



10th LOS ANGELES GREEK FILM FESTIVAL

ANNOUNCES

FOURTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL PROJECT DISCOVERY FORUM PROJECTS, JURY, FILMMAKERS, EXPERTS AND PANELISTS

(Los Angeles – May 24) - Now in its **fourth edition**, the **International Project Discovery Forum (IPDF)**, **Los Angeles Greek Film Festival's** (lagff.org) **Industry Section and development workshop** will present **six** impressive new **projects** by filmmakers from the **Balkans** and the **Middle-East** region.

IPDF Director **Araceli Lemos**, in talking about this year's selections remarks, "For this edition, we chose projects which are bold, diverse and thought-provoking. We are excited to meet all the filmmakers in person and work with them."

The **2016 IPDF projects** are from both new and established filmmakers. They are **Alexis Alexiou's** ("Wednesday 4:45") third feature project "**As Long As You Bleed**". **Vassilis Katsoupis** and producer **Giorgos Karnavas** present "**Inside**", Katsoupis' debut fiction feature. His documentary "**My Friends Larry Gus**" is **screening on Friday, June 3rd**. Karnavas is a prominent Greek producer, whose previous work "**The Eternal Paraskevas of Antonis Paraskevas**" and "**Boy Eating Bird's Food**" were worldwide festival favorites and screened in past editions of LAGFF.

Sol Goodman, an American producer with projects in the Middle East and North Africa, will present "**The Taste of Apple is Red**", a Syrian film by **Ehab Tarabieh**.

Three debut features will also be pitched: from **Turkey**, **Nazlı Elif Durlu** and her producer **Anna -Maria Aslanoglu** present "**Zuhal**". From **Greece's Harris Raftogiannis**, comes "**The River**", and **Serbia's Stefan Malešević** will offer up "**USUD**".

A **four-member jury** of entertainment professionals will decide the winning project after hearing the final pitches on Sunday, June 5th. The 2016 IPDF **Jury members** are producer at Gunpowder & Sky, **David Harris**, **Rebecca Katz** from the Creative Producing Initiative of the Sundance Institute; Participant Media's **Ioanna Varikos**, and producer and co-founder of Extraordinary Renditions, **Kelly Thomas** ("Spa Night")

The **winners** of the competition will **receive the Aegean Award and a scholarship** to attend the **MFI Script2Pitch Workshops** during the **Orpheus Award Ceremony on Closing Night, June 5th.**

Before the Jury pitch, each filmmaker will receive **group training** and **one-on-one meetings** with a diverse group of professionals sharing expertise in financing, directing, writing, producing, marketing and distribution. This year's **experts include:** K Street Pictures' president **Charles Agron**; writer/producer **David Ariniello** ("Arcadia Lost"), acclaimed director and cinematographer **Steven Bernstein** ("Decoding Annie Parker"), co-founder of L.A.-based La Panda Productions **Pau Brunet**, director of creative initiatives for technology leader Bittorrent **Missy Laney**, film festival programmer and strategist **Kathleen McInnis**, manager for the feature film program's international work at Sundance Institute **Matthew Takata**, and writer/Producer of the award-winning "Innocent Voices" (Voces Inocentes), **Oscar Torres.**

"We strive to change and grow every year, looking at what is happening in the independent film world around us, and pair our filmmakers with the best experts that can help them. Not only with these projects but for their careers as independent filmmakers," adds IPDF Producer **Giulia Caruso.**

The **IPDF INDUSTRY EVENTS**, **free** and open **to the public**, take place on Saturday, June 4.

At 12:30 p.m. the **WRITING FOR DIVERSITY IN TV** panel will take place. During this group session esteemed television writers, and personalities discuss and share their experiences, challenges and efforts to promote diversity on TV – both within the writer's room and the characters they create. Panelists are; writers **Aida Croal** (Luke Cage), **Julia Fontana** (Lucifer), **Maikiko James** from the newly launched Women In Film's Women Writing Lab, musician/ writer **Our Lady J** (*Transparent*), producer **Benoni Tagoe** (*Awkward Black Girl*) and director/ producer **Greg Yaitanes** (*Banshee, House M.D.*).

At 3:00 p.m. **HOW A DIRECTOR FINDS HER CHARACTERS** presented by writer/director **Athina Tsangari**. Tsangari, one of the principal instigators of the New Greek Wave, offers a unique Masterclass on directing Her latest award-winning feature "Chevalier" is screening at the festival on Thursday, June 2. The masterclass will be moderated by film critic Carlos Aguilar who has written for outlets such as Indiewire, MovieMaker, and Variety Latino.

"Every year we are amazed at the variety and quality of projects that filmmakers submit for consideration to IPDF. It's a complicated selection process, and we always struggle to let some great projects go. To best serve the participants and their projects, we select only six films from the hundreds we receive each year.", notes Lemos.

For more information on the IPDF projects and filmmakers go to <http://lagff.org/festival/international-project-discovery-forum>

The INTERNATIONAL PROJECT DISCOVERY FORUM is the industry program of Los Angeles Greek Film Festival

The International Project Discovery Forum is a Los Angeles pioneer in the promotion of international independent film development and co-production. Utilizing the innumerable resources that exist in Los

Angeles, we aim to create a bridge between two very different worlds – the American Independent Film and the Greek/Balkan Independent Film.

We look for films that have an original approach, made by independent producers and filmmakers that have a unique voice. The stage of development of the selected projects varies from inspiring and promising scripts in an early stage, which we want to nurture through their journey, to more advanced projects in the financing stage that we connect with producers, distributors, sales agents and programmers that can actively support the film. We want to create a circle of collaborators who share the same vision – a network of creative professionals from Greece, the Balkans and the US that share the same idea of how they want to make films.

Besides our open call for entries, we look for projects in other industry forums in the Balkan region such as Thessaloniki IFF's Crossroads, Sofia Meetings, MFI Script Workshop.

The Forum includes a development lab only for IPDF selected Filmmakers and a series of roundtables that are free and open to the public.

Our goal is not only to promote Greek and Balkan filmmakers by helping strong, local stories with international appeal get told, but we also want to create an occasion for a true and lively exchange between European and American cinema. We provide a venue where dialogue is encouraged and creative collaborations are formed.

Araceli Lemos & Giulia Caruso

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<http://www.visitgreece.gr/>)

And

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.

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