



FILM
WORKS

A film by
STELANA KLIRIS

COMMITTED

Starring
MELIA KREILING
ORESTES SOPHOCLEOUS

90 minutes
Not Yet Rated
Camera: Shot on RED Exhibited on DCP
Country: Shot entirely on location in Cyprus

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LOGLINE

A man being pressured to propose to his girlfriend picks up a runaway bride on the side of the road.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A road trip movie set in Cyprus about a chance meeting between a man being pressured to propose to his girlfriend and a runaway bride.

LONG SYNOPSIS

“Committed” is an English-language road trip movie set on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. It is a romantic comedy about a man who takes to the road to escape the pressure of proposing to his girlfriend, only to come across a bride who has just run out on her wedding.

What ensues is a bizarre road trip which explores ideas about love, marriage and commitment, with a big surprise ending. It’s “When Harry Met Sally” on the road with a twist.



MELIA KREILING

The Bride



Melia Kreiling is an American-Greek actress born in Geneva, Switzerland, raised in Athens, Greece and studied and is currently working in London, United Kingdom. She has built up an impressive resume in the last couple of years. Some of her most notable roles are “Bianca” in the Showtime series “The Borgias” opposite Academy Award-winning actor Jeremy Irons, “Bathsheba” in the History Channel’s smash hit series “The Bible” and most recently in Marvel’s “Galaxy of the Guardians”.

She is represented by Piers Nimmo in London and by CAA in Los Angeles.

ORESTES SOPHOCLEOUS

George



Orestes Sophocleous is a Greek-Cypriot actor who graduated from the National Theatre of Greece Drama School in 2004. He worked for 5 years as a repertoire actor for the National Theatre of Cyprus and in Greece for 3 years in the major theatre venues of Athens. Since 2011, he has been based in London collaborating with Tara Arts, doing both fringe and international projects. Some of his theatre credits include: Equus, The Collection, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Summer and Smoke, Don Juan, The Loves of Kas Maguire, Ghosts, The Miracle Worker, The Hyenas, Bacchai, Antigone, Seven Against Thebes and The Libation Bearers. He also appeared in several television series both in Greece and Cyprus, and most recently in the UK on iTV’s “The Bletchley Circle”.

He is represented by Jo Hole Associates in London.

WRITER / DIRECTOR / CO-PRODUCER

STELANA KLIRIS

Stelana Kliris is a South African Cypriot writer / director with a background in editing and production on international film and commercial productions in Greece and Cyprus.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Journalism from Rhodes University in South Africa and has completed post-graduate courses in writing and directing at institutions such as the New York Film Academy in Los Angeles.

She has written and directed two short documentaries and two short films to date. Her first narrative short "The Fiddler" was awarded at the Drama International Short Film Festival in Greece in 2011.

She is inspired by stories with heart and humanity and she has a wealth of tales from her multi-cultural upbringing in countries with complicated political situations, like South Africa and Cyprus.

"Committed" is her first feature film.

CO-PRODUCER

MARIOS PIPERIDES

Marios holds a B.A. in Film and Video Production, a B.Sc. in Broadcast Management and an M.F.A. in Film Production. Parallel to his studies in the US he worked on various professional productions there, gaining hands-on experience. After returning to Cyprus in 2002, he started working with Seahorse Films, one of the largest production companies in Cyprus, as a Production Manager and later as a Producer. He was involved in handling projects from all over the world, including NHK and TV Asahi (Japan), RSA Films, Discovery Channel (UK), RTL (Germany), Town Films (Greece), Kailush Pictures (India), Otto Films (Poland), Science Channel (USA), and a number of projects from Egypt, Kazakhstan, Romania, and Russia.

In 2005, he started his own production company, AMP Filmworks, and turned his focus on the local market, producing feature films, short films and documentaries. Between 2009 and 2011 he also worked for the Cinema Sector at the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus.

He has now turned his full attention to film production and has multiple Cypriot projects on his slate, including "Committed".

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The topic of love, marriage and commitment affects everyone at some stage in their lives and I thought what better way to explore it, than to put a man being pressured to propose and a runaway bride together in a car for a day. While the film seems to be one big debate on love, it ends up being about identity and finding yourself, which ultimately leads to love.

With only two characters and a lot of dialogue, I didn't want this film to be just a cinematic essay, so I tried to compliment their discussion with a variety of landscapes and locations in Cyprus. This is a country with fresh, unexploited cinematic scenery and it was exciting to be able to showcase this to the world.

The most important element however was the two characters, George and the Bride, played by Orestes Sophocleous and Melia Kreiling respectively. They carry the entire film and, without a subplot, we are with just them for the duration of their journey; but with their command of the material and their natural evolution throughout the story, they hold our attention and interest and we simply can't take our eyes off them.

I kept the language of the film in English to represent the huge ex-pat culture of Cyprus, and I have kept the Cypriot identity through the sights and music of the film.

I feel that we're missing fun, light films of substance; that our female audiences aren't being catered to enough. I made something that I would want to see at the cinema and, while the film seems to follow a traditional romantic-comedy trajectory, I tried to give the audience something new by presenting a twist at the end.

I hope this film makes people laugh, think and feel.

PRODUCTION NOTES

"Committed" was shot on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus as the financial crisis hit our shores. Traditional funding sources had been cut and we ventured into the world of crowd-funding and angel investors to put our budget together. While our budget was tiny, we had great sponsorship and support from local production companies and suppliers, as well as our incredible cast and crew who worked for lesser rates so we could put this film together. Being a road trip movie, we had to cover many locations in a limited amount of time, so we travelled light, with a 12-person crew, 2 actors and minimal vehicles. We shot in 25 locations over 17 days and completed our shoot within schedule and budget! "Committed" is proof of how filmmakers can be creatively resourceful and resourcefully creative during tough times...this film is nothing less than a work of heart!

What was your inspiration for the film?

I'm at that age where everyone around me is getting engaged or married and I just started to question the convention because I could see so many scenarios unfolding in front of me: people who were madly in love, people who were afraid, people who were settling and it seemed that no-one was really discussing what was going on behind the veil of "love and marriage". So I decided to put to archetype characters together for a day, develop them and give them depth and see where it went. That, and I just kept picturing this bride in the middle of nowhere and the ideas sprung from there.

How did you get the film off the ground?

This has been a whirlwind production! We had a great cinema funding programme in Cyprus up until 2012 when the crisis hit. Suddenly, budgets and projects (including one of mine) were cut and the momentum our local film industry had gained was halted. Having no work and nowhere to go, "Committed" was borne out of frustration and a determination to show that we could keep going on our own; proof that within every problem lies an opportunity!

I wrote the script in July 2012 and started a crowd-funding campaign on Indiegogo in October 2012. The campaign involved publicity stunts like having hordes of brides running around in public areas and also appealing to anyone related to Cyprus to help us keep our industry going. By the end of the year, we had raised some money and found an angel investor to cover the rest.

Through the campaign, we also came into contact with the lovely Melia Kreiling, who would eventually be cast as our lead actress.

Did the financial problems of Cyprus at the time affect your production?

Yes! In March 2013 when the initial "haircut" was announced, I was in London auditioning actors and suddenly Cyprus was on the front page of every newspaper! Banks shut down, accounts were frozen and there I was looking for actors! But I just kept going and figured it would work out. We planned on shooting by the beginning of summer so we hoped that things would be back to normal by then. In the meantime, while everyone was trying to get their money out of the country, we were trying to get it in so we could start production and we faced countless problems and a lot of stress due to the uncertainty of the whole situation. Fortunately, our investor was not deterred by this and stuck by us.

Once we started the actual production, we had to justify every single withdrawal and payment, making the process slow and frustrating, but we managed.

How did you manage to produce a feature film on such a small budget?

The budget was minimal, barely enough for a short film, let alone a feature, but the film was designed for this and we went into it prepared. When I wrote the film, I knew I would have limited resources, so I had minimal characters, uncomplicated locations and outdoor day shoots that would eliminate the need for major lighting equipment. This was also a road trip movie, so it was in our best interest to keep the crew light. We had a core crew of about 12 people with additional hands when it was necessary. We had no on-set art director or stylist, so I was literally washing clothes and ironing shirts at night, as well as bringing props to set. There was a lot of multi-tasking involved from everyone.

We were also very fortunate to receive sponsorships from various suppliers for things like equipment, costumes and props.

Finally, we kept the shoot as brief as possible, completing our film in 17 days over 3 weeks.

How do you shoot a feature film in 17 days?

With a great deal of stress! We knew from the beginning that we wouldn't have a lot of time to shoot, so my DOP Stephan Metzner and I made sure we were super prepared for the shoot. We storyboarded the entire film and created a shot-by-shot schedule for each day. I also had to be brutal with myself and the actors. I had to give up on some of the fancier but less necessary shots and I had to limit myself to two or three takes. This meant a lot of preparation during rehearsal so that the actors came prepared to the set. They were also real troopers; because they're in every scene of the film, they never had a break and had to learn several scenes per day, but they were amazing!

Where and when did you shoot this film?

The entire film was shot on location in Cyprus across 25 different locations in 17 days. Being a roadtrip movie, this was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the island of Cyprus. We drove through villages, the seaside, salt lakes, forests, just to get as much variety as possible. We've never really seen Cyprus on the big screen and we're hoping that "Committed" will shine a little light on her.

Our shoot dates were 24 May – 12 June 2013. Originally we were supposed to shoot over June/July but thankfully we went earlier or we would have never survived the heat. It was tough especially for the actors who were in suits and wedding dresses. We had a production assistant dedicated to providing shade and ice-packs to the actors throughout, not to mention applying constant sunblock so that their colouring would remain consistent throughout the film.

Where did you get the car for the film?

The car is a beautiful Mercedes 190SL from 1958. In researching the car, I discovered a huge classic car culture in Cyprus! We originally had a dark blue 1980 Mercedes convertible but the owner backed out at the last minute. But it worked out because we came across Kimon Zacharias who provided the beige beauty you see in the film. He is also a classic car restorer so he was great to have around. The car broke down twice, but the timing was incredible because the first time, it was the day before the only scene where we didn't need the car so Kimon had time to fix it; and the second time was literally during the last shot of the film on the last day of shooting! We definitely had a guardian angel on this film.

Tell us about the dress.

The dress was designed and sponsored by Jane Ashurst and Miss Ivy from Cinderella's Cyprus. It was a very collaborative process with input from myself and Melia so that we could create something that would suit the character and also create an iconic image onscreen.

The real gem in our wardrobe team was costume designer and friend Jo Katsaras. She is an Emmy-nominated designer, having worked on major productions in South Africa and abroad. She created the look for both the characters and most importantly, the evolution of the Bride. The Bride goes through a major transformation in the film and we wanted to show that through her appearance as well. Jo came up with the most beautiful combinations and Melia added some improvised ideas on set to create an interesting and varied look for the Bride.

What is your favourite scene in the film?

There are many subtle moments that I adore in the film, but I always enjoy the seaside sequence where the Bride drives off without George. It's playful and fun and is a perfect example of their characters starting to emerge, testing each other and eventually starting to bond.

What was the most difficult scene to shoot?

The emotional climax of the film at Cavo Greco. Firstly, this was a difficult location because it's on top of a cliff overlooking the sea which meant platforms to get the car up and various other logistics. It's also a very popular tourist destination and while we had secured a permit, we couldn't have exclusive use of the location, which meant having to control crowds of people during takes. There was also a lot of wind up there and part boats passing by which was a huge problem for sound. Finally, the scene takes place during sunset, magic hour, so we had less than half an hour to shoot it, taking all those factors into consideration.

It was also really tough for the actors because they were under a lot of pressure to deliver the most emotional scene of the film under these difficult circumstances.

Tell us about the actors.

I couldn't have been luckier with casting! Melia Kreiling is just captivating. I knew the second I met her that she would be the bride. She has great instincts and I really felt that I just needed to point the camera at her and shoot; she had nailed the character. She also really cared about the film which meant a lot to me. She took a risk joining our production and gave up other jobs and I'm so glad it all worked out for the best. Having worked on much bigger productions, this was her first true indie, guerrilla-style movie and she just took it in her stride and focussed on her performance.

Orestes Sophocleous was also fun to work with and he had the added challenge of having to drive an old car, with a huge camera obscuring his view, remember his lines and act at the same time...and he did it beautifully! He has more of a theatre and television background, so this was his first feature. But he also took it in his stride and got used to the rhythm and pacing of the shoot.

What do you want people to walk away with from "Committed"?

I want them to feel good. I want to provoke thought, emotion and surprise. I want them to talk about some of the issues that come up in the film.

Ultimately, what is "Committed about?

It's about finding yourself, which ultimately leads to love.

Presented by the POUROULIS FOUNDATION

An AMP FILMWORKS Production

In association with FULL MOON PRODUCTIONS and AB SEAHORSE FILM PRODUCTIONS

CAST

Bride / Eva	Melia Kreiling
George	Orestes Sophocleous
Priest	Demetris Xystras
Policeman	Marios Matheou
Kissing woman	Eftychia Neophytou
Kissing man	Andreas Ioannou
Tavli man	Ioannis Kliris
Tavli Man	Spyros Kliri
Cashier	Erato Aristotelous
Chris	Dimitris Sacorafos
Christina	Kerry Constantinou
Mother	Alexia Paraskeva
Puppy	Mo

CREW

Writer / Director	Stelana Kliris
Producer	Stelana Kliris
Producer	Marios Piperides
Associate Producer	Takis Fellas
Executive Producer	Adonis Pouroulis
Production Manager	Maria Stylianou
Location Manager	Ari Aristotelous
Catering / PA	Apostolos Papatheocharous
Production Assistant	Dimitris Sacorafos
Production Assistant	Erato Aristotelous
Director of Photography	Stephan Metzner
1 st Assistant Camera	Kyriacos Mosfiliotis
DIT	Stelios Constantinou

Production Sound Mixer	Marco Lopez
Steadicam	Nick Karatsaousidis
Gaffer / Key Grip	Paul Sallent
Electrician / Grip	George Trakoshis
Costume Designer	Jo Katsaras
Hair & Make-up	Hellen Vavanou
Art / Wardrobe support	Lisa Tsouloupas
Wardrobe support	Maria Sofroniou
Dress design	Jane Ashurst & Miss Ivy
Car handler	Kimon Zacharias
Dog handler	Natalie Sey
Catering	Athanasia Kliris
Dry cleaning	Angelo Hadjikyriacou
Locations Consultant	Alexis Nicolaides
POST PRODUCTION	
Editor	Stylianos Constantinou
Colourist	Panicos Petrides
Compositor	Maria Zeniou
Sound Designer	Marco Lopez
Sound Mixer	Kostas Varibopiotis
Music Composer	Argyro Christodoulides
Music Consultant	Rachel Komar
EQUIPMENT	
Full Moon Productions	
AB Seahorse Film Productions	

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Title:	Committed
Country:	Cyprus
Language:	English and Greek
Subtitles:	English
Running time:	90 minutes
Picture:	Colour
Aspect Ratio:	2.35
Frame Rate:	25fps
Audio:	Dolby 5.1
Shooting Format:	Digital 4.5K
Exhibition Format:	DCP