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2012 Los Angeles Greek Film Festival Lineup Reflects Greece's Struggles

22 feature and short films, a screenwriting class, and a tribute to Theo Angelopoulos—as well as gala opening and closing nights and the annual Orpheus Awards—aimed at “Defeating the Crisis Through The Viewfinder” May 31 – June 3rd, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRLog (Press Release) - May 05, 2012 -

“There is no more timely reflection of Greece’s struggles than the one offered by its burgeoning cinema,” stated Ersi Danou, Co-Founder/Artistic Director, when announcing the theme for this the 2012 event: “Defeating the Crisis Through the Viewfinder.”

“A new generation of filmmakers has begun to question the current state of things as well as to express an urge to evolve as artists and human beings.

These filmmakers make films out of nothing, powered by their passion to make their stories – however small – known.”

Opening Night, May 31st, Egyptian Theatre, Hollywood



LAGFF 2012 Official Poster Final Tiny

LAGFF will kick-off May 31st at Hollywood’s historic Egyptian Theatre with the gala red carpet premiere of A Green Story, the triumphant true tale of Van Vlahakis—a Greek immigrant who arrived in America with only \$22 in his pocket but eventually founded the multimillion dollar Green company, Earth Friendly Products. After the screening, filmgoers will party with the stars under the stars as they look forward to three more action packed days and nights. A Green Story stars Ed O’Ross, Shannon Elizabeth, Annabella Sciorra, George Finn, Malcolm McDowell, Billy Zane, Louis Mandylor, Debbie Matenopoulos and Alessandra Toressani.

“It is truly an honor that Los Angeles Greek Film Festival has chosen our movie for their gala red carpet opening night,” said A Green Story writer/director Nika Agiashvili. “We felt that if we were going to tell the story of Van Vlahakis, we needed to tell it in the most authentic way possible. When we started in pre-production, we were committed to not only shooting in Greece, but also casting Greek actors. To be able to shoot in such a historic location like Athens is a dream for me as a filmmaker, and provides authenticity about the beginnings of Mr. Vlahakis’s amazing and inspirational life, a life that is truly having a transformational effect on the planet.”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICGw6o1vzJ0>

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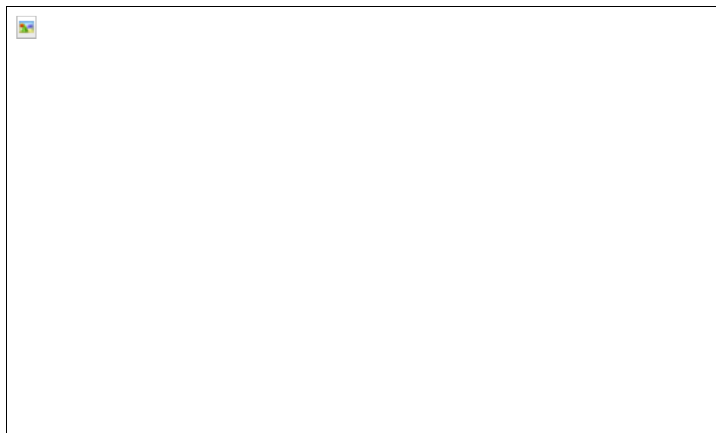
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Closing night festivities launch with a VIP reception at 5:30 p.m., during which film buffs will undoubtedly be buzzing about the festival lineup. Kicking off the closing night program with a very strong Japanese connection, at 6:30 p.m., is the U.S. premiere of the animated short film from director Panagiotis Rappas, Fountain of Youth, a tale of an elderly woodcutter who stumbles upon the fountain of youth in a mountain forest of Japan. Next, the L.A. premiere of Nikos Dayandas's powerful documentary, Sayome. After 35 years of living in Crete, happily married to a Greek sailor and raising her two sons, Sayome hears news of her mother's death and returns to her native Japan to reunite with her estranged family.

The entire film program is available at <http://lagff.org/festival/filmlineup>.

For the grand finale of the 2012 Los Angeles Greek Film Festival, Consul General of Greece Elisabeth Fotiadou is opening her home exclusively for LAGFF Gold Pass holders for the presentation of the prestigious Orpheus Awards, and gala closing night party. Guests will enjoy a pleasant atmosphere under the stars while tasting Greek delicacies.

"As every year, I am looking forward to those wonderful days in the beginning of summer when we all take our seats in front of the big screen and we get transported to the Greece we love and care about," expressed Consul General Fotiadou. "As our country is going through one of the most difficult times of its recent history, the new Greek films are more intriguing and inspirational. We look forward to welcoming you to opening night on May 31st."

The 2012 LAGFF Gold Pass includes tickets and advance entrance to all films, panels and programs; the opening gala red carpet premiere of A Green Story, with after party; closing night champagne receptions; a deluxe program book; free parking at the Linwood Dunn Theater; and, of course, the must-have ticket to the exclusive Orpheus Awards party at the Consul General's home. In the face of the global economic crisis hitting Greece, the cost of the 2012 LAGFF Gold Pass has been reduced by \$100 (33%) to only \$200, but must be purchased online in advance. To purchase a Gold Pass or individual tickets, and for more information, visit <http://www.lagff.org>.

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Contact Email : [Contact Author](#) ***@gmail.com ✓
 Source : Nicholas Snow Productions / SnowbizNow
 Phone : 1-760-808-2787
 Address : P.O. Box 2146
 : Palm Springs, California 92263
 Zip : 92263
 City/Town : [Palm Springs](#)
 State/Province : [California](#)
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