

# Los Angeles Greek Film Festival 2019 Announces Film Slate

## The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Film Festival is June 3-9



After reviewing a record 182 film submissions, the 13th Annual Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (LAGFF) programming team revealed film selections today. The 2019 Festival is June 3 to 9 and includes fiction feature films and documentaries, short films, animation, industry-led panels, and workshops in VR and distribution.

“LAGFF is committed to exploring new avenues and collaborations in the world of film,” explains Artistic & Festival Director **Aristotle Katopodis**. “We continue to encourage and expose new filmmakers and offer new educational programs as we embark on our 13th year. Our slate of 47 feature films includes many first-time directors, multiple-awarded films, while four of our main films were created by women.”

## **UCLA** | **Stavros Niarchos Foundation** **Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture**

The **UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center** educational collaboration proudly returns this year with the premiere screening of **THE RIGHT POCKET OF THE ROBE** by first-time feature film director Yiannis Lapatas, on June 3rd, following its premiere at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival.

The Opening Night at the Egyptian Theater on June 5th, features another first-time director Basile Doganis, who has screened several short films at LAGFF, presents the North American Premiere of **MELTEM**. Actress **Daphne Patakia**, who graduated from the Greek National Theatre is recognized as one of the top five rising stars in Europe, is gracing **MELTEM**.



The Closing Night film on Sunday, June 9th is from first-time director Nikos Labot with the West Coast Premiere of **HER JOB**, a Greek-French production. This film has already been recognized and awarded for its actresses' prowess. The multiple awarded film by Steve Krikris' **THE WAITER** will make its North American Premiere, as well as **HOLY BOOM**, West Coast Premiere, by Maria Lafi and **PAUSE** by Greek/Cypriot filmmaker Tonia Mishiali. Another film with a stellar cast making its North American premiere is **STILL RIVER** by Angelos Frantzis. A

multi-award winner, Evangelia Kranioti, is authoring the much anticipated OBSCURO BARROCO documentary.

Full Film Slate - <http://lagff.org/festival/films/>

The logo for Anima Syros features the word "anima" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, with the "i" having a dot above it. Below "anima" is the word "syros" in a similar font, with the "y" having a long tail that curves to the right. The letters are black and set against a white background.

LAGFF announces a collaboration this year with **AnimaSyros**. Established in 2008, Anima Syros is the premier animation event in Greece and among the top 20 animation festivals worldwide. Encompassing educational programs, tours of its program internationally, Anima Syros animates the beautiful island of Syros every September. We are honored to work with AnimaSyros and **ASIFA Hellas**

(Association Internationale du Film D' Animation), with special thanks to Vassilis Karamitsanis and Stephen Kollias.

**The International Project Discovery Forum (IPDF)** under the direction of **Araceli Lemos** has an expanded program this year. As a result of many quality submissions, this Forum will host more projects than ever before, whose participants are award-winners and filmmakers with a treasure trove of films already under their belt.

Another addition to the weeklong Festival is the "**Aspiring Local Filmmakers**" section. Films that are worth taking a look at and films that show promise for their freshness and attitude. In this new section, EIPHANY by Koula Sossiadis Kazista, Katina Sossiadis, as well as 1/2 NEW YEAR by Tom Morash, written by Georgia Menides, are new local films to rock the Egyptian Theater.

Featured in the "**Special Screenings**" section is the historical drama CLIFFS OF FREEDOM, another film by Greek-American creators. The story takes place Greek revolution of 1821 and is based on a book by Marianne Metropoulos, directed by Van Ling, and music by George Kallis. The cast & crew will be attending the red carpet event.

Keeping with tradition, the Festival includes three Red Carpet Events including the Orpheus Awards Ceremony, a Filmmaker's Reception, a Brunch hosted by the Consul General of Greece, the International Project Discovery Forum (IPDF), Industry Panels, as well as premieres and screenings. **Dimitra Kasdagli** is the Festival's new Programming and Festival Manager and Filmmaker Liaison.

**ABOUT LAGFF:** When LAGFF was launched in 2007, there was minimal Greek presence in Hollywood. Their primary goal is to represent Greek cinema, culture and the new generation of Greek filmmakers from Greece, Cyprus and around the world in the creative capital of the world and to build a bridge of opportunity – [www.lagff.org](http://www.lagff.org)

They also seek to cultivate a two-way education; so that Americans may gain a sense of the new Greek artistic visions, and may be exposed to cinematic gems which would not otherwise be

accessible to them; and so that Greek filmmakers may have the opportunity to meet and network with American industry professionals, observe and learn about the creative processes and structures of the American film industry.

### **2019 LAGFF Sponsors**

Greek National Tourism Organization (GNTO) – The Greek National Tourism Organization is a public entity functioning under the supervision of the Ministry of Tourism. GNTO North America is aiming to the promotion of Greece as a 365-day destination, increasing awareness for Greece’s tourism product among the travelers from the United States and Canada.

Co-Presented By: Onassis Foundation - 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.

### **Gold Patrons:**

GP 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.

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 is known for its high-quality portfolio.

Festival Grantors: Elios Charitable Foundation, ELMA and Los Angeles Country Arts Commission. 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.

In Collaboration with: UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation

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