



ΤΑΙΝΙΟΘΗΚΗ
ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ
> Μ Ο Υ Σ Ε Ι Ο
ΚΙΝΗΜΑΤΟΓΡΑΦΟΥ

PRESS RELEASE

9th ATHENS AVANT GARDE FILM FESTIVAL

17-29 OCTOBER 2018

GREEK FILM ARCHIVE

FIRST LOOK

The 9th AAGF will take place on 17-29 October 2018 at the **Greek Film Archive (venues 1, 2)** and **Exile Room**, holding many surprises, and aspiring to highlight what is most fresh and groundbreaking in world cinema today.

The competitive programme **First Look** is a new addition to the Avant-Garde Film Festival. **Its aim is to explore and discover new talents from all over the world, that have provoked, and created an international “stir” with their boldness.** It is a space for feature films, from first-time filmmakers, ranging from fiction to documentary, with a single common denominator: that the director has a unique story to share with his/her audience. Unlikely heroes, doomed couples, solitary characters, sui generis geniuses of art, family bonds, violent murders, reconciliation between siblings, the repercussions of war, teenage friendships, are some of the issues that new directors are concerned with.

With influences from Kafka to Goethe, the **First Look** traces new forms of narration and avant-garde cinematic language, which recreate the boundaries of storytelling. This years programme, includes **nine feature films**, that will be screened in their nationwide greek premiere. The **winning film will be guaranteed commercial distribution** in art cinemas in Greece (Greek Film Archive, Danaos, Mikrokosmos, Trianon and in Thessaloniki Makedonikon).

Let's see what we will see:

- **Nina** by Olga Chajdas (Poland)

After twenty years, Nina's marriage to Wojtek is going nowhere, partly because of their failed attempts to have children. When they meet a young woman, Magda, they decide to propose that she become a surrogate mother for their child. But things get more complicated when Nina suddenly feels attracted to Magda.

- **My Name Is Myeisha** by Gus Krieger (USA)

A powerful, thoughtful and haunting film based on a stage production that dramatises a 1998 US police shooting. The film imagines teen Myeisha's thoughts in the moments before she is shot 12 times by police while dozing in her car. Rhaechyl Walker mesmerises as the complex Myeisha. The film cleverly utilises music, poetry and drama in seeking to represent the many layers of this young woman, while never eulogising her. The tragic story of a black life lost and a contemplation of what might have been.

- **The Pigeon** by Banu Sivacı (Turkey)

On a rooftop in Adana, Yusuf cares for the pigeons in his dovecote. His favourite bird is called Maverdi. To lure it even closer, he sometimes puts a seed between his lips for it to peck. The light grey pigeon is an outsider in the dovecote, just as Yusuf is in society, where he has to face ignorance and violence. The young man's face rarely brightens up, and the pressure from his brother to go out to work makes things even worse.

- **The Image You Missed**, documentary by Donal Foreman (Ireland, France, USA, United Kingdom)

"An American in Paris making films about Ireland" – this is how Donal Foreman describes his father, Arthur MacCaig, in *The Image You Missed*, Foreman's fascinating film essay about his father – someone he had little contact with. During his career, Irish-American MacCaig (1948-2008) made films about the conflict in Northern Ireland and left behind a visual archive spanning thirty years – images Foreman uses to find out what he has in common with his father.

- **The Dive** by Yona Rozenkier (Israel)

It is Thursday and another war is hitting the northern part of Israel hard. Three brothers reunite in their childhood kibbutz to bury their father. The youngest is to go to war two days later. While he seeks guidance from his older brothers, who have both experienced the battlefield, the homecoming soon spins out of control.

- **Faust**, documentary by Andrea Bussmann (Mexico, Canada)

On the Oaxacan coast of Mexico, rumblings of previous times are never far from the surface. Tales of shapeshifting, telepathy and dealings with the Devil are embedded in the colonization and enslavement of the Americas. Characters from the Faust legend mingle with the inhabitants, while attempting to colonize and control nature through a seemingly never-ending building project. Through literature, myth and local entanglements, the frontier between reality and fiction, and the seen and unseen, no longer apply.

- **Charlie and Hannah's Grand Night Out** by Bert Scholiers (Belgium)

Bert Scholiers jumps all over the place in his imaginative feature debut. One moment we are in an Antwerp pub, the next we are walking across an expanse of snow, then in a cosmic black hole or chasing a flying pineapple. This is how best friends Charlie and Hannah's drink-fuelled night pans out after swallowing a magical sweet that changes the world surrealistically – also for everyone around them.

- **Suburban Birds** by Qiu Sheng (China)

Some ground subsidence has occurred in a suburban area and a team of engineers, including Hao, is dispatched to investigate the cause. After days of wandering around in the empty suburb looking for answers and carrying his heavy gear, Hao walks into a primary school where he finds a diary chronicling the story of a boy and the separation of what seems to be an intimate group. As the investigation keeps going, Hao discovers that this diary might contain prophecies about his own life.

- **Shut Up and Play the Piano** documentary by Philipp Jedicke (Germany, Great Britain)

Chilly Gonzales is a Grammy-winning composer, virtuoso pianist and entertainer. Criss-crossing between rap, electro and solo piano music, he became the outrageous pop performer who invited himself to the ivory tower of classical music. The eccentric artist inspires and collaborates with the likes of Feist, Jarvis Cocker, Peaches, Daft Punk and Drake. Change seems to be the only constant in Gonzales' journey. Every time his audience thinks it has finally figured him out, he makes a radical move and breaks with its expectations.

First Look Jury: **Angelos Frantzis** (director), **Vassilis Douvlis** (director) and **Helmut Wietz** (filmmaker, producer)

SALES

Ticket price per screening: 5 EUR

VIVA

<https://www.viva.gr/tickets/cinemas/tainiothiki-ellados/9o-festival-protoporiakou-kinimatografou/>

Long term cards :

A. Card for 5 screenings: 20 EUR

B. Card for 10 screenings: 35 EUR

C. Card for 20 screenings: 60 EUR

. Card for 20 screenings: 45 EUR for those with special needs, the unemployed and students.

INFO

<http://9aagff.tainiothiki.gr/>

Download the catalogue here:

<http://bit.do/9AAGFF-Catalogue>

Download the timetable here:

<http://bit.do/9AAGFF-Timetable>

Press Release 9th AAGFF:

<http://bit.do/9AAGFF-PressReleaseEN>

Greek Film Archive

Iera Odos 48 and Megalou Alexandrou, metro Keramikos, tel. 210 3612046

Exile Room

Athinas 12, 3rd floor, metro Monastiraki, tel. 210 3223395



Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης

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ΥΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΑΙΓΙΔΑ



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ΧΟΡΗΓΟΙ ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΣ



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GREEK FILM ARCHIVE

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