



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**LOS ANGELES GREEK FILM FESTIVAL HAS 2014 BANNER YEAR FOR ACTIVITY  
TED SARANDOS, BILLY ZANE JOIN ADVISORY BOARD  
ANTHONY G. KATAGAS, STEVE NICOLAIDES ARE 2014 ORPHEUS HONOREES  
CINEMAX<sup>®</sup> TO PRESENT NEW GREEK CINEMA SIDEBAR  
PRESTIGIOUS JURY &  
INTERNATIONAL PROJECT DISCOVER FORUM MEMBERS ANNOUNCES  
PANELISTS AND EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
CASTING SEMINAR ADDED**

*8<sup>th</sup> Los Angeles Greek Film Festival June 4-8, Egyptian Theatre, Hollywood*

Los Angeles, CA (May 20, 2014) – Organizers of the 8<sup>th</sup> Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (June 4-8, Egyptian Theatre, Hollywood, CA) have announced the newest members to their advisory board, 2014 Orpheus honorees and an impressive list of industry professionals that will participate in this year's Jury, seminars and International Project Discovery Forum along with 2014 special events and a brand new Greek New Wave Cinema section.

Leading this year's announcements is the installation this month of Netflix Chief Content Officer **Ted Sarandos** and award-winning actor/producer **Billy Zane** ("Titanic") to the **LAGFF Advisory Board**. Sarandos and Zane join a stellar list of industry leaders including President of HBO Miniseries and Cinemax<sup>®</sup> Programming Kary Antholis, Academy Award-winning actress Olympia Dukakis, Producer and former President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Sid Ganis, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of Fox Filmed Entertainment Jim Gianopulos, Award-winning Director Alexander Payne and Cinematographer Phedon Papamichael among others.

The Special Orpheus Award honorees were also announced. Producers **Anthony G. Katagas** ("12 Years a Slave") and **Steve Nicolaides** ("A Few Good Men," "When Harry Met Sally,") will take center stage at the Closing Night Gala and Orpheus Awards Ceremony on Sunday evening, June 8. The Orpheus, the Festival's highest honor will be presented after the Closing Night screening of Yorgos Tsemberopoulos "The Enemy Within." International renowned funny man **Angelo Tsarouchas** and actress **Tracy Spiridakos** (*Revolution*) will be on hand to present the

festival's Audience Choice and Best Feature awards respectively. **Christos Vasilopoulos** (*Banshee*) and newcomer **Chrissa Loukas** will host the show. The latter two join a roster of notables who previously hosted the Awards including Tsarouchas, Fashion Police's **George Kotsiopoulos**, actress/singer **Ariana Savalas**, Billboard chart topper **Vassy**, actress/model **Patricia Kara** and actress **Debbie Matenopoulos**.

"We are overwhelmed by the list of talented industry professionals that are joining us in 2014." States Festival co-founder Ersi Danou. "It is a testament that the festival is making its mark as a forerunner of international and independent cinema."

*Edgy, bold and risk-taking* these are just some of the adjectives used to describe the New Greek Cinema movement, and LAGFF has created a sidebar to showcase these films. Presented by **CINEMAX®**, the **NEW GREEK CINEMA** section will be scheduled throughout the festival and include four award-winning drama selections - **Yorgos Servetas' "Stand Aside Watching"** ( Na kathesai kai na koitas,) -winner- 2014 Cyprus Film Days Global Images Award and 2014 Hellenic Film Academy Award, Nikos Yorgakis Best Supporting Actor; winner of 2012 Karlovy Vary IFF – Work in progress (Best Film) **Elina Psykou's "The Eternal Return of Antonis Paraskevas"** (I aionia epistrofi tou Antoni Paraskeva); the Greek/UK/French co-production of **Aran Hughes and Christina Koutsospyrou's "To The Wolf"** (Sto lyko); and **Alexandros Avranas' "Miss Violence"** (2013 Venice Film Festival - won Best Euro-Mediterranean Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Film in the section 'Young Cinema Award').

The five-member **Jury** for 2014, who will select and present the Orpheus Award winners for Best Feature Film, Documentary and Short Film, include Variety Deputy Editor **Peter Caranicas**, award-winning writer **Larry Karaszewski**, ("Ed Wood, ""Man on the Moon, "Co-Founder & CEO Emerald Peak Entertainment LLC ), **Christopher Kikis**, International Sales & Acquisitions at Arclight Films **Athena Nash**, and Loyola Marymount's Professor of Classics **Dr. Katerina Zacharia**. With the exception of the opening night film Nick Cassavetes' "The Other Woman," all films in the festival are eligible and Awards will be presented at the Closing Night Gala.

One of the key events at the festival is the **International Project Discovery Forum (IPDF)**, an ambitious 4-day development program whose aim is to discover and nurture great international independent projects while bridging Greek, Cypriot, Balkan and American Cinema. The 6 finalists become part of an intense pitching session to influential entertainment professionals. Professionals also offer one-on-one mentor sessions to the filmmakers as well as participate in roundtable discussions and programs. One overall winner is selected from the final project presentations and receives a monetary prize and a scholarship to the Mediterranean Film Institute, a prestigious European screenwriting program taking place annually in Nissyros, Greece. This year's IPDF industry professionals include Group Pitching (Thursday, June 5) with writer/producer **Bobette Buster** (author of DO STORY: How to Tell Your Story So the World listens);

**Five programs are being offered free and are open to the public:**

**Industry Roundtable - Feature Film Development:** Speakers include San Francisco Film Society's **Athena Kalkopoulou**, **Kelly Tomas** (VP of JuntoBox Films' Incubator Initiative), Slamdance Festival Director **Anna Germanidi**, and Sundance International Director, **Paul Federbush**.

**Industry Roundtable – TV/Web series:** With professionals from the industry. Serial content production models are constantly changing, always exploring new media platforms as well as creating exciting content and viewing experiences.

**Special Focus – Audience Engagement & Crowd Funding:** A discussion on what makes a successful crowd funding film campaign and how to engage your audience through different platforms. Speakers: **Joseph Beyer** (Digital Initiatives, Director, Sundance Institute), **Missy Laney** (ArtistServices, Sundance Institute).

**Case Study – Microbudget Filmmaking:** **Stelana Kliris** introduces in this case study her film "Committed," that will be presented at the Eighth Los Angeles Greek Film Festival. Kliris is a South African Cypriot writer/director with a background in editing and production on international films and commercial productions. "Committed" (2014) is her first feature film.

**A Conversation with Casting Director Valorie Massalas:** The festival will also present the seminar "**A Conversation with Casting Director Valorie Massalas**" ("Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," "Gods and Monsters.") The seminar is an open forum for actors, filmmakers, and those interested in the cinematic arts to discuss the process of casting selection in film and TV with the award-winning Casting Director on Sun, May 18, 2014

**BOXOFFICE** for LAGFF is now open for Gold Pass Membership, individual screening and purchases online at [www.itsmyseat.com/LAGFF.html](http://www.itsmyseat.com/LAGFF.html)

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#### **ABOUT LAGFF**

The Los Angeles Greek Film Festival showcases new films from Greek filmmakers worldwide. Our foremost goal is to promote Greek cinema and cultural exchange while bridging the gap between Greek filmmakers and Hollywood. Orpheus Awards are given to the most outstanding new films in the dramatic, documentary and short film categories.

#### **ABOUT LAGFF SPONSORS**

The 2014 Los Angeles Greek Film Festival is grateful for the support of numerous key sponsors, including:

LAGFF is proud to receive the support of **Greek National Tourism Organization**.

Visitgreece.gr is the official tourism web site for Greece, run by the Greek National Tourism Organization, where you'll find information on the main tourist destinations, such as cities, beaches, as well as activities, events and much more! (link:<http://www.visitgreece.gr/>)

### **Platinum Patrons**

Patron Pabst Brewing Company, Hostess Brands and the Metropoulos Family. We are very proud to once again welcome the **Pabst Brewing Company** and the Metropoulos Family as a Platinum Patron of Los Angeles Greek Film Festival 2014 Pabst Brewing Company is an award-winning American company that was founded in 1844. It brews over two dozen brands of beer, including the much-loved Pabst Blue Ribbon (PBR). The Company supports several community events and worthy organizations. This year, it presents LAGFF's most high profile event, Closing Night.

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### **Silver Patrons**

LAGFF is proud to welcome back G.P. Kolovos & Associates and the Kolovos Family, a longstanding sponsor since the Festival's inception.

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Earth Friendly Products has proudly received the 2010 GEELA Award for Sustainable Business Practices, 2009 Green Patriot™ Green 100™ Designation and the Champion level recognition from the US EPA, through the Design for the Environment (DfE) Program's Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative. The company's solar division, Progressive Power Group, is just another example of how Earth Friendly Products is a sustainable business leader.

**Other Festival sponsors include** American Hellenic Council, Cinemax®, Hollywood Foreign Press Association, Hellenic American Medical and Dental Society of Southern California, West Coast Investors, Astro Burger, Hellenic University Club, and more. The Festival receives a grant from ELMA, an organization dedicated to promoting European Cinema in America.

