

13th

Los Angeles Greek Film Festival —
June 3-9, 2019



LAGFF 2019 SHINES THE SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN FEMALE FILMMAKERS, FEMALE -DRIVEN STORIES, FEMALE ORPHEUS HONOREE



Greek-American, Emmy-nominated Casting Director and Producer **Valorie Massalas** will receive an Honorary Orpheus Award at the Egyptian Theatre on Sunday, June 9, at 8 pm. The Orpheus Awards Ceremony will be preceded by a screening of *HER JOB* and followed by a Greek food & wine feast with live Rebetiko music in the courtyard - www.lagff.org

Valorie Massalas co-produced and cast the acclaimed *GODS AND MONSTERS*, nominated for three Academy Awards®, including Ian McKellan for best actor, Lynn Redgrave for best supporting actress, and Bill Condon for best screenplay. She won the Best Feature Film of the Year from Independent Spirit Awards. In *CHAPLIN*, Massalas cast Robert Downey, Jr. who received an Academy Award® nomination. Her facility for tackling delicate, timely material became evident on NBC's *Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story*, produced by Barbara Steisand and Glenn Close, for which she won an Artios Award, the Casting Society of America's highest honor. She was nominated for Outstanding Casting for Rob Marshall's *ANNIE*, and again nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Casting in *Amazing Stories*. Massalas has cast for various directors, including Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese and Clint Eastwood. Soon after she cast Sharon Stone in Paul Verhoeven's *TOTAL RECALL*, she worked with Spielberg again casting two *INDIANA JONES* films. In 2005, Massalas joined with Ron Digma to cast feature films including Steve Shill's *OBSESSED*, *WAKING MADISON*, and *INTO TEMPTATION*. Massalas and Digma cast several more independent features, and completed a TV movie -- *Outlaw Prophet* -- produced by Craig Zadan and Neil Meron.

Films about women and films created by women abound in the 2019 Los Angeles Greek Film Festival. In addition to the films below, Koula Sossiadi Kazista, Evi Karampatsou, Evangelia Kranioti, Maria Lafi, Jacqueline Lentzou, Karina Logothetis, Aliko Theofilopoulos, Ioanna Tsinividi, Oliwia Twardowska fill this year's long list of female creators.

“It seems like a strike of chance that we have so many female creators and films about women this year”, states **Festival co-founder Ersi Danou**. “But it cannot be just chance. I think it is a sign of something greater, of a global movement that has turned attention to women and their

issues. It is as if women from all corners of life have stepped into the sunlight for everyone to see.”



MELTEM | Opening Night | France/Greece | 87 min | June 5 | 7 pm

Greek-French director Basile Doganis examines the refugee crisis through the eyes of a young woman played by Daphne Patakia.



PATISION AVENUE | Opening Night | Greece | 13 min | June 5 | 7 pm

Thanasis Neofotistos' short film takes a view of one day in the life of a young mother in Athens.



PAUSE | Greece/Cyprus | 96 min | June 6 | 6:15 pm

Cypriot director Tonia Mishiali's film explores the margins of femininity as her heroine defies expectations and stereotypes.



I AM MACKENZIE | USA | 20 min | June 8 | 9:15 pm

Artemis Anastasiadou's short tells a coming-of-age story of a teenage girl growing up in rural Texas.



37 DAYS | Greece | 23 min | June 9 | 2:30 pm

Nikoleta Leousi tackles another major theme in women's lives. But this young pregnant woman is not about to give up on her working rights.



HER JOB | Closing Night | Greece | 90 min | June 9 | 6 pm

Nikos Labot's Closing Night presentation deals with a middle aged woman's subtle empowerment in the face of crisis and poverty.

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