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THE LOS ANGELES GREEK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES

2013 JURY, INDUSTRY AND PROJECT DISCOVERY FORUM PARTICIPANTS

Los Angeles, May - The organizers of the Seventh Annual Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (LAGFF.org), which runs June 6-9 at the Writers Guild Theater (135 So. Doheny Drive, Beverly Hills) have announced the members of the 2013 Jury. Former President of the Hellenic Film Academy and veteran Greek film director, Tassos Boulmetis, will serve as the jury's Chairman, which includes: Shorts Showcase CEO Leanna Bonamici, veteran film marketer John Butkovich, film critic Robert Koehler and award-winning actor Anthony Skordi.

"We are honored to have such distinguished jurors and panelists this year, and we believe they will be some of the first to recognize the Festival's unique developing identity, which coincides with a slew of new films coming from the creatively agitated minds of Greek filmmakers in Greece, Cyprus and the world," states Ersi Danou, LAGFF Co-Founder and Artistic Director.

The five jurors will select the Best Feature, Best Documentary, and Best Short Film to receive the Festival's ORPHEUS AWARD. The Awards will be presented on Sunday, June 9, at the Festival's Closing Night Gala. In addition to the Jury Awards, the festival will also announce the winner of the Audience Choice Award, selected by Festival attendees.

This year's industry panel - THE ARTS OF HOLLYWOOD PRODUCTION - will include producer Casey Cannon, Academy Award-winning director of photography Russell Carpenter, award-winning production designer Nelson Coates, and documentarian/executive producer Paul Deason. The panel will be moderated by former board member and LAGFF Co-Founder Angeliki Giannakopoulos.

Sponsored by Pabst Brewing Company and the Metropoulos Family, the Industry Panel will take place on Saturday, June 8, at 11:00 am, at the Real D Screening Room in Beverly Hills.

This is the inaugural year for the previously announced PROJECT DISCOVERY FORUM (PDF) competition, also sponsored by Pabst Brewing Company and the Metropoulos Family. "Our aim is to encourage the production of international projects and to promote the Greek filmmakers who are currently doing groundbreaking work and are beginning to be recognized in European film festival circles," states PDF Director Araceli Lemos.

PDF panelists include ON GLOBAL PICTURES Co-Founder & Senior Partner, Manos Gavras; President of Branded Pictures Entertainment, J. Todd Harris (THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT); Little Studio Films Partner, Alexia Melocchi; Vice President of Production and Development at Electric City Entertainment, Crystal Powell; Manager for the Feature Film Program's international work at Sundance Institute, Matthew Takata; and 1821 Pictures' COO, Alexis Varouxakis. Assisting the finalists with their project presentations will be well-known writer, Jim Uhls (FIGHT CLUB), Adam Sigel. Providing one-on-one feedback to the finalists will be writers Christos Gage (*Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*), story editor Spiro Skentos (*Grimm*), and Bill Taub.

Project Discovery Forum is closed to the public but the winner of the Aegean Award will be announced during the June 9 Orpheus Awards at the Writers Guild Theater (135 So. Doheny Drive, Beverly Hills, CA).

BOX OFFICE for LAGFF is now open at www.itsmyseat.com/lagff for **Gold Pass Membership** purchases. Gold Pass membership includes attendance at the Opening Night screening and reception, as well as an exclusive invitation to the Closing Night Orpheus Awards Gala, plus all-access and priority seating to all screenings and events. *The All-Access VIP GOLD PASS is currently \$220 and is valued at over \$300.*
General screening admissions are \$13 online / \$16 at the door.
Centerpiece Film AMERICA AMERICA and Elia Kazan Tribute is currently on sale \$20 online / \$25 at the door.

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. Now in our seventh year, Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (LAGFF) is witnessing a new wave of Greek cinema emerging from an irreverent generation of young filmmakers who insist on breaking ties with past trends and seeing things in their own unique way. The results are impressive and include recognition in such global film circles as the Cannes, Venice and Sundance Film Festivals. Our place as a center for Greek filmmakers from around the world is taking on new significance as we assume an active role not only in reflecting the blossoming of Greek cinema but also in promoting modern Greek culture by highlighting its hidden treasures and roots.

ABOUT OUR SPONSORS

The 2013 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](http://www.visitgreece.gr) is the official tourism web site for Greece, run by the Greek National Tourism Organisation, 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/>)

Gold Patron *Pabst Brewing Company and the Metropoulos Family*

We were very proud to once again welcome the Pabst Brewing Company and the Metropoulos Family as a Gold Patron of Los Angeles Greek Film Festival 2013. 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 presented LAGFF's INDUSTRY PROGRAMS, including the PROJECT DISCOVERY FORUM.

LAGFF also welcomed the return of our Bronze Patrons, which included *Hollywood Foreign Press Association* and *West Coast Investors*.

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EDITORS NOTES

2013 JURY

Tassos Boulmetis (Chairman) was born in Constantinople and moved to Greece at an early age in the 60s. He earned a degree in physics from the University of Athens and film directing/production from the University of California Los Angeles. He started his career as a director/producer for national television networks. He wrote, directed and co-produced the award-winning films DREAM FACTORY (1990) and A TOUCH OF SPICE (2003), a story inspired by true events drawn from his life. SPICE was Greece's official entry for the 2005 Academy Awards and was presented at several international festivals. The film became the biggest box office hit in Greece and has been distributed in 45 countries all over the world. Boulmetis was the first president of the newly established Hellenic Film Academy. He is currently working on his next feature project while teaching advanced directing courses at the AKMI Institute of Audiovisual Studies in Athens.

Leanna Bonamici produces the TV show *Shorts Showcase*, which features short films from all over the world (www.shortsshowcase.com). *Shorts Showcase* is currently airing in 18 million homes throughout Southern California on PBS station KVCR. Earlier the Bonamici family built Casablanca Studios which, at the time, was the only independent film and television sound stage and production facility in the Coachella Valley. Bonamici was Head of Operations the entire 10 years of Casablanca's operation. In 2001, she founded the Palm Springs chapter of Women in Film and Television. In 2007 she received the Women of Distinction in the Arts Award from the National League of American Pen Women and, in 2009, the City of Indian Wells named her their Athena Award winner for Professional Excellence.

John Butkovich is a veteran film marketer with more than 1000 feature films to his credit. Before joining Arenas, an entertainment and media marketing company, in 2000, he was Senior Vice-President of Media at Sony Pictures Entertainment where, for 15 years, he spearheaded domestic media efforts. Prior to joining Sony, Butkovich served five years as Vice-President of Media at Universal Pictures. As a member the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, he regularly sits on the annual screening committees to nominate the candidates for Best Foreign Language Film. In 2012 he reviewed more than 300 short narrative films as a member of the Slamdance Film Festival's nominating committee.

Robert Koehler is a film critic and programmer. His film reviews can be read at *Film Comment*, *Cinema Scope*, *Cineaste*, *Indie Wire*, *Sight & Sound* and *Filmjourney.org*. Koehler's blog column analyzing film festivals can be read at *Filmvinc.com*, the website of the Film Society of Lincoln Center, where he recently served as Director of Cinematheque Programming. His film reviews have previously appeared in *Variety*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Cahiers du Cinema* (France and Spain) and *Die Tageszeitung*. He served as an instructor and programmer

for UCLA Extension's Sneak Preview Program from 2003 to 2007. In 2003 Koehler developed the successful and innovative program, "The Films That Got Away," an ongoing series presenting significant recent work that has previously not screened in Los Angeles. Institutions with which the series has collaborated include UCLA Film Archive, the American Cinematheque and the Los Angeles Film Festival. In 2009, he was appointed Director of Programming at AFI Fest Los Angeles, where he helped create a new and focused competition section titled "New Lights," as part of AFI Fest's programming concept as a festival-of-festivals.

Anthony Skordi was born and raised in London, UK, to Greek Cypriot parents and trained at the Drama Centre London. Skordi's prolific theatre career includes becoming a member of both *The Royal Shakespeare Company* (1990-92) and of Vanessa Redgrave's *Moving Theater Company*, performing worldwide. Skordi crossed over to the screen, where he was a series regular for six television shows, including both dramas and comedies. His more recent work includes guest-star spots on *Men of a Certain Age*, *Detroit 187*, and many video games including *Mass Effect 3*. Skordi recently worked opposite Kevin Spacey in the short ENVELOPE, and collaborated on the soon-to-be-released LUCKY STIFF.

2013 INDUSTRY PANEL - THE ART OF HOLLYWOOD

Angeliki Giannakopoulos (moderator) began her career as an actress, theater director and producer. She produced and co-directed her first documentary, AGE OF ELEGANCE, in 2001. Her award-winning documentary, MY CHILD – MOTHERS OF WAR, aired on PBS. Her film production company is now developing RUTHLESS, a suspense thriller. Giannakopoulos co-founded Los Angeles Greek Film Festival in 2007.

A member of the Producers Guild of America, **Casey Cannon** has served as a music video director and producer, working with such luminaries as Mariah Carey, Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock and Grover Washington, Jr. She founded *Banned from the Ranch Entertainment*, one of the industry's premier digital visual effects 'boutiques', and served as the Creative Visual Producer and Supervisor for the MTV Movie Awards (1998-2002). Currently, Cannon is developing CLIFFS OF FREEDOM, a period story taking place in 19th century Greece.

Director of Photography **Russell Carpenter**, A.S.C., won an Academy Award for Best Cinematography for TITANIC (1997), directed by James Cameron, with whom he also collaborated on TRUE LIES (1994) and T2-3D: BATTLE ACROSS TIME (1996). Carpenter partnered with Director McG on the CHARLIE'S ANGELS films and, most recently, THIS MEANS WAR (2012). He enjoys shooting independent features, including the soon to be released JOBS, about the life of the late Apple co-founder, Steve Jobs.

Nelson Coates (Production Designer) designed BIG MIRACLE, Robert Zemeckis' FLIGHT and THE GUILT TRIP in 2012 only. Equally adept at comedy and drama, Nelson has designed such films as THE LAST SONG (2010), THE PROPOSAL (2009), THE CODE (2009), THE EXPRESS (2008), SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS (2006), AQUAMARINE (2006), MAN OF THE HOUSE (2005), and ANTWONE FISHER, named one of AFI's (American Film Institute) top 10 movies of 2002. Earlier, Coates designed a wide variety of films from LIVING OUT LOUD (1998) to MURDER AT 1600 (1997), Kevin Spacey's directorial debut ALBINO ALLIGATOR (1997), and more.

Paul Deason attended film school at UCLA and spent the next 10 years adventuring all over the globe as a documentary technician for *National Geographic* and *Survival Anglia*, among others.

Later on he worked in film and television. He served as the Executive Producer/Unit Production Manager on several Hollywood productions. He was Co-Producer/UPM on the films OLD SCHOOL (2003), EVOLUTION (2001), THIRTEEN DAYS (2000), END OF DAYS (1999) and SMALL SOLDIERS (1998); and was an Associate Producer on AMISTAD (1997), MARS ATTACKS! (1996) CONGO (1995) and CASPER (1995).

Project Discovery Panelists

As Co-Founder, Senior Partner and Producer of the newly established ON GLOBAL PICTURES, **Manos Gavras** is currently in pre-production on two Hollywood films. He was a Co-Producer of the film STRANGER IN PARADISE (2011), and he and his business partner, Adonis Hadjiantonas, were Associate/Executive Producers of the upcoming film THE BUTLER, distributed by the Weinstein Company.

J. Todd Harris is President of Branded Pictures Entertainment. Of the nearly 40 movies he's produced, highlights include Golden Globe-winning and Academy Award-nominated THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT (2010), BOTTLE SHOCK (2009), CROOKED ARROWS (2012), JEEPERS CREEPERS (2001), and PIRANHA 3D (2010). Five of his films have premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, including DIGGING TO CHINA (1997), URBANIA (2000), and LEWIS & CLARK & GEORGE (1997).

Alexia Melocchi is one of the partners of Little Studio Films and has a 20-year experience in the international marketplace, including packaging projects, handling US and international distribution, co-productions and development consulting. She recently produced STEALING ROSES (2012) and ICE SCREAM (2013) with Laura Harring.

Crystal Powell is Vice President of Production and Development at Electric City Entertainment, and previously at Silverwood Films. She associate produced TERRI and ON THE ICE, both of which premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, and SHARK NIGHT 3D (2011). She also co-produced TWENTY-EIGHT HOTEL ROOMS, which premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. Most recently Powell associate produced THE PLACE BEYOND THE PINES, starring Ryan Gosling and Bradley Cooper.

Matthew Takata is Manager for the Feature Film Program's international work at Sundance Institute. His focus is on international outreach and selection for the Institute's Screenwriters and Directors Labs in Utah, FFP's labs in India, Turkey, Jordan and Japan, and the annual Sundance Institute | Mahindra Global Filmmaking Award.

Alexis Varouxakis started his career in London as a film and commercials producer, and is currently the Chief Operating Officer of 1821 Media Group. He served as a co-producer on EL GRECO (2007), for which he set up the financing structure between Spain and Greece, OPA! (2009) and DARK HEARTS (2012), starring Sonja Kinski.

Pitch-training

Jim Uhls, WGA, co-wrote FIGHT CLUB (1999), directed by David Fincher; JUMPER (2008), directed by Doug Limon; and the NBC television film, SEMPER FI (2001), produced by Steven Spielberg. His plays have been produced in New York and Los Angeles.

Adam Sigel, WGA, is a writer, producer and content strategist working across multiple platforms. He has been hired as a speaker and film mentor by international organizations such as Nordisk Film and TV, Torino Film Lab, Power to the Pixel, Independent Filmmaker Project, Berlinale Talent Campus, Forum Brazil, and more.

One-on-One Feedback

Christos Gage, WGA, is an acclaimed writer of comic books, television, films, and video games. He has co-written episodes of television shows such as *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* and *Numb3rs*.

Spiro Skentos, WGA, is a story editor on NBC's *Grimm*. He has served as a writer for *The Drew Carey Show* and *The George Lopez Show*. He is a graduate of NBC's Writers on the Verge Program, and has completed the NHMC writing program.

Bill Taub is a screenwriter and a WGA and WGC member. He has written and produced pilots for *Relic Hunter*, *Friday the 13th: The Series*, *Mission Genesis*, *The Odyssey*, and *Dark Shadows*. He has also written pilots for NBC and Paramount. He teaches at UCLA Extension's Writer's Program.