

13th

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



2019 Los Angeles Greek Film Festival Red Carpet Closing Night ORPHEUS Awards Ceremony Honors Valorie Massalas



The red carpet Closing Night of the 13th Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (LAGFF) was held Sunday, June 9th at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood. The West Coast premiere of Nikos Labot's "HER JOB", was followed by the Orpheus Awards Ceremony and an elegant reception in the outdoor courtyard of the Egyptian. Guests enjoyed Good Greek Grill, Georgos Wine, Pietris Bakery, Bakersland, and Sugarista and danced to Dimitris Mann & The Greek Rebetiko Trio. Festival Director Aris Katopodis opened the ceremony with a warm welcome to guests that included filmmakers, industry professionals, Greek VIPS and dignitaries. The Awards were co-hosted by popular actresses Patricia Kara and Elena Evangelo.

Emmy-nominated casting director and producer, Valorie Massalas was the 2019 Orpheus Award Honoree and received a standing ovation and cheers from the audience. She is a longtime LAGFF Advisory Board member and co-produced and cast the acclaimed *Gods and Monsters*, which was nominated for three Oscar Awards. Award winning actor-dancer and 2018 Orpheus Honoree, George Chakiris presented the Orpheus to Massalas.

A special Tribute Video for Massalas included heartfelt messages from A-list entertainers and friends such as Thaaos Penghlis, award-winning casting director- producer Ronnie Yeskel, and prominent director Randal Kleiser. The tribute video was directed by Constantinos Isaias.

"There were so many incredible films and talent this year", explained Festival Director Aris Katopodis. "Our distinguished jury panel looked at the films very closely. The awards, especially audience ones, were very close." Awards presenters were Kelly Vlahakis Hanks, Sunil

Sadarangani, Bobby Roth, James Axiotis, David Streit, Panos Vlahos, Ioanna Triantafyllidou, Soudabeh Moradian and George Chakiris. Several of the presenters also served on the LAGFF Jury.

Sponsors were provided gifts from Pylos Poems, Mani Imports, Florapy, and Thrive Market. A silent auction is currently in progress on lagff.org with proceeds towards the continuation of the festival. Items include a vacation in Greece, fine jewelry, designer handbags, art, and more.

And The Winners Are...

Best Feature Film: Pause by Tonia Mishiali



Special Feature Jury Award: Still River by Angelos Frantzis



Best Documentary Film: Olympia by Harry Mavromichalis



Special Documentary Jury Award: Obscuro Barroco by Evangelia Kranioti



Van Vlahakis Best Short Film: I Am Mackenzie by Artemis Anastassiadou



Best Director: Maria Lafi – for Holy Boom



Best Performance: Marisha Triantafyllidou for Her Job



Audience Award for Feature Film: 1/2 New Year directed by Tom Morash



Audience Award for Documentary: Obscuro Barroco by Evangelia Kranioti



Audience Award for Short Film: Flickering Souls Set Alight by Iakovos Panagopoulos



The International Project Discovery Forum Award (IPDF) Winners are:

IPDF AWARD: Elina Psykou, Patrimonial Fears and other symptoms



Honorable Mention - Telemachos Alexiou, The Voice of an Angel



MFI Scholarship - Cat Papadimitriou, Zagorohorror



LAGFF is a 501 © (3) non-profit organization and open to all filmgoers and patrons of the arts. The full program and Festival information is available at www.lagff.org

SOCIAL MEDIA: @lagff #LAGFF2019

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