

Los Angeles Greek Film Festival 2018 Film Lineup & Entertainment



los angeles
greek film
festival

After reviewing a record 175 film submissions, the 12th Annual Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (LAGFF) revealed its film lineup. The 2018 Festival (June 4-10) includes 11 feature films, 13 documentaries, 27 shorts, as well as industry-lead round tables, panels and masterclasses. More than 45 filmmakers are confirmed to attend. For Features, Documentaries, Shorts schedules and ticket link, visit lagff.org.

Three Red Carpet Events:

- **June 4: Opening Night at UCLA** West Coast premiere of “1968” directed by Tassos Boulmetis at James Bridges Theater followed by a light reception.
- **June 6: Opening Night at the Egyptian** West Coast premiere of Marios Piperides' comedy “Smuggling Hendrix” followed by a reception and entertainment. This award-winning film recently garnered “Best International Narrative Feature” at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival.
- **June 10: Closing Night at the Egyptian** West Coast premiere of Thodoris Atheridis' “Perfect Strangers,” followed by the star-studded Orpheus Awards Ceremony, reception and entertainment.

Popular entertainers scheduled to perform include Annet Artani, the Greek Rebetiko Trio, Chuck Dukas (Master of Ceremonies), and stand-up comedian ANT.



Annet Artani will perform at the Opening Night Reception in the Egyptian courtyard. Annet is a triple platinum songwriter, who also performs all over the world as a Greek pop artist, and American recording artist. She represented Cyprus in Eurovision and came to our homes via the hit show Fame Story in 2005. Annet is signed to Notting Hill Music Publishing based out of the U.K. @annetaki



Greek- American TV personality **Chuck Dukas** is Closing Night MC. Dukas is best known for his work as a television audience warm-up host on hit shows such as America’s Got Talent, The Voice, and Dancing with the Stars, among others.

www.ChuckDukas.com @CHUCKDUKAS



Anthony Steven Kalloniatis (ANT) an American stand-up comedian and actor will be part of the Orpheus Awards entertainment. ANT has steadily climbed the comedy hill to become one of the most successful comedians of our time. A regular guest on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno and The Tyra Banks show, ANT is the only comedian to appear on all five seasons of NBC’s hit series Last Comic Standing.

www.antcomic.com



Dimitris Mann & The Greek Rebetiko Trio will perform on Closing Night. Dimitris Mann (vocals, bouzouki, piano, accordion), Taso Comanescu (guitar, vocals) and Alexis Cohen (baglama, tzoura, guitar, vocals) will introduce the origins and history of Rebetiko music, and its migration to the United States. www.dimitrismann.com



This year's Festival honors **George Chakiris**, with an honorary Orpheus Award presented by **Rita Moreno** at the finale of the Orpheus Awards ceremony.

Chakiris is best known for his role as Bernardo, leader of the Sharks in *West Side Story*, for which he won the Golden Globe and the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor. In 1974, Chakiris made his film debut in the chorus of *Song of Love*. Later he appeared in several small roles, usually as a dancer or a member of the chorus in various musical films. He was one of the dancers in Marilyn Monroe's "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" number in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* released in 1953.

In addition to films, Chakiris performed on Broadway and television and was a graduate of the American School of Dance. Over the years, he worked with some of Hollywood's biggest stars including Charlton Heston, Yvette Mimieux and Gene Kelly.

Orpheus Awards Presenters:

Award-winning Gold recording artist **Vassy**, whose single "We Are Young" reached No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Dance Chart, made her the first Australian Artist to go No. 1 with her solo single debut release. Vassy's collaboration with David Guetta and Showtek on the song "Bad," became seven times double platinum and established her in the electronic dance music scene. Vassy's music incorporates dance, reggae and soul as a base for her vocal styling. Her parents are both from Greece (add website and social media)

Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks is the President and CEO of Earth Friendly Products.

Australian Actor **Thao Penghlis** is best known for roles in soap operas such as *Days of Our Lives*, *Santa Barbara*, and *General Hospital*, but has also guest-starred on a number of crime dramas, such as *Kojak*, *Cannon*, *Tenspeed* and *Brown Shoe*, *Hart to Hart*, *Nero Wolfe* and *Magnum, P.I.*. He also starred in the late 1980s remake of *Mission: Impossible*.

Valorie Massalas is an Emmy-nominated casting director and producer, who co-produced and cast the acclaimed *Gods and Monsters*, nominated for three Oscars, including Ian McKellan for best actor and Lynn Redgrave for best supporting actress. The writer/director Bill Condon was also nominated for best screenplay, and received an Oscar. Prior to that, in *Chaplin*, Massalas cast Robert Downey Jr., who also received an Oscar nomination for his touching performance of the Hollywood icon. Her company Massalas/Digman/Casting continues to work on major indie feature film projects with A-list talent.

Award-winning casting director / producer **Ronnie Yeskel** is best known for her work on *Pulp Fiction*, *The Sessions* and *Igby Goes Down*.

Writer-Producer-Director **Penelope Spheeris** launched her career by producing short subjects for comedian Albert Brooks, many of which became highlights in the first season of *Saturday Night Live*. Her first feature film was *The Decline of Western Civilization* (1981), a punk rock documentary that she produced as well as directed. She followed up with *The Decline of Western Civilization Part II: The Metal Years*, about the Los Angeles heavy metal scene of 1988, with footage and interviews of legendary metal bands Kiss, Ozzy Osbourne, Aerosmith, Megadeth, and Motörhead.

She worked as a writer for the TV series *Roseanne* and directed the movie *Wayne's World*, which grossed over \$183 million. Other films Spheeris directed include *The Beverly Hillbillies*; *The Little Rascals* (for which she co-wrote the screenplay); the Chris Farley comedy *Black Sheep*; the Marlon Wayans-David Spade team-up *Senseless*; and *The Kid & I* starring Tom Arnold. She received an Honorary Orpheus Award in 2009.

Rita Moreno belongs to an elite group of only 12 living performers who have won entertainment's grand slam of the industry's most prestigious awards: The Oscar, The Emmy, The Tony and The Grammy. Creative diversity has been the hallmark of Moreno's 70-year career (film, stage, television, singer, voiceover animation, author, guest artist with sympathy orchestras, lecturer).

Moreno stars in the critically acclaimed Latino remake of Norman Lear's classic sitcom, *One Day at a Time* on Netflix. She currently lends her voice to the character Abuelita in the children's animated series, *Nina's World*, which airs on NBC-TV's Sprout Network. She also was the voice of Aunt Mimi in the animated film, *Rio 2*. Her first book, *Rita Moreno: A Memoir*, published by Celebra Books, instantly became a New York Times Bestseller. In 2011, she premiered her one-woman show, *Life Without Make-up*, an original stage production about her life and appeared as a season regular on the TV Land series, *Happily Divorced*, playing Fran Drescher's mother.

In 2015 Moreno received the Kennedy Center Honor for her lifetime Contributions to American culture. She served as the Grand Marshal of the National Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City and released her first ever all Spanish language album, *Una Vez Más*, produced by her good friend, Emilio Estefan.

Other significant film appearances include: *The Night of the Following Day* with Marlon Brando in 1967; with James Garner in *Marlowe*; as Alan Arkin's girlfriend in *Popi*; and in Mike Nichol's production of *Carnal Knowledge*. She reprised the role of Googie Gomez in the film version of *The Ritz*, followed by Alan Alda's *The Four Seasons*, Columbia Pictures' acclaimed *I Like it Like That*, and *Angus* with George C. Scott. More recently she starred in the indie feature *Carlo's Wake* with Christopher Meloni and in *Blue Moon* opposite Ben Gazzara. In addition, she appeared in the highly acclaimed movie *Pinero* starring Benjamin Bratt and in John Sayles film, *Casa de los Babys*.

Moreno's peers recently honored her as the 50th recipient of the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement 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 in 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 percent 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, the company has become known for its high-quality 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. They serve only the freshest ingredients, from their homemade salad dressing and tzatziki sauce to their fresh produce, which is cut daily. Leave what you thought about Greek food at the door, and let yourself be transported to the streets of Greece via your taste buds.

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

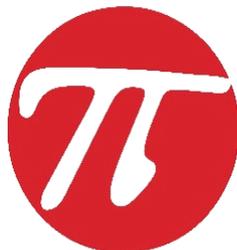
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Special thanks go to ELMA, an organization dedicated to the promotion of European Cinema in America and to GNTTO (Greek National Tourist Organization) for their support.

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