, based on the original fictional story Metropoulos wrote in 1996 about a young village woman’s journey through personal family tragedy who becomes a famous freedom fighter during the Greek Revolution in 1821. “The Hellenes”, a series based upon Greece’s 400-year occupation by the Ottoman Empire, is

currently out to various networks. A documentary about climate change and its devastating effects on our planet is slated for production in 2018 and will be hosted by Dean Metropoulos.

Co-Presenter: The Onassis Foundation (USA) is committed to the promotion of Greek culture. By cooperating with educational and cultural institutions in Greece and the Americas, it promotes cultural relations. The Onassis Cultural Center NY, founded in 2000, explores Greek culture, from antiquity to today, through a diverse program of exhibitions, events and online engagement. Located in midtown Manhattan, the renovated space offers experiences that inspire and support interaction between audiences and artists in all cultural fields from visual arts, dance, film, music and theater to the humanities. Programs—for novices and scholars—are presented free of charge.

Gold Patrons: G.P. Kolovos & Associates. With a history of success in the real estate world and philanthropy, the Kolovos Family have been with LAGFF since its inception, and have been instrumental in its growth.

Silver Patrons: Earth Friendly Products is the maker of ECOS™ Laundry Detergent and over 200 other environmentally friendly products that are safer for people, pets and the planet. Made with plant-powered ingredients, ECOS cleaners are thoughtfully sourced, pH balanced, readily biodegradable, easily recyclable and never tested on animals. Earth Friendly Products is a primary manufacturer that makes its own products in sustainable manufacturing facilities located across the U.S. All Earth Friendly Products facilities are carbon neutral, water neutral and Zero Waste Platinum-certified, saving over 53 million pounds of carbon dioxide annually and diverting over 95 percent of all waste from landfills. Over 100 ECOS products have received the coveted U.S. EPA Safer Choice certification, which means that every ingredient is the safest in its class and that the product has proven superior performance. ECOS, Disney Baby ECOS™, ECOS for Pets! and ECOS™ Pro cleaners are available at selected major retailers throughout the U.S., in over 60 countries and online at ecos.com.

West Coast Investors: Based in Santa Monica, California, West Coast Investors is a private real estate company specializing in the acquisition and management of premier retail property in prime locations and prestigious markets. Founded in 1989 by James Argyropoulos, the company has become known for its high-quality portfolio, which consists of more than 60 retail and mixed-use properties primarily in Southern California, as well as in Maui and Miami.

Grand Contributor: Good Greek Grill specializes in real, authentic Greek food. From their simple traditional ingredients to their authentic, slow-roasted pork gyro, they stay true to the food that their Greek families have prepared for generations. They serve only the freshest ingredients, from their homemade salad dressing and tzatziki sauce to their fresh produce, which is cut daily. Leave what you thought about Greek food at the door, and let yourself be transported to the streets of Greece via your taste buds.

Bronze Patrons: Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), CINEMAX, and Marcus & Millichap, Jim Gianopulos, ReedSmith.

Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (Balkan Cultural Center) recognizes and thanks the Onassis Foundation USA, and Elios Charitable Foundation for their vital support.

Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (Balkan Cultural Center) is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

Special thanks go to ELMA, an organization dedicated to the promotion of European Cinema in America.

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REPORTER**



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LAGFF is a 501 © (3) non-profit organization and open to all filmgoers and patrons of the arts. The full program schedule and tickets are available at www.lagff.org
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See you next year!

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