

108 CYPRUS FILM FESTIVAL By Athena Karsera

Zimmer 67



6th Cyprus International Film Festival



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The CIFF curtain rises tonight for over two weeks of cinema magic

Cinephiles are in for a treat with the 6th Cyprus International Film Festival starting in Nicosia tonight.

On at the Cine Studio at the University of Nicosia until October 16, this year's festival boasts 118 films from 42 countries, including 26 Greek and Cypriot films.

Tonight's opening ceremony will take place at Cine Studio at 8pm and include a screening of Michal Hapeshis' award-winning short film 'Resurrection' and the world-premiere of his feature film 'Dinner with my sisters.' These will take place after a welcome by University Council President Dr. Nicos Peristianis and an introduction by actor Demetris Andreas and followed by a questions and answers session with Hapeshis.

The October 16 closing ceremony will take place at the Pallas Theatre from 8pm and include the awards presentation and a greeting by Nicosia Mayor Eleni Mavrou.

The 'Golden Aphrodite' awards ceremony will be hosted by Cypriot actress Olga Vanessa Aristodemou who is a rising star in the UK and Hollywood.

At the ceremony, the audience will have the chance to enjoy dance performances by Stavri Kalopetrides and Fibre Performing Arts Company, and gospel, jazz and music from the cinema performed by the University of Nicosia chorus, under the baton of Solon Cladas.

All the films up for the Golden Aphrodite are their maker's first full-length efforts as part of the Festival's promotion of new talents.

Apart from the movies competing for the prestigious 'Golden Aphrodite' award, film entrants to the Festival will also be shown in the categories of feature and short length films, animation, films about dance, films for teens and children, anti-war films and visualized



poetry amongst others.

This year's event also includes three world premiere feature films - the aforementioned 'Dinner with my sisters' by Hapeshis and 'Paramnesia' by Eleftherios Kakathymis, both Cypriot films, and the Greek 'The lonesome lobster' by George Bakollas, as well as several short-film international premieres. All the films will be shown with English subtitles only, apart from those already in English some of which will have Greek subtitles. Organiser Petra Terzi told *The Cyprus Weekly* that funding restrictions meant that it had been impossible to produce Greek subtitles for the non-Greek language films this year as well as English subtitles for some of the Greek-language films.

The festival's two Sundays, October 2 and 9, will include free Children's Zone screenings from 11am.

Also, on October 15 there will be an open discussion panel with directors, journalists and public for 10am -1pm at the Cine Studio and including the participation of multi-award-winning Greek actress Anna Synodinou, Cypriot filmmaker and producer Nicholas Demetriou, award-winning composer Maro Theodorakis, acclaimed Indian producer Vivek Singhania and Van Papadopoulos, programme coordinator of 'Cannes Classic'.

A pass for all the screenings is €25, while a day pass will set you back €8.

For more information on the Festival, taking place under auspices of Nicosia Municipality and co-organised by the Friends of the Cinema Society and Cine@Art, visit www.cyprusfilmfestival.org, from where tickets can also be booked online, or call 99798112.

Sunrise over
lake Van

Budarash

Just a Perfect Day

11 NOMINATIONS FOR THE 'GOLDEN APHRODITE'

The films in the final line-up for the Golden Aphrodite are from Greece, Cyprus, Romania, Italy, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Germany, Belgium, Lebanon, Albania and Serbia. They will be screened as follows:

October 1, 21.00 Giorgos Georgopoulos, 'Tungsten' - Director's presence

October 2, 21.00 Massimo Natale, 'Martino's Summer'

October 3, 21.00 Ilgar Safat, 'The Presinct (Saha)'

October 4, 21.00 Sophie Schouckens, 'Marieke, Marieke'

October 5, 21.00 Artak Igityan, 'Sunrise over lake Van' - Director's presence

October 6, 21.00 Cornel Gheorghita, 'Europolis'

October 7, 21.00, 15/October, 21.30 Eleutherios Kakathimis, 'Paramnesia'

October 8, 21.15 Iason Tzavelas, 'Sotiria'

October 11, 21.00 Jeton Ahmetaj, 'Donkeys of the Borders' - Director's presence

October 12, 21.15 George Bakollas, 'The lonesome lobster'

October 15, 21.30 Salim el Turk, 'My last valentine in Beirut' - Director's presence

Two Cypriot feature-length films will have their world premieres at the festival, with one also up for the prestigious Golden Aphrodite.

PARAMNESIA

This 2011 drama is something of a rarity - a film made in Cyprus and with a partly Cypriot cast - but in English.

Produced by Eleutherios Kakathimis and Nektarios Vilanides, it was also written and directed by Kakathimis.

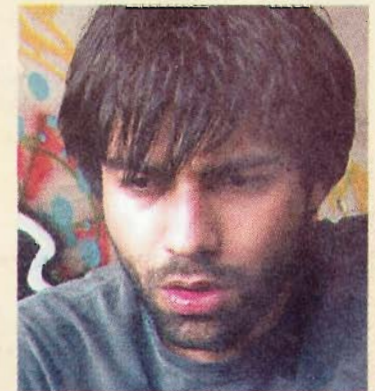
It stars Andreas Georgiou as Alex, a young man who finds himself lying on the floor of his apartment with no memory of anything about him or anyone and anything else.

He then tries to find out how he came to this state with the help of his girlfriend Mia, (Niovi Spyridaki).

So just why are those two guys, Jack and Max, (Nicolas D. Blake, Nathan Mellows), chasing him? Alex doesn't remember, but sooner or later everything will come to light.

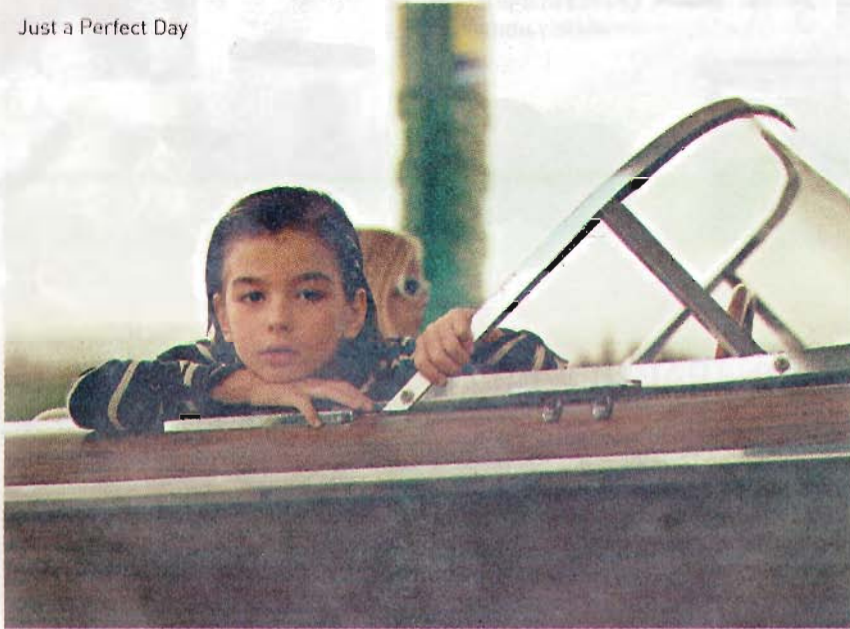
Paramnesia's world premier will be at 9pm on October 7 and a second screening will follow on October 15 at 9.30pm.

Kakathimis studied Audio Visual Communication at Frederick Institute of Technology and in 2006 started making experimental and short films. He has worked at various local TV stations and production companies as a director, editor, graphics animator and camera operator. In 2010 he self-funded his first feature film - Paramnesia - and completed it in January 2011 working as a one man crew, serving as director, writer, producer, director of photography, cinematographer, production designer, editor, sound editor, music composer/mixer and visual effects artist.



Budarash

Just a Perfect Day



Marieke, Marieke



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Valanides is a documentary producer, film maker and also the founder of 'All New Media Films.' His programs have appeared on movie theatres, TV stations, cable TV and Web TV throughout Cyprus and elsewhere. His work has also been shown to classes in a wide variety of university and public school settings, as well as by non-profit organisations. Valanides' primary focus is adventure film making. He has shot programs in Africa, Europe and Greece. He is also a professor teaching audio and radio production at the Frederick University in Nicosia.

DINNER WITH MY SISTERS



Not competing for a Golden Aphrodite, this mostly Greek-language drama was written, produced and directed by Michael Hapeshis and also boasts the involvement of Joe Dunton as a producer.

Dunton has been honoured with an MBE, lifetime achievement awards from the Cine Gear Expo and the Society of Camera Operators, and BAFTA's Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema award amongst other accolades. Movies such as Poltergeist, Return Of The Jedi, The Mission, Secrets & Lies, Eyes Wide Shut, the Harry Potter films and Nine have all benefited from Dunton's expertise.

Starring Andreas Karras, Popi Avraam, Nadia Charalambous, Julietta Michael, Christopher Greco and Donna Berlin, it tells the story of Andreas or Andrew as he now calls himself. Returning to Cyprus after a long absence, he embarks on a journey to discover how his father died, alienating his sisters in the process. The truth comes as suddenly as the rain that sweeps away all lies and sins, restoring the family to its former glory and allowing the siblings to move forward as one. It will be screened with English subtitles.