

INAUGURAL

BALTIMORE GREEK FILM FESTIVAL

NOV. 2-4
2018

New and Notable films
from Greek Voices

mdfilmfest.com



MdFF

ΙΣΝ/ΣΝΦ

ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

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NEW AND NOTABLE FILMS FROM GREEK VOICES

Over the last decade, MdFF has proudly championed the work of Greek cinema's visionary filmmakers. Through our annual festival, we have hosted a variety of emerging works, from early highlights of the Greek Weird Wave, such as Yorgos Lanthimos' *Dogtooth*, to striking, independent dramas like *Boy Eating the Bird's Food*. With the SNF Parkway's inaugural Baltimore Greek Film Festival, MdFF again celebrates the thriving output of Greek filmmakers with a cross section of recent works.

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ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

11/2 • 5:00 PM

11/4 • 1:45 PM



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Director: Christos Georgiou 2017 • Greece, France, Cyprus, Germany • 88 MIN

Cast: Nefeli Kouri, Dimitris Imellos, and Mirto Alikaki

A short distance from the demonstrations taking place in the center of Athens, a bus load of riot policemen narrowly avoid the explosion of a petrol bomb. For a brief moment, a member of the squad, George glimpses his daughter Margarita among the demonstrators, before losing her in a cloud of tear gas. At home, the depth of their fraught relationship is explored against the backdrop of the father's birthday. As George struggles with the burgeoning independence of his daughter and flails in the absence of common ground between them, matriarch Sofia grows concerned for her daughter's safety within the city, as well as about the intolerance of her husband. On the occasion of his birthday, Sofia convinces the father/daughter pair to travel together to their country home, in order to rebuild their relationship. Over the next couple days, their dynamic achieves new harmonies and is tested by new conflicts.

Official Selection: Thessaloniki International Film Festival
Seattle International Film Festival

11/2 • 7:15 PM

11/3 • 4:00 PM



HOW TO STEAL A CHAIR

Director: Konstantinos Kambouroglou

2017 • USA, Greece • 87 MIN

Documentary Subject: Stergios Delialis

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR FOLLOWING EACH SCREENING

A 72-year-old Greek designer, collector and educator is buried under the weight of his lost dream: the Thessaloniki Design Museum, which made an international splash and then died a slow and peculiar death in the 1990s. He is also buried under the weight of his enormous design collection, once the core of his museum and now defunct and too costly to maintain amidst the financial crisis. The film follows Stergios Delialis as he realizes he has become a ghost in his own life and contemplates parting with his collection. Meanwhile, he undertakes work to produce a retrospective of his own design output in the building of his lost museum.

Official Selection: Buenos Aires International Festival of Independent Cinema
Architecture Film Festival Rotterdam

PITY

Director: **Babis Makridis**

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11/2 • 9:30 PM

11/3 • 9:30 PM



PARK

Director: Sofia Exarchou

2016 • Greece, Poland • 100 MIN

Cast: Dimitris Kitsos, Dimitra Vlagopoulou, and Thomas Bo Larsen

More than ten years on from the summer Olympic Games, the Olympic village in Athens has been colonised by weeds and a group of displaced teenagers. They hang around in the disused training facilities (overgrown swimming pools and sports fields) and the deserted changing rooms and showers. The main character is Dimitri, a young man who realises that there is no future for him in the former Olympic village, but doesn't know how to get away from it. He gets into a relationship with the former athlete Anna, who had to give up sports after a serious injury and now has few illusions about life. With a cast of mainly non-professional actors filmed with a handheld camera in her feature debut, director Sofia Exarchou captures the raw, unguided energy of seemingly hopeless Greek youth. At the same time, this is a sensitive coming-of-age film about one such youth.

"Life changing and universal."

– Abel Ferrara (*Bad Lieutenant*)

11/3 • 7:15 PM

11/4 • 4:15 PM



PITY

Director: **Babis Makridis**

2018 • Greece, Poland • 97 MIN

Cast: Yannis Drakopoulos, Evi Saoulidou, and Nota Tserniasfski

The life of an affluent lawyer is dominated by his comatose wife. People keep asking about her state of health and shower him with consoling glances and embraces. When she unexpectedly wakes up, that comes to an end. Which is unbearable for this nondescript, nameless man. He actually derives his identity from this misery; without sympathy he feels empty. Whenever he receives sympathy, dramatic music swells; he has become addicted to it. The pleasant, orderly, sun-drenched world of the protagonist, played by comedian Yannis Drakopoulos, contrasts with his need for sadness and his absurd and slowly increasingly gruesome behaviour. He will inevitably go off the rails.

"A disturbing and oftentimes very funny satire-drama, Pity is about that complex, primal human craving called empathy and the distance we're willing to go to summon it."

— Tomris Laffly, *RogerEbert.com*

11/3 • 1:30 PM

11/4 • 7:00 PM



SMUGGLING HENDRIX

Director: Marios Piperides

2018 • Cyprus, Germany, Greece • 93 MIN

Cast: Adam Bousdoukos, Fatih Al, Vicky Papadopoulou, and Özgür Karadeniz

Yiannis, a fading musician, is planning to leave crisis-ridden Cyprus for a better life abroad. His plans are put on hold when his dog Jimi runs away and crosses the UN buffer zone that divides the “Greek” from the “Turkish” side of the island. Since animal exchange between the two “sides” is prohibited, Yiannis reluctantly joins forces with Hasan, a Turkish settler, and a cast of unexpected characters to smuggle his best friend back. Through the simple story of a man who loses his dog, *Smuggling Hendrix* gives a vivid demonstration of how the fences we build, both real and imagined, between ourselves and others, can be broken down once we recognize the familiarity in the face of the unknown.

“[A] delightful, droll, and intelligent comedy... captures the absurdity and tragedy of a complicated political situation with a consistently light touch.”

— Alissa Simon, *Variety*