**27th ATHENS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**TRIBUTE**

**LIVES IN TRANSITION:**

**TRANS CINEMA MATTERS**

*“-The world can be a cruel place.*

*-Yes girl, it is cruel. God gave me a penis. That’s pretty damn cruel, don’t you think?”* Sin-Dee & Alexandra, ‘Tangerine’

From the Tokyo underground at the end of the psychedelic 60s to the hedonistic transformations of present day Rio de Janeiro and from Harlem’s queer empowerment of the 80s and 90s to the Greek political transition to “normalcy” and the Athenian backstreets of lasciviousness, the cinematic **tribute** of the **27th Athens International Film Festival** titled **“Lives in Transition: Trans Cinema Matters”** crosses ages and continents, cultures and borders as it manifests through a small selection of films.

At its centre bloom **the stories of trans characters, culturally diverse, lively, sometimes melancholic but always lovable**. Some packaged as **fiction**, others in the form of a **documentary**, all told by trans people either from their role as **director** or the role of the **lead**, they all share experiences, utter fatally funny lines, fight for survival, dance, transform, inspire and move us emotionally.

The exciting recent news of **trans women elected to public posts in the USA and France**, the **coming out of celebrities**, as well as **the establishment of transgender directors in artistic standing**, it is possible that all this is indicative of the onset of a positive social change. At the same time, however, **negative stereotypes**, all manner of discriminations, limited accessibility and **gender-based psychological and physical violence** are part of the daily life of trans people around the world.

This tribute was designed to raise public awareness and not speak on behalf of trans people. It was designed by cis-gender beings, fully comprehending the notion of the oxymoron, hoping to have put together a **bouquet of eclectic films which will offer a window into a frequently unseen world**, films which might change the way we perceive and understand trans people. With the sincere hope of the Festival - and not only the Festival - that it may soon be designed by beautiful cis and trans beings alike.

*(Kostis Theodosopoulos)*

**THE TRIBUTE’S FILMS:**

**NORTH BY CURRENT** by Angelo Madsen Minax *(2021) - first panhellenic screening*

**SEE YOU THEN** by Mari Walker *(2021) - first panhellenic screening*

**THE OLEANDERS** by Paola Revenioti *(2021) - in attendance of the cast and crew*

**DISCLOSURE** by Sam Feder *(2020)* *- in attendance of the director and producer*

**LITTLE GIRL** by Sébastien Lifshitz *(2020)*

**KORONA** by Erofili Kokkali *(2020) - in attendance of the director*

**OBSCURO BARROCO** by Evangelia Kranioti *(2018)*

**TANGERINE** by Sean Baker *(2015)* - *introduced by Anna Kouroupou, Director of Red Umbrella Athens*

**NANA** by Lara Christen *(2015)*

**STRELLA**  by Panos H. Koutras *(2009)* *- in attendance of the cast and crew*

**PARIS IS BURNING** by Jennie Livingston *(1991)* - followed by a  *Q&Α session with House of Careola*

**BETTY** by Dimitris Stavrakas *(1979) - in attendance of the cast and crew*

**FUNERAL PARADE OF ROSES** by Toshio Matsumoto *(1969)*

**\*** Following the screening of “STRELLA”, an **OPEN DISCUSSION** will follow on the subject of **«Trans visibility in cinema and mainstream narratives vs real life»**. The following people will take part in the discussion: **Paola Revenioti**, director and activist, **Elena Olga Christidi**, psychologist and Scientific Director of the ORLANDO Centre for Mental Health, **Anna Kouroupou**, Director of Red Umbrella Athens and **Erofili Kokkali**, Sexual Health Advisor, author and actress. The discussion will be moderated by journalist **Maria Louka**.

****

[**ΦΩΤΟΓΡΑΦΙΕΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΙΣ ΤΑΙΝΙΕΣ ΒΡΕΙΤΕ ΕΔΩ**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aFlKW1WQoCSng9vuE-FIE90E5Ze8BXIt?usp=sharing)

**PRESS CONFERENCE**

The detailed programme of the 27th Athens International Film Festival will be presented at the **PRESS CONFERENCE** which will take place on **Wednesday** **15th September** **2021**, at the **open air cinema** **AEGLI ZAPPION** at **20:30** and will be **streamed live** through the Festival’s social media pages.

| **HYBRID VERSION OF THE 27TH ATHENS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**  The city’s most important celebration, the **Athens International Film Festival** returns for the 27th year, optimistic and fully adapted to the new conditions, **repeating the successful hybrid version of last year’s event**, making itself accessible to as many viewers as possible.  The 27th AIFF will take place in the following **indoor venues**: **ATHENS CONCERT HALL**, **IDEAL, DANAOS** and **TRIANON** and for the first time at the **MUNICIPAL THEATRE OF PIRAEUS** as well as at **the open air cinemas** **LAIS - The Greek Film Archive Foundation, RIVIERA, FLERY CINEMA** and **STELLA**.  At the **indoor venues** (**Athens Concert Hall, Danaos, Ideal, Trianon, Municipal Theatre of Athens**) in accordance with the current health protocols, admission will be allowed to those who:   * **are vaccinated** * **were diagnosed with Covid-19** (the diagnosis must have been made in the last 6 months) * who have received a **negative rapid antigen test in the last 48 hours**, in the event that they have not been vaccinated.   **Viewers will be admitted** with the following:   * a valid **ticket** * a vaccination / recovery **certificate** or the negative **rapid antigen test** result * **proof of identity** via ID card, passport or driving license.   Furthermore, for the added safety of our viewers, in collaboration with **Festival Scope and Shift 72**, the 27th Athens International Film Festival supplements its programme with a series of special screenings via a purpose-built **digital platform** (**online.aiff.gr**) where viewers will be able to enjoy films from the comfort of their homes, throughout Greece. |
| --- |

The **27th Athens International Film Festival** will take place between **22nd September and the 3rd October 2021**.

For updates and more information tune into the sites of [aiff.gr](http://www.aiff.gr/) and [cinemagazine.gr](http://www.cinemagazine.gr/) and the relevant **social media** pages: [**Facebook AIFF**](https://www.facebook.com/AthensFilmFestival/), [**Instagram**](https://www.instagram.com/cinemagazine_gr/), [**Twitter**](https://twitter.com/nyxtespremieras).

The 27th Athens International Film Festival is affiliated with the PEP Attiki 2014 – 2020 and is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

******

The 27th Athens International Film Festival takes place under the auspices of and with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

****

