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Los Angeles Greek Film Festival Marks 20 Years with Premieres, Tributes & Red Carpet Star Power at the Egyptian Theatre (May 26-31, 2026)



Dean Tavoularis Tribute
(courtesy of the Criterion Collection)



Alexandre Desplat / Orpheus Awards Honoree
(Photo courtesy of Brigitte Lacombe)

LOS ANGELES, CA — May 19, 2026 — The 20th edition of the [Los Angeles Greek Film Festival](#) (LAGFF) will officially launch on Wednesday, May 27, with an Opening Night red carpet celebration featuring the West Coast premiere of *PATTY IS SUCH A GIRLY NAME*, the acclaimed film from award-winning Greek filmmaker **Giorgos Georgopoulos**.

The film arrives in Los Angeles following major recognition at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, where it received five awards and earned widespread critical acclaim for its bold storytelling and compelling performances. The film [was recently nominated for 16 awards at the upcoming 2026 Iris Awards by the Hellenic Film Academy](#). LAGFF Artistic Director **Aristotle Katopodis** will host a post-screening Q&A conversation with Georgopoulos.

“Now in its 20th year, LAGFF continues its mission of showcasing contemporary Greek cinema and fostering cultural exchange through film, conversation, and community engagement” - Katopodis

Prior to the screening, LAGFF will present a special remembrance honoring Greek American production designer **Constantine “Dean” Tavoularis**. Widely regarded as one of cinema’s most influential visual artists, the Academy Award-winning designer worked on numerous landmark films, including Arthur Penn’s *BONNIE AND CLYDE*, Michelangelo Antonioni’s *ZABRISKIE POINT* and several films under the direction of Francis Ford Coppola including *THE GODFATHER* trilogy, *THE CONVERSATION*, *APOCALYPSE NOW*, and *RUMBLE FISH*. Many special guests are expected to attend in celebration of Tavoularis’ extraordinary legacy.

LAGFF’s Closing Night on May 31 will feature the Sundance World Cinema Audience Award winner *HOLD ONTO ME* by filmmaker **Myrsini Aristidou** at the Egyptian Theatre. The film concludes a cinematic journey that began with Aristidou’s earlier works, *SEMELE* and *ARIA*, each exploring the evolving relationship between a father and daughter through preteen and teenage years. Aristotle Katopodis will host a post-screening Q&A conversation with Aristidou.

Opening Night is presented by **NETFLIX**, and Closing Night is in collaboration with **The American Cinematheque**. Both receptions in the Egyptian Theatre courtyard feature the refined Greek cuisine from **Petros Restaurant**.



Director, Giorgos Georgopoulos



Director, Myrsini Aristidou

Over the years, LAGFF has selected one exceptional recipient each year with its prestigious ORPHEUS Award. Previous honorees include **Jim Gianopulos**, **Kary Antholis**, **Anthony Katagas**, **George Pelecanos**, **Penelope Spheeris**, **Alexander Payne**, and **Nick Cassavetes**.

LAGFF is proud to present the 2026 Orpheus Award to multi-award-winning composer **Alexandre Desplat**. The cinematic scores of the Greek-French maestro are deeply connected to the emotional core of each story. From the balalaika-driven themes of *The Grand Budapest Hotel* by Wes Anderson to the haunting bandoneon melodies of *The Shape of Water* by Guillermo del Toro — both of which earned Desplat Academy Awards — his music has consistently served as a delicate storytelling instrument that enhances, rather than overpowers, the visuals.

KNX-FM Radio’s **Vivianne Linou Gabriel** returns this year to host the Award Ceremony.

LAGFF [Discovery Days](#) 2026 selection brings a slate of international projects and filmmakers to Los Angeles for a four-day development lab, presenting stories from Greece, Canada/Iran, and

Albania. Projects in development range from intimate drama, social satire, and myth-inspired cinema.

Selected Projects: [Selected Projects 2026](#)

Selected Filmmakers: [Meet the Filmmakers 2026](#)

Discovery Days is the industry section of LAGFF and offers roundtables, workshops, and masterclasses, culminating in an audiovisual presentation before a jury of film industry professionals. The program connects participating teams with producers, distributors, sales agents, programmers, and other esteemed working professionals serving as mentors and experts.

LAGFF is proud to continue its collaboration with the Egyptian Theatre, Netflix and the American Cinematheque.

The Egyptian Theatre changed the world of cinema when it opened its doors in 1922, providing a lavish and immersive movie experience for Hollywood audiences. The theater revolutionized film exhibition, hosted the first Hollywood movie premieres - including the very first, for Robin Hood starring Douglas Fairbanks - and introduced the original red carpet. The Egyptian was a fixture of Hollywood's Golden Age, a classic and esteemed movie palace that holds great historical significance in the world of cinema. This historic venue has been home to incredible cinematic experiences for over a century, helping establish Hollywood as the movie capital of the world while becoming a vital part of its cultural heritage. The theater has been restored to its original grandeur with the utmost attention given to every original design detail while also ensuring a state-of-the-art cinematic experience with the latest technology. The Egyptian Theatre is one of only five remaining theaters in the United States capable of projecting nitrate film, the film stock used from 1889 to the 1950s - as well as 35mm, 70mm and digital formats - bringing classic and modern cinema to life. In 2020, Netflix and the American Cinematheque announced that they were partnering to restore the esteemed movie palace. The Egyptian Theatre will remain the home of the American Cinematheque, whose highly regarded programming team will continue to independently program Friday, Saturday and Sunday features, with Netflix programming the rest of the week.

The American Cinematheque - Established in 1984, the American Cinematheque is a member-supported 501(c)(3) non-profit cultural arts organization dedicated to building an engaged film community through immersive film curation, conversation, and presentation. The American Cinematheque celebrates the movie-going experience at the core of its mission. Since it first began showing films in theatres in 1985, the American Cinematheque has provided a wide range of film programming, with both new and repertory cinema, hosting screenings, panels and special events with thousands of filmmakers and luminaries. The Cinematheque showcases over 1,600 films per year; it connects the filmmaker to the audience and film history to its future. Presenting in 35mm, 70mm, rare nitrate, and state-of-the-art digital. Americancinematheque.com

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Additional Supporters Include: Getty, Elios Charitable Foundation, Aris Anagnos Charitable Trust, Cyprus Deputy Ministry of Culture, Iconic Films & The Antenna Group, Alexander Payne, West Coast Investors, and The Antholis Family.

LAGFF also extends gratitude to the Honorable Christina Valassopoulou, Consul General of Greece in Los Angeles, and the Honorable Andreas Kyprianides, Honorary Consul General of Cyprus.

About LAGFF Sponsors

- **GPK & Associates and the Kolovos Family** - GPK & Associates is an established property management company and family-owned business. GPK & Associates takes a hands-on approach to managing communities and has successfully leased and managed a large portfolio of apartment homes in the greater Los Angeles area for over 40 years. It is the company's mission to provide residents with the highest quality customer service and ensure their homes are comfortable and the properties are well maintained. GPK & Associates take pride in their level of customer service and the quality of workmanship provided in their remodeled apartment homes. They believe this translates into a positive rental experience for all residents who live in their communities. www.gpkassociates.com
- **European Languages & Movies in America (ELMA)** - Founded in 2007, European Languages & Movies in America (ELMA) is a Santa Monica-based foundation dedicated to showcasing European cinema to foster cross-cultural dialogue. In partnership with festivals, consulates, cultural institutes and local organizations, ELMA supports a diverse range of European film screenings and cultural events across Los Angeles. The organization is based on the belief that film is a universal language, one that sparks curiosity, develops understanding, and creates meaningful connections between people and cultures. Through screenings, conversations, educational programming and community events, ELMA celebrates the richness of Europe's cinematic traditions while making international storytelling accessible and engaging for audiences of all ages.
- **EKKOMED** - The Hellenic Film and Audiovisual Center S.A. (H.F.A.C.) was established by Law 5105/2024 with the merger of the Greek Film Centre and the National Centre for Audiovisual Media and Communication (EKOME). The Company's headquarters are in Athens. H.F.A.C. is the main body exercising the country's film policy and audiovisual policy. The mission of H.F.A.C. is: (a) to develop, strengthen and protect the Greek cinematographic, audiovisual and creative sector in general and to promote it internationally, (b) to support domestic and attract foreign investments in the film / audiovisual sector, as well as in the cultural and creative sector in general, (c) to support the integration of new digital technologies and innovations in the audiovisual industry and the use of modern digital means for the promotion of the country's cultural and creative sectors, as well as the promotion and support of research in these fields, (d) the organization and operation of the National Digital Repository of Audiovisual Works and the Innovation and Technology Hub for the Creative and Audiovisual Sector (Creative Hub GR), as well as other structures and programs for the support, networking and extroversion of

these sectors, (e) to contribute to the fight against piracy, online, technological or otherwise, in the film, audiovisual and creative sectors of the country in cooperation with co-competent bodies, (f) the design and implementation of education and training programs for the audiovisual sector and the promotion of audiovisual education in accordance with technological developments, (g) the support of the Government in the design of the policy for the film, audiovisual and creative industries of the country and its general support and promotion in Greece and abroad.

- **Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture** - The mission of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (LACDAC) is to advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout LA County. LACDAC provides leadership, services, and support in areas including grants and technical assistance for nonprofit organizations, countywide arts education initiatives, commissioning and care for civic art collections, research and evaluation, access to creative pathways, professional development, free community programs, and cross sector creative strategies that address civic issues. All this work is framed by the longstanding commitment to fostering access to the arts, and the County's Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative. www.lacountyarts.org
- **Petros Restaurant**- Petros Benekos opened his flagship restaurant, **Petros Restaurant**, in Manhattan Beach, Calif. in 2007, which Zagat named "Top New Restaurant". The popular restaurant continues to earn accolades and awards celebrating Petros's meticulously handmade recipes inspired by his mother. Today three additional Petros restaurants serve the popular communities of Hollywood, Century City, El Segundo and Solvang; while Petros' 'Villa and Vine' is a premier place for hosting luxury private events in Santa Barbara.
- **The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood** - Located a block south of Sunset Boulevard in the heart of Los Angeles' iconic Hollywood enclave, The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood brings the distinct Chicago hospitality brand to the West Coast. Exuding the energy of old Hollywood, the hotel's curated art program and immersive interior design set the stage for supreme Hollywood moments. www.godfreyhotelhollywood.com
- **Earth Friendly Products (ECOS)** - Over 50 years ago, ECOS founder Van Vlahakis made a commitment to create safer cleaning products that protect the health and wellbeing of both people and the planet. That continues to be ECOS mission today. Van's legacy continues with his daughter, CEO Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks. Under her leadership, ECOS has achieved Climate Positivity, becoming the world's first company to make its products in carbon neutral, water neutral and TRUE Platinum Zero Waste facilities.

LAGFF community partners include the **American Cinematheque**, **Basil P. Caloyeras Center for Modern Greek Studies** and **Saint Sophia Cathedral**. The festival also celebrates its long-standing partnership with **Loyola Marymount University's Bellarmine College Department of Classics and Archaeology** through the LAGFF-LMU Internship Program, supervised by Prof. Katerina Zacharia and Dean Richard Fox. For the first year, LAGFF collaborates with the **Brain Dead Studios**.

About LAGFF: The Los Angeles Greek Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Since its inception, LAGFF has screened over 800 films, hosted more than 700 filmmakers, and reached an audience of over 50,000. For more information, please visit: www.lagff.org

Official LAGFF 2026 Poster – Photography by Georgia Tripodes, Artwork by Araceli Lemos and Joel Garber, Additional artwork by Manos Krokos



When we look back at our two decades of service, what comes to mind is none other than the city that has hosted us all these years, this vibrant place of the American West Coast, desert to ocean, valley to mountain, the world in micrography, with all its peoples and endless dreams... El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles de Porciúncula... or as we know it... Los Angeles.

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