



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

After three years of absence, the Athens Avant-Garde Film Festival, the Greek Film Archive's favourite establishment, keenly returns.

The 9th AAGFF will take place on 17-29 October 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 opening will take place on Wednesday 17 October (entrance with invitation only) with the new film by **Jean-Luc Godard, The Image Book**, that will screen in its **Nationwide Greek Premiere**. The film, a cinematic essay with horror film elements in which the french auteur incorporates harsh images of contemporary events in the modern world, had its world premiere in this year's Cannes Film Festival.

* True to the themes that the public has embraced in its eight-years of existence, with a strong international competition programme, and retrospective tributes to great avant garde filmmakers, but simultaneously introducing new surprise-sections — this year's festival traces cinematic avenues of roads less travelled, just as is dictated by its cinephile origins: The Greek Film Archive. **In total 100 films will be screened, whilst four free screenings have been organized for the public.**

* In the **first competitive section** of the 9th AAGFF titled **2 Narrate or Not**, we will see long-awaited films, such as the new film by distinguished Filipino Director Lav Diaz, the four hour musical **Season of the Devil**, a harsh but at the same time poetic rock opera with impressive black and white cinematography, that focuses on the authoritarian military regime imposed in the Philippines in the late 1970's. Diaz turns his camera onto a village, that is plagued by corruption, violation of every human right and total lack of freedom. However, in every rape and beating, Diaz counterpoints with a cheerful song... In the International Competition we will also see **Sophia Antipolis** by Virgil Vernier,

who places his action in the homonymous industrial region of France, with epicenter the death of a young girl, up to **Mila** by the French photographer of Armenian origin Valérie Massadian, an old acquaintance of the festival, who observes with her camera a youthful love.

* The **second competitive section** of the Avant-Garde Film Festival, is addressed to first time filmmakers with a “fresh” gaze (**First Look**). Amongst the films that will be screened is the hip-hop musical **My Name Is Myeisha** by Gus Krieger, a film themed with police violence in America (an issue that remains tragically topical...), and the documentary by Philipp Jedicke **Shut Up and Play the Piano**, with protagonist the unpredictable and multitalented musician Chilly Gonzales. The German director will be in attendance at the screening. After the end of the movie (Saturday 20/10, 21:15) a party at “Skoufaki” (Skoufa 47) will take place.

Both programmes consist entirely of films that will screen for the first time in Greece. It is worth noting that the festival will include, in its two competitive sections, films of all kind without distinguishing between fiction, documentary and animation — hence the title of the International Competition: **2 Narrate or Not**.

* And because... **Some Like It Short**, the 9th AAGFF promises an interesting programme with short films. Two filmmakers will be here to present their films, Marta Mateus with **Barbs, Wasteland** and Alcaeus Spyrou who filmed **Anina** (United Kingdom) inside a container ship, without dialogue. We will see among others, a film from Sweden with Aris Servetalis: **When I Die the World Ends** (Jennifer Rainsford).

* The section **Midnight Stories** includes film-surprises with humour and unexpected points of view, that promise to make the nights of all night owls, more exciting. Amongst them the film **Cassandra, the Exotico!** by Marie Losier, in which the protagonist, a transvestite wrestler triumphantly breaks all macho stereotypes, as well as the delightful small musical **Hard Way: The Action Musical** by Daniel Vogelmann, which satirizes the most well known action films.

* Also of interest are the **Special Screenings**. Amongst them the cinematic portrait of the great Japanese Artist Yayoi Kusama titled **Kusama: Infinity** (Heather Lenz), but also the documentary about the famous photographer Garry Winogrand titled **Garry Winogrand: All Things Are Photographable** (Sasha Waters Freyer). Music lovers will also be honoured with a series of musically themed movies,

concerning themselves with famous bands such as the Velvet Underground (**The Velvet Underground Played at My High School**) and the Stilts (**Here to Be Heard: The Story of the Stilts**). Also of interest is the subject matter of the documentary **Hitlers Hollywood** (Rüdiger Suchsland), which examines the famous propagandistic cinema of the Third Reich.

* We remind you that in its eight years of life, the Athens Avant-Garde Film Festival has paid tributes to pioneers of international cinema such as Leos Carax, Pedro Costa, Harun Farocki as well as our own Yannis Economides. This year it is **Mark Rappaport's** turn, an American underground film director, for whom the festival will include a large retrospective tribute that will include the **International Premiere** of his new film, **America's Grandpa** (2018). Best known for his unconventional cinematic essays **The Private Life of Rock Hudson** (1992) and **The Journals of Jean Seberg** (1995), Mark Rappaport is currently based in Paris. This is the first time that his extensive work will be presented in Greece (16 films).

* Meanwhile this year's organization is preparing to welcome the important Chinese-British film director and feminist **Xiaolu Guo**, one of the most significant authors in Britain today, as well as the French Avant-Garde filmmaker **Philippe Grandrieux**, to whom it will hold great retrospective tributes in collaboration with the British Council and the French Institute in Greece.

Phillipe Grandrieux's cinema is a cinema that is experienced, and as has been written it "attacks the senses". The Festival will screen his new film **Unrest** in its European Premiere. It is the third part in Grandrieux's trilogy (**White Epilepsy** (2012) and **Meurtriére** (2015) being the first two) an experimental, sexually charged film with its epicenter being the naked, human body.

The search for an identity and the critical gaze, both towards her hometown and her present homeland, characterize the work of **Xiaolu Guo** — provoking reactions from both sides. The 9th AAGFF will screen the European Premiere of Xaiolu Guo's latest film, **Five Men and a Caravaggio**, which observes the relationship between four men living in London and one in China, on occasion of a copy of a work by Caravaggio. Their nomadic wanderings touch on the liquidity of identities in a globalised environment and are embellished with discussions on philosophy, art and ethics.

All three filmmakers will be present at the festivals and will be giving a master class:

Philippe Grandrieux: Friday 19/10, 15:00-17:00, GREEK FILM ARCHIVE (A')

Xiaolu Guo: Friday 26/10, 15:30-17:30, GREEK FILM ARCHIVE (A')

Mark Rappaport: Saturday 27/10, 12:00-14:00, EXILEROOM

* From a film festival by the Greek Film Archive, it would not be possible to do without the section **Restored and Beautiful**, with historic films from both the silent and talking eras of international cinema, that have been restored by the Greek Film Archive, as well as other important cinematographic records. New copies of films will be screened, from **Social Decay** by Stelios Tatasopoulos (the first narrative fiction film that dealt with the plight of the unemployed and poor working populations of the urban centres, but also the trade unions in Greece), up to **Once Upon A Time in the West** by Sergio Leone and **The Seventh Seal** by Ingmar Bergman, that don't require any special introductions.

* In the section titled **Revolutionary Songs**, a selection of films will be presented from different time periods and countries of the world, on the subject of various movements reclaiming their rights, that marked their era. We will screen lesser known or even forgotten films, for songs that bring to life our memories of revolutionary movements, such as **Joe Hill** by Bo Widerberg and **Which Side Are You On? Songs, poems and experiences of the Miners' Strike** by Ken Loach.

* This year's festival however, will not exclude greek filmmakers that have marked greek cinema with their art.

On the occasion of the choice of Eleusis as Cultural Capital of Europe for 2021, the Greek Film Archive has organized a tribute titled **Initiations**. The creators (**A. Angelidi, R. Koundouros, V. Skoura but also J. Cocteau and R. Carasco**) of the films' subject matter, were inspired by initiatory ceremonies, anthropology, greek and international mythology. Moreover, Initiation and rituals are a constituent element of Cinema. Due to the location of the Greek Film Archive, which is housed on Iera Odos (Sacred Way), but also the initiatory nature of Cinema in general, the Greek Film Archive launches this intriguing tribute, which will continue into the next organisations of the Athens Avant-Garde Film Festival — until the commencement of the events of the Cultural Capital in 2021.

In addition, one more **tribute to the great production designer Yorgos Ziakas**, in collaboration with the Greek Film Centre, gives occasion to recall some of the most important films of Theo Angelopoulos and one film by Yorgos Stambouloupolous. In this framework, on **23 October (19:30, Venue A')**, the artist's **new award-winning book** will also be presented, titled **"Yorgos Ziakas —**

Theatre, Cinema, Painting” (Themelio Editions), whilst earlier on **19 October (19:00, Cinema Museum of Greek Film Archive)**, there will be an **exhibition of the models and scenery** by **Yorgos Ziakas** from the films of **Th. Angelopoulos** and **Y. Stamboulopoulos**. The tribute is titled “Painting the Screen”.

* The curtains of the 9th Athens Avant-Garde Film Festival will close with the classic, black and white film **Bell’ Antonio** (Italy-France, 1960) by Mauro Bolognini, with Marcello Mastroianni and Claudia Cardinale, in a script by Pier Paolo Pasolini. In the closing ceremony a short concert will be given, which is titled “Pioneers for their time — an avant-garde combination of violin-cello” with Faidon Miliadis (violin) and Alexis Karaiskakis (Cello).

The opening and closing ceremonies will be curated by the director **Eleni Alexandraki**.

In the opening ceremony the film titled “...through images, sound and music of the films participating in the 9th Athens Avant-Garde Film Festival” will be screened, which has been composed by Eleni Alexandraki.

Director of the festival is **Maria Komninos**, Chairman of the Board of the Greek Film Archive.

JURIES

International Competition Jury: **Eva Orbanz** (curator), **Ioli Andreadi** (director), **Mayou Trikerioti** (production designer), **Mark Rappaport** (director) and **Menelaos Karamaghiolis** (director, screenwriter).

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

SEMINAR

On **Monday 22/10 (09:45 in the morning)** the Greek Film Archive and the Laboratory of Audiovisual Media of the Department of Communication and Media Studies, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, will organize the one day conference **Digital Cinephilia in the Archives: European Cities from Grain to Pixel** in the framework of the research platform I-MediaCities. The aim of this innovative cooperation platform is to achieve a greater accessibility and highlighting of a common european heritage. In the seminar, theoretical and methodological issues will be discussed that

concern - the relatively new - academic field of digital humanities, the researchers of I-Media Cities will talk about the platform, whilst the head of archives will discuss the policies that concern a European cultural heritage and future synergies. Those taking place will be academics, researchers, and representatives of film archives from nine cities (Athens, Barcelona, Vienna, Brussels, Copenhagen, Bologna, Stockholm, Torino, Frankfurt).

The seminar will take place in English.

INFO

General entrance: 5 EUR.

- A. Pass for 5 screening sections: 20€
- B. Pass for 10 screening sections: 35€
- C. Pass for 20 screening sections: 60€
- D. Concession pass for 20 screening sections: 45€ (for people with disabilities, students and the unemployed)

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

Greek Film Archive

Iera Odos 34 & Megalou Alexandrou, metro Keramikos, tel. 210 3612046

ExileRoom

Athinas 12, 3rd floor, metro Monastiraki, tel.2103223395



ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΟ
ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ
ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ
ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ



Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης

The 9th Athens Avant-Garde Film Festival is carried out in the context of "Cinephilia in the New Age II" which is funded by the European Union — European Regional Development Fund (Operational Programme ROP ATTIKI of NSRF 2014-2020). All actions are carried out under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports.

ΥΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΑΙΓΙΔΑ



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού
και Αθλητισμού

ΣΥΝΕΡΓΑΤΕΣ



*Embaixada de Portugal
Atenas*



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland



ΧΟΡΗΓΟΣ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΟΥ



ΧΟΡΗΓΟΙ ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΣ



ΠΡΩΤΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ
91,6 • 105,8
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΡΑΔΙΟΦΩΝΙΑ



Η ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΗ



Evanna Venardou
Head of Press Office
press@tainiothiki.gr



GREEK FILM ARCHIVE

Iera Odos 48 & Megalou Alexandrou 134-136, 104 35 Keramikos (Metro Station Keramikos), ([Map](#))

Phone: +30 210 3612046 & +30 210 3609695 (ext. 0117) | Fax: +30 210 3628468 | contact@tainiothiki.gr | <http://www.tainiothiki.gr> | <https://www.facebook.com/tainiothikigr> | twitter.com/tainiothikigr