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For Immediate Release

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**11TH LOS ANGELES GREEK FILM FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES 2017 ORPHEUS AWARD WINNERS**

**AUDIENCE AWARD “THE OTHER ME”
ORPHEUS BEST FEATURE FILM “AMERIKA SQUARE”
ORPHEUS BEST DOCUMENTARY “PATRIARCHS ROOM”
VAN VLAHAKIS ORPHEUS BEST SHORT FILM “PLAY”
ORPHEUS BEST PERFORMANCE CONSTANTINOS FARMAKAS**

**IPDF AEGEAN AWARD
HASAN SERIN “I WILL NO LONGER BE SOMEONE ELSE”
MFI SCRIPT2PITCH RESIDENCY
THELYIA PETRAKI “BRAZIL”**

ALEXANDER PAYNE 2017 HONORARY ORPHEUS AWARD

June 11, 2017 - Los Angeles. **The 11th Annual Los Angeles Greek Film Festival** came to a close Sunday, June 11, with several honors being awarded at the **Orpheus Awards** ceremony **hosted by writer/producer/director Demetri Martin** (“Dean”).

Opening the show was **John Gilkey’s** comedy acting ensemble **Wet The Hippo** who warmed the audience up with a tribute to film via **Tyler Watson** while **Pearl Merrill, Max Baumgarten,** and **Eli Weinberg** punctuated Watson’s speech with their own kind of interpretive dance, impassioned monologues, and absurdist humor of this year’s festival themes, “Building Bridges” and “10+1”.

Introductions by Festival Creative topper **Aris Katopodis** and producer **Eleni Arvaniti** were on hand to thank the filmmakers and sponsors and then the show’s host Martin took the stage.

Earth Friendly Products **Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks** handed out the evening's first awards with the **Van Vlahakis Best Short Film Orpheus** (named after her late father and Festival supporter), with the statue going to **Vangelis Liberopoulos' "Play"**. **Special Jury Award** went to **Konstantina Kotzamani's "Limbo"**. Earth Friendly Products, celebrating 50 years in business, has been a sponsor for the festival since its inception.

Actor **Simon Kassianides** ("Unforgettable") then presented the **Jury Orpheus for Best Documentary** to **Danae Elon's "Patriarch's Room"** **Special Jury Award** was picked up by duo **Dim Papageorgiou, Alexandros Spathis** for their documentary **"Janus: Refugee Passage to Europe."**

Feature Jury members director **Steven Bernstein** ("Decoding Annie Parker"), Variety's **Peter Caranicas** stepped to the podium to award **Yannis Sakarides'** hard-hitting drama and opening night film **"Amerika Square"** **Best Feature Orpheus**. **Special Jury** prize went to the closing night film by **Elina Psykou - "Son of Sofia"**. They then gave **Constantinos Farmakas** the **Best Performance** honors for his riveting portrayal of a young boy coming of age in **"Boy On The Bridge"** directed by **Petros Charalambous** with **Special Jury** award going to **Evangelia Andreadaki** for **"SMAC"** directed by **Elias Demetriou**.

Araceli Lemos, head of **The International Project Discovery Forum (IPDF)** which focuses on developing projects from Greece and the Balkans gave this year's **Aegean Award** to **Hasan Serin's I WILL NO LONGER BE SOMEONE ELSE** and the **MFI Script2Film Scholarship** to **Thelyia Petrakis' BRAZIL**. With her to present the awards was last year's IPDF winner **Nazli Elif Durlu**. IPDF, the youngest sidebar in the festival, just celebrated its fifth year with **Lemos** at the helm.

Christos Vassilopoulos ('The Last Ship', 'Banshee') then presented one of the night's top honors the **Audience Orpheus** award to **Sotiris Tsafoulias' "The Other Me."**

Paramount CEO/President Jim Gianopulos ended the evening presenting Oscar-winning writer/producer/director **Alexander Payne** with the **2017 Honorary Orpheus**.

The evening finished with Greek delicacies and dancing under the Hollywood stars.

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SPONSORS

Platinum Patrons:

Aegean Entertainment - 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 film is slated for theatrical release in late 2017. "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:

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Medix - Launched in 2001, Medix was built on the principle of becoming a leading provider of workforce solutions for clients and candidates across the Healthcare, Scientific and Information Technology industries. As we grow and evolve, we recognize our differentiation lies not just in

traditional staffing, but in true partnerships and collaboration on hiring solutions. We bring value to our talent by helping them identify their individual skills and aptitudes, matching them with opportunities to excel and creating communities where they can foster their skills and always have a trusted partner in their career. In supporting our clients, we understand that each organization and culture is unique, and we thrive in collaborating with our clients to provide innovative solutions to suit their specific needs. Through our core purpose of positively impacting lives, we're proud to partner with many philanthropies, including Camp Hometown Heroes and Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors.

Bronze Patrons: Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), Loyola Marymount University (LMU) - School of Film and Television/Bellarmino College of Liberal Arts and Huffington Ecumenical Institute, CINEMAX, Marcus & Millichap, Jim Gianopulos, and West Coast Investors.

Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (Balkan Cultural Center) recognizes and thanks **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.

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