

DOLLARS FOR A SAINT
A Film by Avra Georgiou (58') Greece 2013

SYNOPSIS

Messolonghi. A small coastal town in western Greece, stigmatized by its historical past. During the Turkish occupation it underwent a five-year siege (1821-1826), which was solved by a heroic Exodus. According to reports, gypsy drummers heartened the people in their war against the Turks.

Still today the town is inhabited by these two diverse social groups, locals and gypsies, which have developed a social relation of harmonic co-existence, sealed by a unique communal celebration, the Saint Symeon feast.

Once a year, they engage in an exhausting five-day festival, beginning Saturday evening and lasting uninterruptedly until Wednesday morning. During the feast, gypsies only are playing original traditional music, creating a transcendental ecstatic atmosphere of union through all social ranges.

The documentary, follows and observes St. Symeon feast and its passage to a new era through the eyes of its protagonists.

Avra Georgiou

Born in Athens, studied *Arts et Sciences Humaines* at the Pantheon-Sorbonne, Paris 1 University and *Drama* at the Amsterdam Film Academy.

She worked in films and documentaries in Greece and abroad.

Since 2002 she works exclusively in the documentary section as a film director and festival director in LA, Montreal and Athens.