



standing aside, watching

A film by Yorgos Servetas

Press Kit

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OFFICIAL SELECTION 2013

64th Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Panorama



standing aside, watching

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY YORGOS SERVETAS

SCREENING SCHEDULE:

Day	Time	Cinema
08.02.2014	19:30	Zoo Palast 2
10.02.2014	22:00	CineStar IMAX
14.02.2014	22:30	CinemaxX 7
15.02.2014	20:15	CineStar 3
16.02.2014	22:30	Cubix 7 & 8

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STANDING ASIDE, WATCHING

Greece, colour, 90'

Short Synopsis

Grey skies. Farmland. Old depots. An empty station.

A train arrives on the platform. None exits, except for Antigone, a young woman in her 30s. This is a small town in Greece, the place Antigone returns after many years of absence.

Antigone is determined to settle in. She goes to the local bar for a drink; she meets friends from the old times; she takes a job as an English teacher; she even finds a boyfriend, Nikos, young, good-looking and naive.

Yet Antigone's search for an unassuming life turns out to be more complicated than she thought. Life is quiet but a surge of violence, discriminations and a rule of complicity between victims and perpetrators reign.

Antigone's dilemma is as age-old and simple; in her last chance to change her fate, will she act or will she stand aside, watching?

Long Synopsis

Grey skies. Farmland. Old depots. An empty station.

A train arrives on an empty platform in a small town of Greece. No one exits, except Antigone, a young woman in her 30s. No one waits, except for an old man who seems to have nothing better to do.

Antigone settles in her house, which looks like it has remained shut for ages. The only things she's brought with her are her clothes and some music stereo, which she soon connects. Loud classic music blasts through the house, out to the streets and the landscape of the town, altered by human intervention.

Antigone is determined to settle in. She goes to the local bar for a drink; she meets with Eleni, a friend from the old times; she feeds the stray dog outside her porch. She even finds a boyfriend, Nikos, much younger and way more naive than she.

Antigone's search for an unassuming life quickly turns out to be more complicated than she thought. Eleni is struggling with alcohol problems and her relationship with the abusive Nondas. Nikos, who works at Nondas's scrap yard, seems to be torn

between his attraction to Antigone's alternative ways and Nondas' macho culture. And the neighbours are not too happy after all with Antigone feeding a stray dog – "it's just making the place filthy", they say...

Antigone's dilemma is age-old and simple: she can either conform to her environment or she can conform her environment to herself.

In her last chance to change her fate, will she act or will she stand aside, watching?



A Conversation with Writer/Director Yorgos Servetas

Tell us about your introduction to this story as the writer – director.

“The first character I thought of was Eleni. I’ve always written female characters, because it helps me distance myself from them. Yet, at some point I realized Eleni was too weak and we didn’t need to see such a weak lonely person anymore. I think that the reason is that the Athens riots of 2008 celebrated the end of a “culture of aggressive prosperity”, dominant by then in every western society including Greece. Eleni was a character born in this “prosperous” environment; therefore, after the riots, she somehow became outdated, whereas the character of Antigone emerged with the self-confidence to demand a world up to her needs. “STANDING ASIDE, WATCHING is about this woman; a woman who finds it easier to conform her environment to her demands, than conform to her environment.

And this parallels elements from the western genre you like to use?

“I like the genre of the western because it is a form of narration where people are greater than the individual, and you can make a whole society out of just a few individuals. This story speaks to the one chance (wo)man has to change his fate.”

How did you decide on your cast?

I need to have a face in mind when I write a character. Therefore, the cast was determined (up to one point), since I was already at the writing stage of the film. That said, I had already worked in DIY projects and short films with both Marina and Marianthi, who have the parts of Antigone and Eleni respectively.

What are the visual references you chose for the film?

The age when we were proud of chimneys and steel mills is long gone; and so is the age of “the gleaming corridors of the 51st floor”. One could suffocate in a “Red Desert”, where chimneys are throwing flames; one was surrounded by bright packages of water detergents and car commercials in “Pierrot le Fou”. But this is not the case with Eleni. She lives in a wasteland, where the remnants of consumerism are scrapped, where the sun and the winds are put to work in order to produce

energy and money. The place where Antigone arrives is a wild but decadent West; a place where civilization has ran out of gas and where someone has to get out of a pick-up truck rising a cloud of dust, holding a shotgun in his hands. Unlike the epic of the expansion, this film should be the epic of decay.

If you could wish for an audience to experience something upon watching this film, what would it be?

It's already many years that we are conscious of the fail to fulfill the promises of modern age. Antigone is aware of this, while her heritage is that of a person grown through '80s and 90's. She is an individualist acting politically, while her motives remain strictly personal. I would like her to be the last one who closes the door and a newcomer at the same time.



BIO's

WRITER/DIRECTOR

Born in Athens at 1978, lived in Thebes until 1996.

He studied at Computer Engineering and Informatics Department of the university of Patras and took filmmaking studies for one year at the LykourghosStavrakos School of Athens.

Complete Filmography:

the way things are determined,	15', 2005 (short)
her thoughts while dressing,	12', 2007 (short)
working days and hours,	05', 2008 (short)
the way things are determined,	82', 2008
standing aside, watching,	90', 2013
christmas tree,	05', 2013 (short)

PRODUCERS

Fenia Cossovitsa is co-founder of BLONDE audiovisual productions, an Athens based independent film production company. She is the company's producer, responsible also for the strategy, development and coordination of the feature films, documentaries, TV programs and other audiovisual projects covering the production services the company offers.

Producer Fenia Cossovitsa counts already over 10 Greek and/or international feature films and documentaries in her resumé and has worked as a producer with internationally acclaimed filmmakers.

She has been Executive Producer of distinguished international feature films shooting in Greece, like THE CAT'S MEOW directed by Peter Bogdanovich, SIGNS AND WONDERS directed by Jonathan Nossiter, and THELMA directed by Pierre-Alain Meier.

She recently produced the second feature film by MenelaosKaramaghiolis J.A.C.E. (awarded for best art direction, best costumes, best editing, best make-up to the Greek Film Academy Awards 2013) and she co-produced Brigitte Roüan's latest feature "Tu Honoreras ta mere et ta mere" with AGAT Films (France).

Konstantinos Kontovrakis is a film producer based in Athens, Greece. After years of experience in journalism and festivals, Konstantinos turned to production in 2009 with the film “Wasted Youth” by Argyris Papadimitropoulos & Jan Vogel. The film was the official Opening Film of Rotterdam’s Tiger Award Competition and became an international arthouse and festival hit. He was also an executive producer at Ektoras Lygizos “Boy Eating the Bird’s Food” which has won awards at several festivals (Karlovy Vary, Thessaloniki, Seville, Montreal), was selected for Toronto’s Discovery section and was named Best Film by the Hellenic Film Academy. Konstantinos is currently in post-production of Margarita Manda’s second feature “Forever”, produced through Faliro House Productions.

Konstantinos recently formed Heretic (www.heretic.gr), a new production company with partner and fellow-producer Yorgos Karnavas. Together they are in post-production of one documentary, “My Friend Larry Gus” by Vasilis Katsoupis, and are developing two features, “Pari” by Siamak Etemadi (developed through the Torino Film Lab) and “Son of Sofia” by Elina Psykou (developed through the Berlinale Residency).

He is an alumnus of the Binger Film Lab (www.binger.nl) and a member of EAVE (www.eave.org). He is also part of the selection committee for Rotterdam’s coproduction market CineMart and the Hubert Bals Fund.



CAST& CREW

Marina Symeou (Antigone)

She was born in Kiev and raised in Cyprus. She graduated from the Theatre Studies Department of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. On stage, she has worked with directors like Stathis Livathinos, Antonis Antypas, Irina Boiko, Peter Gothar and more. Her debut in film was in Yorgos Servetas' first film «The Way Things Are determined».

Yorgos Kafetzopoulos (Nikos)

Yorgos Kafetzopoulos was born in 1985. He graduated from Arhi Drama School in 2010. He has taken part in the dance productions Nowhere (Dimitris Papaioanou, 2009), Inside (Dimitris Papaioanou, 2011), The Zoo Story by Edward Albee (director: Nelly Karra, 2012) and An Unknown From The Seine by Ödön von Horvath (director: Vicky Georgiadou, 2013). He has taken part in the films Jerks (director: Stelios Kammitis, 2010) and Dome (directors: Nikos Apostolopoulos, Katerina Yerothanasi, 2011), Ap' takokkalavgalmena (director: Sotiris Goritsas, 2010) and Unfair World (director: Filippos Tsitos, 2011).

Marianthi Pantelopoulou (Eleni)

Born in Athens. She studied at "Arhi" Drama School. After completing her studies in Media and Communications, she obtained an MA in Theatre Directing at St Mary's University College, London. As an actress, she works in two theatre companies, Ubuntu and Bijoux de Kant. Standing Aside, Watching is her debut in cinema.

Nikos Georgakis (Nondas)

Nikos Georgakis is an actor and screenwriter, known for his performances in "Lefteris Dimakopoulos" (1993), "Apontes" (1996) and "Diorthosi" (2007). For his performance in "Apontes" he was awarded with the Best Supporting Male Actor Award in Thessaloniki International Film Festival.

Claudio Bolivar (Director of Photography)

Claudio Bolivar is one of the most experienced and talented amongst the new generation of cinematographers in Greece. He has worked in more than 20 films in Greece and abroad and has manoeuvred in many different genres, such as action comedy (“Artherapy” by Nikos Perrakis), horror (“Evil in the Time of Heroes” by YorgosNousias), psuchological drama (“Under Your Make-up” by Vangelis Seitanidis) and melodrama (“Mavigözlü dev” by Biketllhan”). He is a member of the Greek Society of Cinematographers and has also produced three of the films he has worked in.

Panos Voutsaras (Editor)

PanosVoutsaras is one of Greece’s best editors. He has worked in more 30 films, including “CavoD’Oro” by S. Etemadi (Locarno IFF - 2012) – “When I Saw You” by Anne Marie Jacir (Toronto IFF – 2012), “Story 52” by by A. Alexiou (International Film Festival Rotterdam - 2008) - “Homeland” by S.Tzoumerkas (Mar del Plata IFF - 11th New Horizons IFF - Tallinn Black Nights IFF - Venice Film Festival - 2010) and more.

Yannis Antypas (Sound Recorder)

YannisAntypas has worked as a sound recordist or a boom operator in 52 films. His credits include “Shooting vs Shooting” by Nikos Megrelis, “Treaty 1060” by AkisPolyzos, “Getting my Penis Back” by Costas Gounaris and many more. He runs the Shut Up Lab sound facility in Athens.

Elias Ledakis (Production Designer)

During his last 18 years of professional experience counts over 100 art directions/set desgins for cinema, theatres, events, TV and LIVE shows. He is been awarded with Best Art-direction of the year 2002 for “ANGEL BABY” stage play directed by AntonisKalogridis at Mousouri Theatre – Athens and for the best set design for 2012 for the feature film J.A.C.E (Greek Academy Awards 2013, TIFF 2013).

Triada Papadaki (Costume Designer)

Selected Filmography “Man at Sea” by C. Yanaris (Berlinale - 2011) - “The Weeping Meadow” by T. Angelopoulos (Berlinale - 2004) & more.

Kyriaki Melidou (Make-up and hair artist)

Selected Filmography: “Before Midnight” by R. Linklater (2013) – “Alps” by Y. Lanthimos (Best Screenplay in Venice Film Festival – 2011) & more.



CREDITS:

STANDING ASIDE, WATCHING

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

YORGOS SERVETAS

PRODUCED BY

KONSTANTINOS KONTOVRAKIS

FENIA COSSOVITSA

CINEMATOGRAPHER

CLAUDIO BOLIVAR

EDITOR

PANOS VOUTSARAS

COMPOSER

IO

SOUND RECORDIST

YANNIS ANTYPAS

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

ELIAS LEDAKIS

COSTUME DESIGNER

TRIADA PAPADAKI

HAIR AND MAKE-UP STYLIST

KYRIAKI MELIDOU

PRODUCTION MANAGER

DIMITRIS CHADJIVOGIATZIS

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

SIAMAK ETEMADI

FOCUS PULLER

IVAN VOUNTIDIS

DIT

ANTONIS KOUNELAS

SOUND MIXER

KOSTAS VARYPOMBIOTIS

SOUND DESIGNERS

ARIS LOUZIOTIS

ALEXANDROS SIDIROPOULOUS

BOOMAN

NIKOS EXARCHOS

DUBBING

BALIA TSEROU

GAFFER

TAKIS ATSIDAKOS

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER

LEDA BOUZOUKOU

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION DESIGNER – PROP MASTER

FOTINI STERGIOU

ASSISTANT EDITOR

NINA FOUFA

SCRIPT

LEONIDAS MITRAKOS

2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

PARIS ISSARIS

TATIANA VERBI

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

EVA KAMPERIDOU

SPECIAL EFFECTS

PANTELIS TSIACHRIS

STILLS PHOTOGRAPHER

NIKOS NIKOLOPOULOS

DEMO EDITOR

KOSTAS MAKRINOS

TRANSLATIONS

KATERINA KAKLAMANI

LEDA GALANOU

CASTING

ready2cast

COLORIST

MANOS CHAMILAKIS

DCP MASTERING

SAKIS BOUZANIS

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

THANASIS SCHINOCHORITIS

YANNIS KARALIOPOULOS

PRODUCTION SECRETARIES

TANIA KSIGKOU

ELECTRA SARANTI

LEGAL COUNSELLOR

ELLI FILIPPOPOULOU

INSURANCES

CHRISTOS PYLATAKIS

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

ELIAS BOVALIS

CAST

ANTIGONE : MARINA SYMEOU

ELENI : MARIANTHI PANTELOPOULOU

NONDAS : NIKOS GEORGAKIS

NIKOS : YORGOS KAFETZOPOULOS

DIMITRIS : KOSTAS SIRADAKIS

UNCLE : YORGOS ZIOVAS

COP : YANNIS DRAKOPOULOS

OLD MAN AT TRAIN STATION : YORGOS BINIARIS

SECURITY GUY : VASSILIS SPYROPOULOS

ENGLISH SCHOOL DIRECTOR : VASSILIS TSIAMALOS

DESPINA : DIMITRA TSAROUCHA

DIMITRIS ' NEIGHBOUR A ' : YANNIS ANASTASAKIS

DIMITRIS' NEIGHBOUR B ' : YORGOS MOSKIOU

BARMAN : SOTIRIS GIZINOS

VICE MAYOR : VICTOR CHRISTOU

ANTIGONE'S NEIGHBOUR A ' : ELISSEOS VLACHOS

ANTIGONE'S NEIGHBOUR B ' : MARINA MANDALA

COP'S DAUGHTER : ALEXANDRA DIAMANTI

NONDA'S DAUGHTER : PANAYOTA MASSALA

CHILDREN AT ENGLISH SCHOOL : MARIA LEVETA, FOTINI SOILEDI, DIMITRA MASSALA

TAXI DRIVER : THANASIS SCHINORITIS

BOYS ON SCOOTER : FRANZESCOS BAKAS, DIMITRIS DIKAS

FOOTBALL PLAYERS : YANNIS VOUDOURIS , FISNIK-NIKOS DEMIRI, KONSTANTINOS KARABETIAN,
YORGOS PAPADIMITRIOU

STRAY DOG : BROWN

SPECIAL THANKS TO

CHRISTOS V. KONSTANTAKOPOULOS AND FALIRO HOUSE PRODUCTIONS

COSTAS LABROPOULOS AND CL PRODUCTIONS

MAYOR OF THIVA, SPYRIDON NIKOLAOU, AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF THIVA

IMAGE LABS

TWO THIRTY FIVE

SOUND LABS

ECHO SOUND STUDIO

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