

## 2018 Los Angeles Greek Film Festival Announces Premieres



The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual **Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (LAGFF)** has revealed its 2018 program selection after reviewing a record 175 film submissions. The Festival runs June 4-10 at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood and includes 11 feature films, 15 documentaries, 27 shorts, as well as industry-lead roundtables, panels and masterclasses - [lagff.org](http://lagff.org)

LAGFF celebrates the best new films from Greek filmmakers worldwide and promotes Greek cinema and cultural exchange while bridging the gap between the filmmakers and Hollywood. “Greek Cinema continues to impress and produce,” explains **Artistic & Festival Director Aristotle Katopodis**. “Greek filmmakers keep winning major awards at international film festivals and we are proud to host over 50 of the best and most innovative Greek films from around the world, for the 12th time. Greece is vigorously entering the incentives arena for international productions, and FILMING IN GREECE is one of our themes to explore this year.”

### Themes for the 2018 Festival

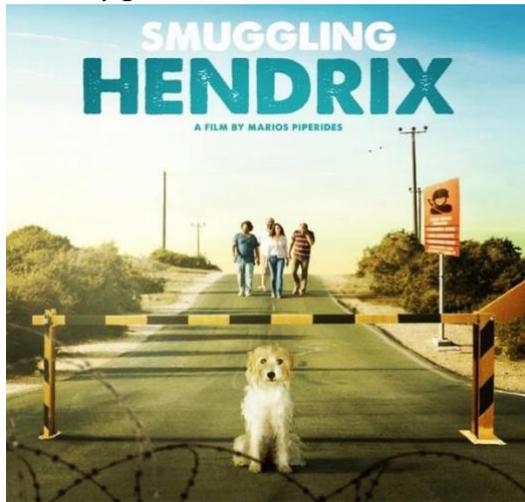
- Music and how it informs Greek films.
- Greeks in the Academy, A tribute to the Greek artists who have received an Academy Award or Oscar Nomination since 1935.
- Filming in Greece, the new financing laws, incentives and rebates.

**Opening Night (June 4 at 7pm)** begins with a screening of the West Coast premiere of “**1968**” directed by **Tassos Boulmetis** at **UCLA’s James Bridges Theater**. 1968 is the story of how the well-known Greek basketball team A.E.K. founded in 1924 by refugees from Constantinople, beat SLAVIA of Prague to win the European Cup at Kallimarmaro Stadium, and changed Greek history forever.



The evening launches the strategic collaboration of LAGFF and the newly established **UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture**. The screening will be followed by Q & A with Boulmetis (a Bruin alumnus) and a reception in his honor.

**Opening Night (June 6 at 7pm)** – The West Coast premiere of **Marios Piperides'** comedy “Smuggling Hendrix” will open **LAGFF at the Egyptian** on June 6. The award winning film recently garnered “Best International Narrative Feature” at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival.



Filmmakers will be in attendance, and the red carpet evening includes the screening, a catered reception in the Egyptian's iconic courtyard and a special performance by popular singer-songwriter Annet Artani.

In “Smuggling Hendrix,” 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 to the occupied side of the island. Through the simple story of a man who searches for 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.

**Closing Night (June 10)** – The West Coast premiere of **Thodoris Atheridis'** “Perfect Strangers” will close LAGFF at the Egyptian, followed by the star-studded **Orpheus Awards Ceremony**, a catered Greek reception and live entertainment (TBA) under the stars in the courtyard.



This delightful comedic film involves seven friends who meet for dinner on a Friday night. An idea emerges. Every text and call they receive through the night must be shared with the whole group. When the game forces complete transparency, secrets are revealed and relationships are deeply threatened.

The **Orpheus Awards** are given to the outstanding new films in the dramatic, documentary and short film category. The theme of this year’ ceremony is “*The Academy*

*of Greeks*”, paying tribute to Greek artists who have received an Academy Award or Oscar Nomination since 1935. The Best Supporting Actor of “**West Side Story**”, **George Chakiris**, will be one of the honorees this year with actress **Rita Moreno** presenting his Award.

### **Festival Sponsors**

**Platinum Patrons:** Aegean Entertainment & The Metropoulos Family - Marianne Metropoulos, President of Aegean Entertainment, founded the company in 1999. Currently in post-production is a feature film titled CLIFFS OF FREEDOM, based on the original fictional story Metropoulos wrote in 1996, about a young village woman’s journey through personal family

tragedy who becomes a famous freedom fighter during the Greek Revolution of 1821. “The Hellenes”, a series based upon Greece’s 400 year occupation by the Ottoman Empire, is currently out to various networks. A documentary about climate change and its devastating effects on our planet is slated for production in 2018 and will be hosted by Dean Metropoulos.

Co-Presenter: The Onassis Foundation (USA) is committed to the promotion of Greek culture. By cooperating with educational and cultural institutions in Greece and the Americas, it promotes cultural relations. The Onassis Cultural Center NY, founded in 2000, explores Greek culture, from antiquity to today, through a diverse program of exhibitions, events and online engagement. Located in midtown Manhattan, the renovated space offers experiences that inspire and support interaction between audiences and artists in all cultural fields from visual arts, dance, film, music and theater to the humanities. Programs—for novices and scholars— are presented free of charge.

Gold Patrons: G.P. Kolovos & Associates - With a history of success in the real estate world and philanthropy, the Kolovos Family have been with LAGFF since its inception, and have been instrumental in its growth.

Silver Patrons: Earth Friendly Products, is the maker of ECOS™ Laundry Detergent and over 200 other environmentally friendly products that are safer for people, pets and the planet. Made with plant-powered ingredients, ECOS™ cleaners are thoughtfully sourced, pH balanced, readily biodegradable, easily recyclable and never tested on animals. Earth Friendly Products is a primary manufacturer that makes its own products in sustainable manufacturing facilities located across the U.S. All Earth Friendly Products facilities are carbon neutral, water neutral and Zero Waste Platinum certified, saving over 53 million pounds of carbon dioxide annually and diverting over 95% of all waste from landfills. Over 100 ECOS™ products have received the coveted U.S. EPA Safer Choice certification, which means that every ingredient is the safest in its class and that the product has proven superior performance. ECOS™, Disney Baby ECOS™, ECOS for Pets! and ECOS™ Pro cleaners are available at selected major retailers throughout the U.S., in over 60 countries and online at ecos.com.

West Coast Investors: Based in Santa Monica, California, West Coast Investors is a private real estate company specializing in the acquisition and management of premier retail property in prime locations and prestigious markets. Founded in 1989 by James Argyropoulos, they have become known for the high quality of their portfolio, which consists of more than 60 retail and mixed-use properties primarily in Southern California, as well as in Maui and Miami.

Grand Contributor: Good Greek Grill specializes in real, authentic Greek food. From their simple traditional ingredients to their authentic slow roasted pork gyro, they stay true to the food that their Greek families have prepared for generations and serve only the freshest ingredients, from their homemade salad dressing and homemade tzatziki to their fresh produce that is cut daily. Leave what you thought about Greek food at the door and let yourself be transported to the streets of Greece through your taste buds.

Bronze Patrons: Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), CINEMAX, Marcus & Millichap, Jim Gianopulos and ReedSmith.

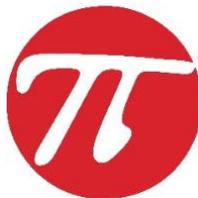
Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (Balkan Cultural Center) recognizes and thanks the Onassis Foundation USA, and Elios Charitable Foundation for their vital support.

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Special thanks go to ELMA, an organization dedicated to the promotion of European Cinema in America and to GNTTO (Greek National Tourist Organization) for their support.

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