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11TH LOS ANGELES GREEK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2017 JURY MEMBERS FREE EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

June 7-11, 2017, Egyptian Theatre

Los Angeles, CA June 1 2017 - **11th Los Angeles Greek Film Festival's Jury coordinator Mando Stathi** has revealed the nine entertainment professionals who will constitute the **2017 Jury**. The members are tasked with awarding the Best of the Fest from **14 documentaries, 22 shorts and 12 features** in competition.

"We are thrilled at the professionals who have agreed to be part of this year's Jury. They represent all facets of the Entertainment Industry; each brings a unique, fresh perspective and criteria to the final selections. We thank them for their time and dedication to independent cinema." adds Stathi.

The nine **Jury Members** are as follows: For **Narrative Features** are award-winning writer/producer/director **Steven Bernstein**, (DOMINION, DECODING ANNIE PARKER), Managing Editor, Features at Variety **Peter Caranicas**, and filmmaker and Assistant Professor at Loyola Marymount University **Sharon Mooney**. Selecting the Best **Feature Documentary** is Documentary producer **Athena Kalkopoulou** (OF WOMEN BORN), Associate Professor at Loyola Marymount University's School of Film and Television **Greg Ruzzin**, and popular host of "Pacifica Performance Showcase" on KPFK Pacifica Radio 90.7 **Donna Walker**. Deciding the Best of **Short Films** is writer/producer and President of K Street Pictures **Charles Agron** (DARK HOUSE, MONDAY AT 11:01 A.M.), academic and award-winning short filmmaker **Jose Garcia Moreno** and award-winning actress **Hanna Stanbridge** ("River City").

The Festival has also added more panels and a master class, more than ever before, as part of filmmaker education expansion program.

These events are free and open to the public.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

LAGFF FILMMAKERS ROUNDTABLE

Free and Open to the Public

Egyptian Theater, 7:30 - 8:30 PM

LAGFF filmmakers discuss film production in Greece: The challenges one has to face trying to make films in a time of crisis, the filmmaking community that has been built, and how important art is in the recent years while Greece is rebuilding its identity.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

PANEL: THE NEW REALITY OF DISTRIBUTION

Free and Open to the Public

Egyptian Theatre, 6:00 - 7:20 PM

Presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association

Join us for an engaging panel where active film professionals discuss the latest trends of creative distribution, including what audience potential does a film have and how to reach it, what do the multiple platforms offer, and the challenges and opportunities. Marketing and Distribution Strategist, **Missy Laney** will be moderating the discussion with Sundance Creative Distribution Fellow, Producer **Alysa Nahmias** (UNREST), Alamo LA's Creative Director **Bret Berg**, YOMYOMF's Creative Director **Philip Chung** and Heretic Outreach's Sales Agent **Ioanna Stais**.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

CLIFFS OF FREEDOM, ACTORS' PANEL

Free and Open to the Public

Egyptian Theatre, 2:00 - 3:00 PM

An intimate discussion with CLIFFS OF FREEDOM cast members **Morse Bicknell** ("Breaking Bad"), **Simon Kassianides** ("Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D."), **Costas Mandylor** (SAW IV), **Tania Raymonde** ("Lost"), **Jan Uddin** ("The Red Tent") reflecting on the creative, intellectual and logistical challenges for actors portraying characters inspired by historical events and personalities. **CLIFFS OF FREEDOM** is a love story set in the time of the Greek revolution against the Ottoman Empire, and it is the inaugural production of **Aegean Entertainment's** Producer/Principal **Marianne Metropoulos**, and Executive Producer **C. Dean Metropoulos**. With Actors Morse Bicknell, Simon Kassianides, Costas Mandylor, Tania Raymonde, Jan Uddin. Moderated by journalist **Carlos Aguilar**.

CASE STUDY: OVERCOMING PRODUCTION & BUDGETARY OBSTACLES

Free and Open to the Public

Egyptian Theatre 3:15 - 4:00 PM

Producer **Casey Cannon** and Exec. Producer/Line Producer **Stephen Marinaccio** will discuss their experience in facing production and budgetary challenges during the filming of CLIFFS OF FREEDOM. Filmmakers will be invited to ask questions regarding their upcoming projects.

“Telling Adult Fairytales” - A MASTERCLASS WITH ELINA PSYKOU

Free and Open to the Public

Egyptian Theatre 6:15 - 7:45 PM

Writer/Director Elina Psykou will discuss her cinematic journey of making SON OF SOFIA (2017) — a dark coming of age story of a Russian boy growing up with his adoptive father in the years preceding Greece’s recent turbulent history. The characters struggle to find themselves and their connection to others in a country that is about to collapse and compelled to redefine its national identity. The film just won the Best International Narrative Feature Award at Tribeca FF, and it is LAGFF’s Closing Night film. In 2013, trade publication Variety singled Elina out as one of the “10 European Directors to Watch”. Her films are surprisingly odd and mesmerizing. She returns to LAGFF three years after her first feature, THE ETERNAL RETURN OF ANTONIS PARASKEVAS (2013), which won the Opera Prima Special Jury Award. The conversation is led by Sundance Programmer **Kim Yutani**.

EDITOR NOTES

LOS ANGELES GREEK FILM FESTIVAL 2017 JURY MEMBERS

NARRATIVE FEATURES

Steven Bernstein ASC, DGA, is a winning feature film writer, director, and producer. His latest feature film is DOMINION, with John Malkovich, about the final days of Dylan Thomas's life, is due out later this year. Before directing he was a cinematographer shooting the Oscar-winning MONSTER, among many others. Bernstein has acted in minor roles in several films, has directed shorts, music videos, and television commercials, and has lectured widely. He is an ASC nominee for outstanding work. Recently, Bernstein has been working with the Greek government to develop a film studio in Syros. His bestselling textbook Film Production (Focal Press) has been translated into several languages, and his new online seminars on all aspects of film launch this month.

Peter Caranicas is Managing Editor, Features at Variety. He leads the team that creates the magazine’s feature sections, which are published as extra inserts more than 250 times a year. These specials cover film festivals, celebrate industry anniversaries, provide analysis of award events such as the Oscars and the Emmys, identify up-and-coming talent, and list key players among youth, women, lawyers and financiers in entertainment. Caranicas also edits Variety’s

Artisans pages, which cover production and crafts in film and TV. Previously he was editor of *Below the Line*, *Shoot*, *Film & Video* and other industry publications. He is a frequent moderator at industry panels and has freelanced for such outlets as *TV Newscheck*, *World Screen*, *The Hollywood Reporter* and the *New York Times Encyclopedia of Television*.

Sharon A. Mooney is a filmmaker and Assistant Professor at Loyola Marymount University. She earned her M.F.A. from The School of Visual Arts and her B.A from Xavier University. As a filmmaker, she works in experimental, narrative and documentary portraiture; all focused on investigating desire and the human condition. Mooney's short videos and installations have screened internationally in festivals and galleries. Her most recent work includes editing the pilot or *Bug Bites*, a children's TV show that was picked up by American Public Media; and an Arts and Entertainment video *HANGING OUT WITH NORM MACDONALD* for The Washington Post

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES

Athena Kalkopoulou is a film producer and consultant with over 15 years of experience in film production, publicity, and distribution She co-produced the documentaries *OF WOMAN BORN*; and *JABULILE LEARNS TO FLY*, a look at women's rights in post-apartheid Johannesburg. For six years she oversaw the San Francisco Film Society's fiscal sponsorship and documentary grants program, and assisted filmmakers to complete their projects. Kalkopoulou has participated in many festivals in Greece, Germany, and Italy, including SXSW, Sundance, and the Camden International Film Festival. Before moving to the U.S. in 2007, she worked in Athens, Greece, as a publicist for clients such as Fox Searchlight and Focus Features, and as a production coordinator for commercials, TV series, and short films. She has an MA in Film & TV Production from Bristol University.

Gregory Ruzzin, MFA, is an Associate Professor at Loyola Marymount University's School of Film and Television in Los Angeles, where he teaches fiction and documentary directing. Ruzzin recently completed the feature documentary *LOST CHILD?*, a vibrant and moving portrait of a young woman who struggles with epilepsy and a developmental disability. Ruzzin is currently directing *THE MAGIC CHAIR*, an ambitious interactive project incorporating a feature-length documentary film made with and about the children of the St. Declan's School in Dublin, Ireland; and an interactive website designed to provide individuals with disabilities-- as well as family members, friends, and educators -- a platform to share their own stories.

Donna Walker hosts and produces "Pacifica Performance Showcase" an arts and culture show on KPFK Pacifica Radio 90.7 FM in Los Angeles, streaming on the web at www.kpfc.org. She also runs the KPFK Film Club, interfacing with cinematic venues and film festivals throughout Los Angeles. As an actress, Walker was an integral part of San Diego's burgeoning theatrical scene for over 20 years, starring in numerous productions at the Gaslamp Quarter Theatre and San Diego Repertory Theatre. She received her multi-faceted performance training at United

States International University School of Performing Arts and currently teaches Basic Acting Technique through LACC's Community Services.

SHORT FILMS

Charles Agron is President of K Street Pictures, formed to innovate the distribution process. He produces and acquires entertainment product for worldwide sales and distribution, eliminating the middlemen, to maximize returns. He also plans to produce one to two original films annually under the CAP (Charles Agron Productions) banner with budgets in the \$5-10 million dollar range. Charles began his Hollywood career as an actor, and made his writing and producing debut with DARK HOUSE. His company will soon release Alex Lykos' romantic comedy ALEX & EVE, about the cultural and religious tensions that exist between Muslims and Greek-Australians.

José Garcia Moreno Mexican-born José Moreno studied film in Prague and worked as an apprentice at the prestigious Studios Bratri V Triku where he directed his first film. He then received a Fulbright Scholarship in animation to attend UCLA. His work has been exhibited in film festivals around the world: Annecy, Guadalajara, Cannes, and others. Moreno has received many awards and was nominated to the Ariel by the Mexican Film Academy The Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores, Monterrey, named him one of the 'Academic Leaders of the World', where he co-produced four short films on slavery and human trafficking. Moreno has served as chair of the Animation Department at LMU, been a fellow and a jurist for the Mexican National Endowment for the Arts (CONACULTA), and a jurist for the McLaren-Lambert Award.

Hannah Stanbridge originally hails from Scotland. Stanbridge recently moved from London to Los Angeles only three months ago after finishing as a series regular in the BBC continuing drama "River City." Previous recurring television credits include BB3s "Lip Service " and CBBC's "Mission 2110." Her first feature film, OUTCAST won her BAFTA Scotland's New Emerging Talent Award at the Edinburgh International Film Festival's Trailblazer Award and the Grimm Up North Manchester Film Festival Best Actress Award. Hanna acted in the British horror feature film LET US PREY, which won the prestigious Melies d'Argent Award.

SPONSORS

Platinum Patrons:

Aegean Entertainment - 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 of 1821. The film is slated for theatrical release in late 2017. "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 celebrating their 50th anniversary of the family-owned and operated company. 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% 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.

Medix - Launched in 2001, Medix was built on the principle of becoming a leading provider of workforce solutions for clients and candidates across the Healthcare, Scientific and Information Technology industries. As we grow and evolve, we recognize our differentiation lies not just in traditional staffing, but in true partnerships and collaboration on hiring solutions. We bring value to our talent by helping them identify their individual skills and aptitudes, matching them with opportunities to excel and creating communities where they can foster their skills and always have a trusted partner in their career. In supporting our clients, we understand that each organization and culture is unique, and we thrive in collaborating with our clients to provide innovative solutions to suit their specific needs. Through our core purpose of positively

impacting lives, we're proud to partner with many philanthropies, including Camp Hometown Heroes and Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors.

Grand Contributor:

Petros Hellenic California Cuisine presents a fine assortment of delicacies and wines on Opening and Closing night at LAGFF, combining the best ingredients that Greece and California cuisine have to offer. Petros locations in El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Solvang, and Santa Barbara will now include the newest location in Century City.

Bronze Patrons:

Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), Loyola Marymount University (LMU) - School of Film and Television/Bellarmino College of Liberal Arts and Huffington Ecumenical Institute, CINEMAX, Marcus & Millichap, Jim Gianopoulos, and West Coast Investors.

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

SPECIAL MENTION, Georgetown Cupcake, Delphi Greek Hellenic Cuisine, Bakersland, Icelandic Glacial, Hostess, Digital Film Studios, and SIMPLE DCP.

Media Sponsors: