

27.09
/
09.10
2023

29
ΝΥΧΤΕΣ
ΠΡΕΜΙΕΡΑΣ
SCREENING SCHEDULE



AIFF.GR @ATHENSFILMFESTIVAL #AIFF29

ΥΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΑΙΓΙΔΑ
UNDER THE AUSPICES



Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση
της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού

ΔΙΟΡΓΑΝΩΣΗ
ORGANISED BY



ΝΥΧΤΕΣ
ΠΡΕΜΙΕΡΑΣ



CINEMAZINE.GR

ΣΕ ΣΥΝΕΡΓΑΣΙΑ
IN COOPERATION WITH



ONODA

IDEAL

19:30 SILVER HAZE
(2023, Netherlands / UK, 103')

Director: Sacha Polak

A young working-class woman lives with the memory – and the body scars – of a mysterious fire during her childhood. When she meets Florence, the attraction is mutual. Love, for the first time, makes her believe in herself and escape her suffocating life. Yet, the open wounds of the past remain. Tender and heartfelt, marked with a memorable leading performance, here is a coming of age film in the best social realism tradition. Teddy Award winner at the recent Berlinale.

22:00 HOW TO HAVE SEX
(2023, UK, 98') **I.C.**

Director: Molly Manning Walker

A young woman visits Malia in Crete, ready to have the all inclusive Dionysian Greek summer experience. The plan is simple: Clubbing, abundant alcohol, new acquaintances. She's about to have the vacations of her life, before an incident in the final evening pretty much demolishes her adolescent dreams. Molly Manning Walker's feature debut announces a great talent, a director of the rare ability to locate each moment's strength in the silences residing in a sensory cyclone. Best Picture in 'Un Certain Regard' at this year's Cannes.

Director in attendance

DANAOS 1

17:00 GREEK SHORT STORIES - IN COMPETITION I (2023, 86')

WALLS by Christos Sarris

À DEUX VOIX by Martha Bouziouri

TITI: IN CYCLONE'S WAKE by Natasha Blatsiou

ON THIS WONDROUS SEA by Kalliopi Legaki

19:15 ON THE ADAMANT / SUR L'ADAMANT
(2023, France / Japan, 109') **D.C.**

Director: Nicolas Philibert

In a floating daily care facility on the Seine, a chapter of a Paris psychiatric clinic is located. In it, mental patients seek care, especially of artistically oriented nature. This year's Berlinale Golden Bear belongs to the emblematic French documentarist, Nicolas Philibert. Unpretentious and disarmingly touching look at the therapeutic side of Art, which looks generously at its subjects as if they are heroes of an exciting, entirely private, fiction. On the Adamant, their narrations, irrational as they may sound, turn into something more than signs of a troubled psyche; they become possible states of an alternative world full of creativity and sensitivity.

Introduction by Giannis Tachmatzides, psychologist, psychiatrist and neuropsychologist

22:00 SUBTRACTION / TAFRIGH
(2022, Iran / France, 107')

Director: Mani Haghighi

An unexpected encounter makes a pregnant driving teacher suspect that her husband is unfaithful to her. But when she follows him to an unknown apartment she is about to discover something far more unsettling. Four (?) surprising protagonists captivate us in this most atypical Iranian film, which unfurls the tragic consequences of a fatal encounter between two married couples. Villeneuve's 'Enemy' meets Zulawski's 'Possession' in a virtuoso mixture of mystery, allegory and fantasy.

ASTY

18:00 ENTER THE CLONES OF BRUCE
(2023, USA, 94')

Director: David Gregory

Did you know that Bruce Lee's death caused such distress to his fans that producers filmed his funeral in order to use it in future flicks? Thus, people like Bruce Lai, Bruce Lo, Bruce Le, Dragon Lee and hordes of imitators were brought to life building a cinematic martial art empire which existed in full glory during the '70s and the '80s. Dead at 32, Lee turned into a legend, changing forever the way the West understood Asians. 'Enter the Clones of Bruce', however, is not here to dictate a moral, but instead to dive in the video club sanctuaries and remind you of a time your ambition was to become a karateka.

20:00 RESTORE POINT / BOD OBNOVY
(2023, Czech Republic / Slovakia / Poland / Serbia, 108')

Director: Robert Hloz

In the near future everyone has a constitutional right to a 'full' life. Through a groundbreaking service, someone dying unnaturally can be 'restored', as long as he has a back-up file of the last 48 hours. A young detective, in her attempt to crack the mystery of a double homicide, faces a technophobic terrorist group out to undermine the moral grounds of a futuristic society threatened by conspiracy. Cyberpunk world building and a thick mystery plot provoke cinematic comparisons to 'Blade Runner'. By the end an incredibly advanced European production prevails, sheltering a miraculous production design and a director seriously expected to be soon invited to Hollywood.

TRIBUTE: SCALA
22:30 THE WARRIORS

(1979, USA, 92')

Director: Walter Hill

An all-night odyssey of a young gang unjustly accused for murder, is the basis of this exciting and visually impressive nocturnal journey on the edge of the city. Walter Hill builds an eccentric cinematic world, as far removed from realism as possible, creating a canvas of vivid, intoxicating colors filled with perfectly choreographed violence. New York turns into a modern jungle filled with contemporary tribes, while the sequences succession owes to the world of comics. The astonishing result impressed in its time, signifying a movie that hasn't dated at all despite being inspired by one of the older texts of all time, Xenophon's 'Anabasis'!

ASTOR

17:15 20 DAYS IN MARIUPOL / 20 ДНІВ У МАРИУПОЛІ

(2023, Ukraine, 94') **D.C.**

Director: Mstyslav Chernov

A group of AP reporters are trapped in Mariupol during the first days of the Russian invasion. Among them the director and war correspondent that was about to record images of an apocalypse while his homeland was viciously attacked. A camera steadily focusing on the victims records images of the most intense, most true –and for that inconceivable– war frontline report has ever seen. Pulitzer-winner Chernov presents one of the most significant contemporary works, capturing an historic moment in all its horrifying grandeur. Audience Award winner in this year's Sundance film festival.

Warning: The film contains very harsh images

19:15 CAREFREE DAYS / XIAO YAO YOU
(2023, China, 120') **I.C.**

Director: Ming Liang

25-year-old Xu Lingling's life turns upside down when she learns she is suffering from a serious illness. Her derelict father returns in a desperate attempt to replace motherly care while she, along with her friend and an old school-mate, decide to go on a beautiful journey. It is a redemptive excursion which in the hands of Ming Liang (whose 'Wisdom Tooth' was awarded in 2020 AIFF) turns into an emotionally rewarding road-movie as well as a portrait of real life showing us for what we really are: Imperfect beings doing the best we can.

Filmmakers and cast in attendance

22:00 QUEENDOM
(2023, USA / France, 103') **D.C.**

Director: Agniia Galdanova

A cinematic trip in the depths of Russia, the last place on Earth one might expect to meet a radical drag performer. Gena is an out-of-this-earth being, standing on its highest heels deep in the snow, wearing handmade clothes inspired from outer space. If one thing lands her back, is living with her grumpy, ever-loving grandparents in a remote, isolated fishing village. When her Moscow school expels her, due to her protesting against the Ukrainian invasion, her life is in danger. She returns to the village one last time, explains why she can't join the army, what Instagram is and how come drag performing is one of the most political acts of our time. Next stop, the world.

Director in attendance

DANAOS 2

19:30 FRAGMENTS OF PARADISE / URYWKI RAJU

(2022, USA, 98')

Director: K.D. Davison

From the beginning of his self-exile to the U.S. until the time of his death, Jonas Mekas never stopped recording on camera his attempts to find the meaning of his thrilling life. 'Fragments of Paradise' is nothing else than his legendary personal videos and his precious on camera diaries – that for those initiated already constitute autonomous works of art that instigated cinema's avant-garde. Next to the fondly presented excerpts, one will find never before seen video and audio documents, while an unparalleled cast of admirers (Scorsese, Jarmusch, Waters) completes an engaging tribute to the 'Godfather' of avant-garde. Best Documentary in last year's Venice Film Festival.

21:30 THE ELEPHANT 6 RECORDING CO.

(2022, USA, 93')

Director: Chad Stockfleth

30 years ago, a North American artists' collective tried to imagine how Brian Wilson's still unpublished, but already part of musical legend, 'Smile' would sound. Devoted to their psychedelic quest and wandering in their non-commercial dogma, bands like Neutral Milk Hotel, of Montreal, Apples in Stereo and Olivia Tremor Control, among many others, redefined lo-fi and gave birth to their own legend. Unusual and revealing, here is a music doc testament straight from the heart of creativity.

IDEAL

17:00 GREEK SHORT STORIES - IN COMPETITION II (2023, 92')
KETCHUP TO YOUR MUSTARD by Iphigeneia Theodoridis

SUPER by Nikolas Kougiolou
GOOD GIRLS CLUB: A VIRGINITY ODYSSEY by Lida Vartzioti, Dimitris Tsakaleas
BEARCAVE by Krysianna Papadakis, Stergios Dinopoulos

TRIBUTE: SCALA
19:30 DEAD RINGERS
(1988, Canada / USA, 115')

Director: David Cronenberg
Cronenberg's masterpiece creates a rare atmosphere of awe and culminating gloom, inspired from a true story in order to tell that of a pair of identical twin brothers, and doctors of unorthodox methods (Jeremy Irons plays both of them, impeccably), whose complex but until then undisturbed relationship gradually disintegrates because they both fall in love with an actress. Icy cold, seductively macabre and deeply cutting, like the surgical instruments of his protagonists, 'Dead Ringers' describes a complicated brotherly love as a disquieting study on the paradoxical road to an unexplored human Twilight Zone. Unforgettable cinema, at once magnetic and repulsive.

22:00 HOARD
(2023, UK, 126') I.C.

Director: Luna Carmoon
Maria, 10, lives in 1984 London with her mother, Cynthia, in a garbage (and love)-filled house. Despite Cynthia's psychosis, she is utterly devoted to her daughter, gathering trash she offers her in absolute adoration. Until one day Maria is violently exiled from her childhood's garbage fort so as to be adopted by a tender foster mother. But when an old acquaintance appears the past resurfaces at once. 'Aftersun' references are inevitable in this daring Neil Jordan and Andrea Arnold-influenced debut of a talent to be reckoned with. An amazing lead performance, Joseph Quinn from 'Stranger Things' in his first essential role and a magical sense that won't go away serve perfectly a movie that won four prizes in the recent Venice film festival.

DANAOS 2

19:30 THE SPECTRE OF BOKO HARAM / LE SPECTRE DE BOKO HARAM
(2023, Cameroon / France, 75') D.C.

Director: Cyrielle Raingou
A terrible wound of the Islamic world, Boko Haram is not just an extremist group. It is an organism teaching its members to kill out of personal need. It is the face of pure evil on Earth. Against it, the director places the children's innocence in their attempt to create their own world, while next to them one more military operation is in order. Thus, absolute moments of horror turn into fairytales told by the fire. A magical documentary of an unseen corner of the planet, built upon the most dangerous contradictions. Golden Tiger winner at the Rotterdam IFF.

DANAOS 1

17:00 PUAN
(2023, Argentina / Italy / France / Germany / Brazil, 109')

Directors: María Alché, Benjamín Naishtat
Marcelo is a Philosophy professor who has devoted his life to teaching. When his mentor dies unexpectedly, he firmly believes the seat of the Department belongs to him. Alas, his plans are sidelined when a younger colleague appears as a contender, due to his reputation and innate social skills. One of the finest representatives of contemporary Latin-American cinema, and an upcoming filmmaker from Argentina, join forces in a mature situational comedy for demanding audiences, balancing unpredictable humor with edgy social commentary.

19:15 OPPONENT / MOTSTÄNDAREN
(2023, Sweden, 119') I.C.

Director: Milad Alami
The award-winning protagonist of 'A Separation' gives an impressive performance of a one-time wrestling champion who escapes with his family from Iran in order to avoid the consequences of a painful rumor about him. Living everyday with the fear of deportation in a Swedish North hotel filled with refugees, our hero decides to return professionally to the ring. But that's where the past and his suppressed side he tries to escape from await. 'Opponent' takes the trial of a man who seeks to define his identity and freedom by dealing with prejudice and himself, and turns it into a powerful drama. Sweden's official submission for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film.

Protagonist, Björn Elgerd in attendance

22:15 PAST LIVES
(2023, USA, 106')

Director: Celine Song
Closely related to 'In the Mood for Love' and 'Before Sunrise', Celine Song's miraculous debut summarizes 25 years of a love incubated between two individuals residing in different continents. It begins when two teenagers fall in love in '90s Seoul and ends in today's New York when, as adults, they realize how an emotional fantasy stands the reality check. Months before competing for Best Picture, Best Direction and Best Screenplay at the Oscars, the universally best reviewed film of the year is an instant classic: A touching elegy on love and the part chance and probability play in our life.

21:00 ANGEL APPLICANT
(2023, USA, 74') D.C.

Director: Ken August Meyer
Most of us know the mixture of expressionism, surrealism and cubism that made Paul Klee famous. But how many know that the man suffered from a form of scleroderma which made his skin look like a plastic doll's? Suffering from the same disease, Ken Meyer shares his experience in this invincibly optimistic, highly inventive documentary. Offering a sublime look in the Klee universe, as well as his own work in commercials, he reveals a great truth: Creativity is above everything, and no one can take it away from you. SXSW Grand Jury Award.

ASTY

19:00 CAREFREE DAYS / XIAO YAO YOU
(2023, China, 120') I.C. (R)

Director: Ming Liang
25-year-old Xu Lingling's life turns upside down when she learns she is suffering from a serious illness. Her derelict father returns in a desperate attempt to replace motherly care while she, along with her friend and an old school-mate, decide to go on a beautiful journey. It is a redemptive excursion which in the hands of Ming Liang (whose 'Wisdom Tooth' was awarded in 2020 AIFF) turns into an emotionally rewarding road-movie as well as a portrait of real life showing us for what we really are: Imperfect beings doing the best we can.

21:30 FREMONT
(2023, USA, 91')

Director: Babak Jalali
Donya is a young Afghan woman who lives in the lethargic Fremont, California and makes a living by writing fortune cookies. Her attempts to put her life in order prove fruitless; she is tormented by sleepless nights and guilt towards her family. Up until she decides to author her own, unorthodox fortune cookie, in search of the ideal romantic recipient. Imbued with melancholic b/w cinematography, with its Jarmusch-like existentialism, its enjoyable multicultural references and the moments of eccentric humor, Jalali's movie brings back good-old authentic memories of American independent cinema and justly won Best Director award at the Karlovy-Vary FF.

Director in attendance

TRIBUTE: SCALA
00:00 TAXI TO THE TOILET / TAXI ZUM KLO
(1980, West Germany, 90')

Director: Frank Ripplöh
Confiscated by the U.S. Customs, banned in several countries and often finding an audience only in underground screenings, this is a monumental queer cinema work that despite the scandal it created in its time for the guiltless (and disillusioned) way it showed its boldness, remains still one of the sincerest and most authentic representations of homosexual life on the big screen. Frank Ripplöh, director, screenwriter and protagonist, guides us through his tranquil days and his wild nights, playing a school teacher unable to decide whether he will commit to a steady relationship or continue with his sexual wandering/cruising in a sultry Berlin of countless sexual possibilities. **Unsuitable for underage viewers**

ASTOR

18:00 THE ETERNAL MEMORY / LA MEMORIA INFINITA
(2023, Chile, 85') D.C.

Director: Maite Alberdi
A married couple, both public individuals in Chile and very much in love with each other, is before a great test. She is an actress and politician and he is a journalist who for decades reported on the harsh political reality of his country. But now, this guardian of collective memory gradually loses his and his wife does all she can to prevent his inevitable lapse into oblivion. 'The Eternal Memory' is in itself an invocation to the image as memory reserve. It is also a great love story. It won the Grand Jury prize in Sundance FF and promises to send again its director at the Oscars, as it did two years ago with 'The Mole Agent'.

20:00 THE SENTIMENTALISTS
(2014, Greece, 100')

Director: Nikos Triantafyllidis
The 'Master'. A loan shark illegally trading antiquities in hearses. In charge of his dirty work are two young men, who both make the fatal mistake of falling in love. As they are 'Sentimentalists' will have to be taken care of... Takis Moschos, Haris Fragoulis, Dimitris Lalos and Iliana Mavromati star in the last feature film by Nikos Triantafyllidis, an unconventional romantic film dedicated to 'creatures of the previous century, who are trying in vain to survive our times'.

10th anniversary screening in attendance of filmmakers

22:00 THE SOUND OF COLOGNE
(2022, Germany, 99')

Director: Kristina Schippling
No less than a rhythmical, information-heavy journey on the streets, the clubs and the wild record companies of Cologne, the motherland of electronic music. From the cosmic experiments of Stockhausen, to the krautrock greatness of CAN, and from the charge of 128bpm to the age of maturity and minimal techno, Schippling's documentary is developed upon the relationship between the city and its nocturnal creatures, all those individuals who stayed wide awake to discover the sound of the future. Perhaps they also found the music that changed the world.

IDEAL

18:00 TWILIGHT / SZÜRKÜLET
(1990, Hungary, 105')

Director: György Fehér

At a mountainous village in Hungary, a tough detective investigates a series of schoolgirl murders. While locals seem to be in denial of the horrible events, the investigator sinks gradually in the obsession over an ostensibly never-ending mystery. Made up of engraving-like images of a world where light seems to dry up, rarely screened 'Twilight' remained for years in obscurity. Its recent restoration reveals in all its grandeur the blackness behind the staggering aesthetic completion and arrests in its full monochromatic splendor an apocalyptic vision from innocence's end. One of the most atmospheric and ominous films ever made.

20:30 TOTEM / TÓTEM
(2023, Mexico / Denmark / France, 95') **I.C.**

Director: Lila Avilés

Mexico's official submission for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film, and a film awarded at Berlinale, is one of the most beautiful films ever made about childhood. It focuses on a seven-year-old girl preparing with her extended family for the celebration of her father's birthday. As the feverish preparations give way to the party, the young girl realizes that the celebration serves also a melancholic farewell and that true love is the only shelter and comfort from the great sorrows of the world. A cinematic thing of beauty.

TRIBUTE: SCALA
22:30 OUT OF THE BLUE

(1980, USA, 94')

Director: Dennis Hopper

A 15-year-old girl, an Elvis and Sid Vicious' fan, who sees her father in prison and her mother lost in drugs, is about to experience her own tough coming-of-age in a no-win provincial America. A genuinely cinematic, punk dynamite of nihilism, filled with a raw energy that still shocks today, boasting a staggering performance by Linda Manz, Dennis Hopper's cursed opus, one of the best in the '80s, is a requiem of lost souls.

Screening in co-operation with Midnight Express.
Introduction by Akis Kapranos

DANAOS 2

19:00 ANSELM 3D / ANSELM: DAS RAUSCHEN DER ZEIT
(2023, Germany, 93')

Director: Wim Wenders

There is something inevitable in the meeting of Wim Wenders with one of the major contemporary visual artists, Anselm Kiefer. They are both Germans, born in the same year and they are both definitive figures that have refreshed German art. Wenders reserves a monumental portrait for Kiefer, one that lets his Art speak about him, instead of a clichéd parade of knowledgeable talking heads. The gigantic works of art sparkle in the dazzling 3D, in a documentary of similar visual flair to 'Pina'.

Introduction by Iliana Fokianaki, Director of Modern Art Institute, State of Concept Athens

DANAOS 1

17:30 GREEK SHORT STORIES - IN COMPETITION III (2023, 102')

FLUX by Giorgos Bougioukos

DEEP SEA by Kallia Papadaki

SCORCHED EARTH by Markela Kontaratos

DAYS OF A LILAC SUMMER by Ariadni Angeliki

Thyfronitou Litou

THE FIRST SETTING SUN OF SUMMER by Asteris Tziolas

END OF AUGUST by Angelika Katsa

20:00 THE NATURE OF LOVE / SIMPLE COMME SYLVAIN
(2023, Canada / France, 111')

Director: Monia Chokri

Sofia is an upper-class woman, leading a typical, modern, civilized marriage. That is, she sleeps in a separate bedroom. One day she will meet the man who is about to restore her cottage and everything in her life collapses, making her wonder whether she was right giving in to her instincts and desires. Monia Chokri (Xavier Dolan's leading actress) surrenders completely to an absolutely imaginative direction, while at the forefront sense and sensibility, sex and romance, comedy and female contemporary questions, collide. Bold and certainly adult in spirit and in spectacle, her movie stood out as one of the biggest surprises of this year's Cannes Film Festival.

22:30 MAY DECEMBER
(2023, USA, 113')

Director: Todd Haynes

Elizabeth (Portman), an upcoming television actress, is about to portray in a true crime production Gracie (Moore), a woman who provoked a national scandal 23 years ago when she was caught having sex with one of her students. For the demands of her role, Elizabeth decides to move in temporarily with Gracie. This marks the beginning of a delightful showdown, full of vitriolic glances feeding a growing sexual tension of a ménage à trois. Todd Haynes rewrites camp for a meta soap opera and delivers the most strangely attractive film of his significant oeuvre. In Competition at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

21:30 HOW TO HAVE SEX
(2023, UK, 98') **I.C. (R)**

Director: Molly Manning Walker

A young woman visits Malia in Crete, ready to have the all inclusive Dionysian Greek summer experience. The plan is simple: Clubbing, abundant alcohol, new acquaintances. She's about to have the vacations of her life, before an incident in the final evening pretty much demolishes her adolescent dreams. Molly Manning Walker's feature debut announces a great talent, a director of the rare ability to locate each moment's strength in the silences residing in a sensory cyclone. Best Picture in 'Un Certain Regard' at this year's Cannes.

ASTY

17:30 WHICH COLOUR? / KAYO KAYO COLOUR?
(2023, India, 96')

Director: Shahrukhkhan Chavada

The everyday reality of a Muslim family living in the projects of Ahmedabad, unfurls through the rituals of its members. The mother works in the house, the children play with everything in front of them, and the father tries to make money. When the sun sets, the neighborhood relaxes filled with a keen sense of optimism. Strongly influenced by Charles Burnett's 'The Killer of Sheep', newcomer Chavada redefines neorealism in the big screen. Human experience takes center stage at the layered compositions and the film unleashes an endless b/w palette of emotions discovering the color missing from the lives of its protagonists. A rare cinematic treat.

19:30 FOLK BARDS - MOMENTS OF THEIR LIVES AND OURS

(2023, Greece, 120')

Director: Thanos Koutsandreas

The late Panos Geramanis talks with the forgotten heroes of folk music and retrieves moments from their lives, trying to document and relive the images and values of an era forever lost. Through his everyday radio show, the legendary 'Folk Bards', he presents the greatest and often forgotten heroes of Greek folk music. For 16 years he shared unknown stories of famous singers, secrets and strange incidents, comprising the memories of the golden era of Greek music. Panos Geramanis, always smiling, with his persistence and self-denial, presents a palimpsest of our folk music tradition, accompanied with his childhood memories and those of his first years in the newspapers and the radio.

Director in attendance

22:00 OPPONENT / MOTSTÅNDAREN
(2023, Sweden, 119') **I.C. (R)**

Director: Milad Alami

The award-winning protagonist of 'A Separation' gives an impressive performance of a one-time wrestling champion who escapes with his family from Iran in order to avoid the consequences of a painful rumor about him. Living everyday with the fear of deportation in a Swedish North hotel filled with refugees, our hero decides to return professionally to the ring. But that's where the past and his suppressed side he tries to escape from await. 'Opponent' takes the trial of a man who seeks to define his identity and freedom by dealing with prejudice and himself, and turns it into a powerful drama. Sweden's official submission for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film.

Protagonist, Björn Elgerd in attendance

ASTOR

17:45 ANGEL APPLICANT
(2023, USA, 74') **D.C. (R)**

Director: Ken August Meyer

Most of us know the mixture of expressionism, surrealism and cubism that made Paul Klee famous. But how many know that the man suffered from a form of scleroderma which made his skin look like a plastic doll's? Suffering from the same disease, Ken Meyer shares his experience in this invincibly optimistic, highly inventive documentary. Offering a sublime look in the Klee universe, as well as his own work in commercials, he reveals a great truth: Creativity is above everything, and no one can take it away from you. SXSW Grand Jury Award.

19:30 THE MOTHER OF ALL LIES / KADIB ABYAD

(2023, Morocco / Saudi Arabia, 97') **D.C.**

Director: Asmaa El Moudir

In contemporary Casablanca, grandmother Zahra is feared by her family and the entire neighborhood. She spies on everyone and begrudges intensely when her family poses (or takes) photographs. The director is left with no choice but to oversee and film the creation of a detailed miniature diorama depicting the neighborhood back at the time when the fatal 'Bread Riots' took place in 1981 Casablanca, numbering 600 human casualties. Fatima, shot with no reason then, becomes the ghost that haunts their lives. But has the grandmother seen the murderer and refuses all these years to reveal who did it? Director and Best Documentary prizes in Cannes 2023 'Un Certain Regard'.

Director in attendance

22:00 Matria
(2023, Spain, 99') **I.C.**

Director: Álvaro Gago

Ramona runs, cleans, swears, looks after, smokes and freaks out, holding an entire world in her arms which she keeps from crumbling. Trapped in a rainy village by the sea somewhere in Spain, she works as a cleaner in a factory that changes management resulting in her wages cut in half. She is the only one courageous enough to oppose the bosses, marking thus the beginning of a breathtaking race for survival. 'Matria' is the portrait of a working class woman, a mother and a place that won't allow her to be a woman. María Vázquez is the triumphant protagonist in a Loach-influenced Spanish drama, fully at war with patriarchy.

Director in attendance

IDEAL

16:45 GREEK SHORT STORIES - IN COMPETITION IV (2023, 105')**FUGA** by Antonis Dousias**MY NAME IS ANTI** by Andreas Vakaliou, Fili Olsefski**PLEASE, WAIT** by Karina Logothetis**AEROLIN** by Alexis Koukias-Pantelis**HIGHWAY OF A BROKEN HEART** by Nikos Kyritsis**MIDNIGHT SKIN** by Manolis Mavris**19:00 SHORT CUTS** (1993, USA, 188')**Director:** Robert Altman

Nominated for Best Director Oscar and honored with the Golden Lion in the Venice Film Festival, the best American film of the '90s composes an epic kaleidoscope of modern urban reality through the occasionally intersecting stories of 22 characters in a Los Angeles background. From the opening scene, where a bunch of helicopters spray the city, to the biblical ending, great Altman's tour de force transcribes nine Raymond Carver stories into a mosaic of contemporary paranoia shatteringly mirroring a tragicomic panorama of human condition. An unparalleled feat of contemporary cinema.

30th anniversary tribute screening**22:30 STORY AVE** (2023, USA, 94')**Director:** Aristotle Torres

This is undoubtedly the brain child of someone inspired by Spike Lee. A newcomer director puts a wounded child against a wounded adult and waits who'll run first. Kadir just lost a brother and Luis tries to forget he has lost a son. They will meet during a cold New York night at the subway, when the first will attempt to burgle the other at gunpoint. It's the beginning of a loving, brisk and stylishly directed tale in contemporary Bronx. Guzmán is disarming in his role and Asante Blackk walks his way towards adulthood through hip hop rimes and graffiti in the walls.

DANAOS 2

19:30 ON THE ADAMANT / SUR L'ADAMANT (2023, France / Japan, 109') **D.C.** (R)**Director:** Nicolas Philibert

In a floating daily care facility on the Seine, a chapter of a Paris psychiatric clinic is located. In it, mental patients seek care, especially of artistically oriented nature. This year's Berlinale Golden Bear belongs to the emblematic French documentarist, Nicolas Philibert. Unpretentious and disarmingly touching look at the therapeutic side of Art, which looks generously at its subjects as if they are heroes of an exciting, entirely private, fiction. On the Adamant, their narrations, irrational as they may sound, turn into something more than signs of a troubled psyche; they become possible states of an alternative world full of creativity and sensitivity.

DANAOS 1

TRIBUTE: SCALA
17:00 KISS ME DEADLY (1955, USA, 106')**Director:** Robert Aldrich

It started off as an elaborate crime film and culminated into a holocaust. Its leading man was a private eye with fascist tendencies looking for a coveted Pandora box filled with deadly secrets. On May 18th 1955, Robert Aldrich delivered a cinematic bomb, destined to explode at the very last minute, blowing up in the faces of unsuspecting viewers Mickey Spillane's pulp pages, film noir, the cold-war nuclear hysteria, the demolition of political correctness and the most nihilistic worldview. An inconceivable film at the time, deservedly considered as one of the top of its kind, it has influenced from Godard and the French New Wave to films like 'Repo Man' and 'Pulp Fiction'.

19:15 RICEBOY SLEEPS (2022, Canada, 117') **I.C.****Director:** Anthony Shim

During the '90s, a young unmarried mother emigrates with her little boy from Korea to Canada in an attempt to secure for him a better life. As they adapt in the idyllic white suburbs, they will soon come face to face with racism in every step. Drawing from personal experience, the director offers a synopsis of an entire Asian generation, enveloping it in a tender and relentlessly sincere story of love between a mother and a son. Lyrical and fragile, here is a coming of age chronicle of survival that won literally dozens of awards in the international festival circuit.

21:45 SHAYDA (2023, Australia, 118')**Director:** Noora Niasari

Featuring Zar Amir Ebrahimi's ('Holy Spider') splendid performance, 'Shayda' follows her courageous titular hero, an Iranian immigrant woman hiding with her daughter in an accommodation site for women-victims of family abuse. Her situation is difficult: If she returns to her country, she will lose custody of her child. If she stays in Australia her husband must not learn of her whereabouts before the divorce is finalized. All alone she must find a new life and learn to stand tall in a harsh world. In the process, Shayda will flood emotionally this heated debut. Australia's submission for Best International Film at the Oscars and Audience Award at Sundance FF.

22:00 FRAGMENTS OF PARADISE / URYWKI RAJU (2022, USA, 98') (R)**Director:** K.D. Davison

From the beginning of his self-exile to the U.S. until the time of his death, Jonas Mekas never stopped recording on camera his attempts to find the meaning of his thrilling life. 'Fragments of Paradise' is nothing else than his legendary personal videos and his precious on camera diaries – that for those initiated already constitute autonomous works of art that instigated cinema's avant-garde. Next to the fondly presented excerpts, one will find never before seen video and audio documents, while an unparalleled cast of admirers (Scorsese, Jarmusch, Waters) completes an engaging tribute to the 'Godfather' of avant-garde. Best Documentary in last year's Venice Film Festival.

ASTY

TRIBUTE: SCALA
18:00 A TOUCH OF ZEN / XIA NÜ (1971, Taiwan / Hong Kong, 180')**Director:** King Hu

A disguised young woman persecuted by corrupt state officers finds refuge in an isolated village and a haunted house. When her identity is revealed she and her companions shall be up against a horde of war-hungry opponents. The majestic film of King Hu, the man who altered the states of the martial arts genre turning it into a blend of aesthetic pleasure and philosophical contemplation, seems like a series of intertwined Chinese boxes doubting the very limits of film genre itself. Ghost story, political thriller and, through splendid action choreography, a metaphysical exploration of human nature, 'A Touch of Zen' is a unique epic in every possible meaning of the word.

21:45 PRETTY RED DRESS (2022, UK, 110')**Director:** Dionne Edwards

In a house where Tina Turner is kind of a patron saint, Candice – preparing for an audition for a musical about Tina – welcomes her husband who is just out of prison. A sparkling red dress will be the apple of discord between them. Travis will buy it for Candice, but their daughter will catch him wearing it. Done with humor and optimism, 'Pretty Red Dress' refuses to allow the earthquake below the family house demolish Travis from his high heels, searching for a way to let him be himself without shadowing the women of his life.

ASTOR

17:00 ARTHUR & DIANA (2023, Germany, 108') **I.C.****Director:** Sara Summa

Stuck in the Berlin traffic, Arthur and his neurotic sister Diana, and child, leave for a road trip to central Europe in a confessional journey that brings to mind nostalgic school vacations that never ended. Nothing prepares you for this fascinating movie trip, which constantly changes moods and gear through the colorful, sometimes melancholic and utterly cute adventures of two bohemian individuals that just don't want to grow old.

Director in attendance**19:15 FREMONT** (2023, USA, 91') (R)**Director:** Babak Jalali

Donya is a young Afghan woman who lives in the lethargic Fremont, California and makes a living by writing fortune cookies. Her attempts to put her life in order prove fruitless; she is tormented by sleepless nights and guilt towards her family. Up until she decides to author her own, unorthodox fortune cookie, in search of the ideal romantic recipient. Imbued with melancholic b/w cinematography, with its Jarmusch-like existentialism, its enjoyable multicultural references and the moments of eccentric humor, Jalali's movie brings back good-old authentic memories of American independent cinema and justly won Best Director award at the Karlovy-Vary FF.

Director in attendance**21:30 THE BEAST / LA BÊTE** (2023, France / Canada, 146')**Director:** Bertrand Bonello

A man and a woman meet mysteriously again and again in different times and places: In 1910 Paris, 2014 Los Angeles, in a dystopian 2044 French capital, inside a club. She is tormented by an ominous premonition. He comforts her asking her to rely on him. And yet, every encounter verifies her intuition. Bonello, one of the most unconventional directors working today, transforms the brilliant Henry James novella into a dark, brainy, exciting sci-fi tale that goes through the past and the future searching for answers to the permanent enigmas of sexual attraction and human existence amidst a rapidly evolving world.

IDEAL

17:00 GREEK SHORT STORIES - IN COMPETITION V (2023, 99')**WINGS** by Fivos Imellos**THE THIEF** by Matteo Pizzocaro**SHORT DRAFT** by Spiridon Papispirov**LITTLE DOGGIE** by Giorgos Ntounis**CROSSING** by Aineias Tsamatis, Katerina Mavrogeorgi**FRANCOPHONIE NIGHT TV5 MONDE****19:30 LAST SUMMER / L'ÉTÉ DERNIER****(2023, France, 104')****Director:** Catherine Breillat

Anne is a successful lawyer, living with her husband and their two daughters. When her husband's 17-year-old son from a previous marriage moves in with them, Anne starts a fiery affair with him endangering her career and family life. Revisiting 2019's acclaimed Danish film, 'Queen of Hearts', Catherine Breillat strikes again with her best film in ages. The ideal acting ensemble helps her unravel sardonically the already scandalous story, disorienting audience expectations, subverting the characters' balance of power and violently rupturing the French bourgeoisie illusion of happiness. Nominated for the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

TV5MONDE**21:45 CREATURA****(2023, Spain, 112')****Director:** Elena Martín

Anne is a successful lawyer, living with her husband and their two daughters. When her husband's 17-year-old son from a previous marriage moves in with them, Anne starts a fiery affair with him endangering her career and family life. Revisiting 2019's acclaimed Danish film, 'Queen of Hearts', Catherine Breillat strikes again with her best film in ages. The ideal acting ensemble helps her unravel sardonically the already scandalous story, disorienting audience expectations, subverting the characters' balance of power and violently rupturing the French bourgeoisie illusion of happiness. Nominated for the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

DANAOS 1

17:15 ROCK HUDSON: ALL THAT HEAVEN ALLOWED**(2023, UK, 104')****Director:** Stephen Kijak

An orgasmic documentary for every sexual preference, since Roy's from Illinois extreme makeover to Rock from Hollywood is so successful you expect him to propose. It is sad actually watching how a shrewd agent condemned Rock Hudson in a life deep in the closet, but, on the other hand, the film is so lighthearted that makes you forget it. Adding an exploration of his considerable talent and a review of how his death from AIDS complications changed global awareness, this is the bio-doc of the year.

19:30 WHEN WILL IT BE LIKE IT NEVER WAS BEFORE / WANN WIRD ES ENDLICH WIEDER SO, WIE ES NIE WAR**(2023, Germany, 116')****Director:** Sonja Heiss

The director of a groundbreaking psychiatric clinic lives with his family in a beautiful villa at the premises of the clinic. His wife and three sons coexist daily with the inmates of the institution in a condition of absolute acceptance. But everyone seeks some sort of tenderness in any way they can. Colorful and faultlessly art-directed, the film is a touching coming of age story of an entire family placed to the fore of a '70s background.

22:00 ONLY THE RIVER FLOWS / HE BIAN DE CUO WU**(2023, China, 102')****Director:** Wei Shujun

A series of murders unsettles a quiet little town in the provinces of China. Under the pressure of his superiors, a young detective takes the case and soon boasts an arrest. Could it be, however, that the true murderer is still out there? In the best tradition of stunning investigative thrillers like 'Memories of Murder' and 'Zodiac', Wei Shujun delivers an excellently directed, captivating riddle that stares awed into a noir-ish existential abyss.

21:45 RIDERS ON THE STORM**(2023, Austria, 102') D.C.****Director:** Jason Motlagh, Mark Oltmans

Welcome to a woman-less world. Buzkashi is an exclusive man's sport, in which Afghan men fight for a goat's carcass and the world's richest men watch. This indescribable mounted sport is even harder to film, but the filmmaker duo goes virtually right in following a player-rising star. And then, before our eyes, the film changes pace, turning into an agonizing thriller since the Taliban's coming is announced. Torrential as it is, with its stunning pen-camera and intense depiction of contemporary Afghanistan, the film starts off as a crash course in buzkashi that as time passes resembles an ancient crusade where every player could be a potential rebel.

Director, Jason Motlagh in attendance

ASTY

18:00 WHICH COLOUR? / KAYO KAYO COLOUR?**(2023, India, 96') (R)****Director:** Shahrukhkhan Chavada

The everyday reality of a Muslim family living in the projects of Ahmedabad, unfurls through the rituals of its members. The mother works in the house, the children play with everything in front of them, and the father tries to make money. When the sun sets, the neighborhood relaxes filled with a keen sense of optimism. Strongly influenced by Charles Burnett's 'The Killer of Sheep', newcomer Chavada redefines neorealism in the big screen. Human experience takes center stage at the layered compositions and the film unleashes an endless b/w palette of emotions discovering the color missing from the lives of its protagonists. A rare cinematic treat.

TRIBUTE: SCALA**20:00 SCALA!!! OR, THE INCREDIBLY STRANGE RISE AND FALL OF THE WORLD'S WILDEST CINEMA AND HOW IT INFLUENCED A MIXED-UP GENERATION OF WEIRDOS AND MISFITS****(2023, UK, 96')****Directors:** Ali Catterall, Jane Giles

According to the official story, the Scala stood for 15 years as the most eclectic art house theatre in England. It also holds that people like Nolan, McDonagh, McQueen, Strickland, among others, learned in it the cinematic alphabet. Thankfully, there's also an unofficial story: one of adventurous screenings of debauchery, of a cinema with 'the most outrageous audience in the world', as John Waters once put it. Scala, apart from its eclectic repertoire, was shelter for any multi-colored pansexual nocturnal tribe, people that went there to commune cinema with religious zeal. The story of a legendary theatre and its incredible audience is the ticket to an enchanting nocturnal universe and the occasion for this year's main tribute of the 29th AIFF.

Directors in attendance**TRIBUTE: SCALA****22:30 MS .45****(1978, UK, 81')****Director:** Abel Ferrara

A shy, silent woman is raped twice during the same day. Blinded by rage and shocked by the experience, transforms into a sensual exterminating angel and goes out to the dark New York streets shooting every threatening male in sight. Abel Ferrara reverses the roles of victim/offender and adopts the gaze of an innocent young woman who becomes a vigilante and turns the phallic .45 into a fetish instrument of female wrath against any suspicion of chauvinist threat. 19-year-old Zoe Lund is breathtaking and this stylish, ultra-violent manifesto remains one of the finest '80s exploitation movies.

ASTOR

17:00 THE ETERNAL MEMORY / LA MEMORIA INFINITA**(2023, Chile, 85') D.C. (R)****Director:** Maite Alberdi

A married couple, both public individuals in Chile and very much in love with each other, is before a great test. She is an actress and politician and he is a journalist who for decades reported on the harsh political reality of his country. But now, this guardian of collective memory gradually loses his and his wife does all she can to prevent his inevitable lapse into oblivion. 'The Eternal Memory' is in itself an invocation to the image as memory reserve. It is also a great love story. It won the Grand Jury prize in Sundance FF and promises to send again its director at the Oscars, as it did two years ago with 'The Mole Agent'.

19:00 20,000 SPECIES OF BEES / 20.000 ESPECIES DE ABEJAS**(2023, Spain, 125') I.C.****Director:** Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren

It is the beginning of summer, but for 8-year-old trans girl Lucia it is a moment of seismic changes in her fragile inner world. Her mother is encouraging, but people behave as if she's capricious. However, during their vacation in the Basque Country, through socializing with open-minded (or not so) relatives, the brave little girl will attempt to find herself and reintroduce it to others. That way this heartfelt, tender coming-of-age debut, featuring an astounding and Berlinale awarded lead performance by Sofia Otero, transforms into a statement of ecumenical importance on the right to define your identity and be loved for what you really are. Not what others expect from you.

22:00 UNIVERSAL THEORY / DIE THEORIE VON ALLEM**(2023, Germany / Austria / Switzerland, 118') I.C.****Director:** Timm Kröger

1962. In a physics symposium in the Alps, a young student tries to complete his dissertation on a challenging theory about multiple realities. Soon, weird phenomena seem to confirm it, as ominous figures, strange clouds, inexplicable deaths, doppelgangers and a mysterious female pianist, which he falls in love with, appear. Perhaps the surprise of this year's Venice FF Competition; the film is proudly inspired by Aronofsky's 'Pi', Trier's 'Europa', as well as Hitchcock and the Hollywood noir of the '40s and '50s. Thus it unfolds an ambitious cinematic structure, balancing audaciously between a cosmic thriller and a transformative love story proving that occasionally style is of the essence.

Director, Timm Kröger and producer, Viktoria Stolpe in attendance

DANAOS 2

19:15 SMOKE SAUNA SISTERHOOD / SAVVUSANNA SÕSARAD**(2023, Estonia / France / Iceland, 89') D.C.****Director:** Anna Hints

An anonymous sisterhood comes together regularly in a traditional sauna, located somewhere deep in a magical forest. Their discussions flow, while the seasons change and the local customs find their way in the narratives. The film etches its own map on the bodies and souls of the women, starting unsuspectingly but leading gradually to unexpected confessional crescendos, as the women rest in the dream of a better world. Directing Award for a World Cinema Documentary in Sundance.

Director in attendance

IDEAL

19:00 SLOW / TU MAN NIEKO NEPRIMENI
(2023, Lithuania / Spain / Sweden, 108') I.C.

Director: Marija Kavtaradze

A young dance teacher and dancer thinks she has found the ideal lover, and partner possibly, in a charming sign language interpreter. But he quickly announces to her that he is asexual. This problematic condition makes things rather hard between them, though they try ceaselessly to make it work, since the match is obvious. And thus commences a bittersweet story of an unusual love story, of a kind new to cinema. The two leading performances share incredible chemistry, the direction showers them with love and compassion, all resulting to an utterly romantic, melancholy love story that Lithuania suggests for next year's International Oscar and Sundance Film Festival hands World Cinema Directing Award.

21:30 STRANGE WAY OF LIFE
(2023, Spain, 31')

Director: Pedro Almodóvar

Two men sharing a common past but a diametrically opposed identity before the Law, meet again at an idyllic Wild West settlement. Their reunion brings forth the repressed passion, igniting a nostalgic return to a time of youth. But, the next morning reveals the real reason behind the reunion and a bloody confrontation seems inevitable. Unless, love wins. Pedro Almodóvar directs a queer 'pocket' western for YSL fashion house, and Ethan Hawke with Pedro Pascal stand as the opposite poles of a destructive magnetism signifying the perfect (and guiltless) 'guilty pleasure' of the year.

LAW OF DESIRE / LA LEY DEL DESEO
(1987, Spain, 102')

Director: Pedro Almodóvar

In a summertime Madrid, enkindled by the heat and passion of her people, a queer director, accustomed to guarding his independence from his lovers, will see his rule over his life destroyed by the coming of a paroxysmic young man. Life and art share the same fiery bed in one of the boldest, wildest and (for his ardent admirers) best Almodóvar films. Antonio Banderas is handsomer than ever, Karmen Maura reminds why she held the scepter of being Almodóvar's muse, while the entire film pulsates in a risky, animated sexual tension.

DANAOS 2

19:30 RIDERS ON THE STORM
(2023, Austria, 102') D.C. (R)

Director: Jason Motlagh, Mark Oltmans

Welcome to a woman-less world. Buzkashi is an exclusive man's sport, in which Afghan men fight for a goat's carcass and the world's richest men watch. This indescribable mounted sport is even harder to film, but the filmmaker duo goes virtually right in following a player-rising star. And then, before our eyes, the film changes pace, turning into an agonizing thriller since the Taliban's coming is announced. Torrential as it is, with its stunning pen-camera and intense depiction of contemporary Afghanistan, the film starts off as a crash course in buzkashi that as time passes resembles an ancient crusade where every player could be a potential rebel.

Director, Jason Motlagh in attendance

DANAOS 1

16:45 GREEK SHORT STORIES - IN COMPETITION VI (2023, 96')
IS, OR: A BEAUTIFUL, TINY, REDDISH HAIR, AS THIN AS FIBER by Kostas Bakouris
FRRACTURE by Panagiotis Fafoutis
IF I TELL YOU MY MEMORIES by Maria Elena Mitrodima

GÓOS by Flora Iliá

UNTIL YOU SEE ME by Eleanna Santorinaiou

DUSTLIGHT by Chryssanthi Kouri

19:00 CLUB ZERO
(2023, Austria / UK / Germany / France / Denmark, 110')

Director: Jessica Haussner

In an expensive private school, a young teacher (Mia Wasikowska) decides to improve the eating habits of her students through a groundbreaking seminar on 'Conscious Eating'. As her tactics become more extreme, making her seem more like a cult leader than a respected nutritionist, the children's health deteriorates and the consequences become unpredictable. Balancing comedy, drama and horror, the Austrian director of 'Lourdes' returns with a pitch black, deeply ironic satire, reminiscent of Lanthimos, targeting eccentric health foods mania, as well as our blind trust to self-appointed experts.

21:30 LOST COUNTRY
(2023, Serbia / France / Croatia / Luxembourg, 105') I.C.

Director: Vladimir Perišić

1996, Serbia. Amidst protests against the Milošević regime, 15-year-old Stefan will have to revolt against what he holds most precious. He must face his beloved mother, the object of rebellion for his friends due to her being a press representative for the corrupt government. Politically conscious and forging a great sense of empathy that brings to mind the cinema of Krzysztof Kieślowski, Vladimir Perišić's film depicts the pressing dilemma of his green hero as a dangerous, oppressing dragnet is closing in. Jasna Djuricic, the jaw-dropping actress of 'Quo Vadis, Aida?' plays the mother. Best Actor Award in the Festival of Sarajevo for the young protagonist.

22:00 MATRIA
(2023, Spain, 99') I.C. (R)

Director: Álvaro Gago

Ramona runs, cleans, swears, looks after, smokes and freaks out, holding an entire world in her arms which she keeps from crumbling. Trapped in a rainy village by the sea somewhere in Spain, she works as a cleaner in a factory that changes management resulting in her wages cut in half. She is the only one courageous enough to oppose the bosses, marking thus the beginning of a breathtaking race for survival. 'Matria' is the portrait of a working class woman, a mother and a place that won't allow her to be a woman. María Vázquez is the triumphant protagonist in a Loach-influenced Spanish drama, fully at war with patriarchy.

ASTY

18:00 WERNER HERZOG: RADICAL DREAMER

(2022, Germany / UK, 90')

Director: Thomas von Steinaecker

Herzog lives the American Dream. It may sound contradictory, considering he is one of the most unconventional cinema artists ever, but 'Radical Dreamer' puts him on the pedestal he deserves. Underneath, utterly charmed, Kidman, Pattinson, Bale and other Hollywood a-listers cannot believe Herzog asked to collaborate with them. And he, driving his monstrous SUV in the streets of LA, this gutsy 80-year-old, talks about things past and future, refers to his childhood and discloses details of a life deserving to reach the big screen.

20:00 MUTINY IN HEAVEN: THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

(2023, Australia, 98')

Director: Ian White

Speaking about the myth of the tormented musician, perhaps none suffered more than The Birthday Party en route to becoming the legendary The Bad Seeds. Uncanny documentary on the post-punk beginnings of Nick Cave, built upon voices from the past. Endowed with an amazing, never-before-seen footage, 'Mutiny in Heaven' is loud to an earth-shattering volume, while the director presents the once destitute, hopeless band, and their love affair with drugs. Still, everything is shadowed by their live shows – with the exception perhaps of Cave wearing a giant diaper on 'Nick the Stripper'.

TRIBUTE: SCALA
22:00 VARIETY

(1983, USA, 101')

Director: Bette Gordon

A young woman learns first-hand the world of porn-theaters and sex shops of New York when she gets a job as a cashier in a porn cinema. The male-dominated surroundings attract her tremendously giving birth to an unseen sexual side of her. The even darker side of it begins when she obsesses with a rich client. One of the unexplored gems of the '80s American independent cinema, 'Variety' is a feminist 'Taxi Driver', a strange noir in which a fearless woman subverts stereotypes, becomes a hunter and defines her own fantasies. It's a dangerous path that will lead her in urban corners of ill-repute and divulge threatening nights of a sleepless metropolis.

40th anniversary screening of the film

ASTOR

17:30 THE MOTHER OF ALL LIES / KADIB ABYAD

(2023, Morocco / Saudi Arabia, 97') D.C. (R)

Director: Asmae El Moudir

In contemporary Casablanca, grandmother Zahra is feared by her family and the entire neighborhood. She spies on everyone and begrudges intensely when her family poses (or takes) photographs. The director is left with no choice but to oversee and film the creation of a detailed miniature diorama depicting the neighborhood back at the time when the fatal 'Bread Riots' took place in 1981 Casablanca, numbering 600 human casualties. Fatima, shot with no reason then, becomes the ghost that haunts their lives. But has the grandmother seen the murderer and refuses all these years to reveal who did it? Director and Best Documentary prizes in Cannes 2023 'Un Certain Regard'.

19:30 UNIVERSAL THEORY / DIE THEORIE VON ALLEM

(2023, Germany / Austria / Switzerland, 118') I.C. (R)

Director: Timm Kröger

1962. In a physics symposium in the Alps, a young student tries to complete his dissertation on a challenging theory about multiple realities. Soon, weird phenomena seem to confirm it, as ominous figures, strange clouds, inexplicable deaths, doppelgangers and a mysterious female pianist, which he falls in love with, appear. Perhaps the surprise of this year's Venice FF Competition; the film is proudly inspired by Aronofsky's 'Pi', Trier's 'Europa', as well as Hitchcock and the Hollywood noir of the '40s and '50s. Thus it unfolds an ambitious cinematic structure, balancing audaciously between a cosmic thriller and a transformative love story proving that occasionally style is of the essence.

Director, Timm Kröger and producer, Viktoria Stolpe in attendance

22:00 THE LAST YEAR OF DARKNESS / WU YE CHU ZOU

(2023, China / USA, 92') D.C.

Director: Benjamin Mullinkosson

Every weekend in the crumbling Funky Town club, beats the heart of the LGBTQ culture of a chaotic, ever-changing Chinese metropolis. To find it, one must go through construction works hiding it. In it, a group of outsiders crosses the screen. They look disconnected, at first, but as time goes by they will become beloved. 'The Last Year of Darkness' records a long list of debauchery and loud music, while at the same time overflows with tenderness and moments of lyrical despair. When the construction work finishes, 'Funky Town' is demolished. Probably because the neighborhood doesn't want any 'freaks' around. And life goes on.

IDEAL

17:30 GREEK SHORT STORIES - IN COMPETITION VII (2023, 87')

WHITE CHRISTMAS 1948 by Antonios Vallindras
ATHALÁSSA by Argyro Nicolau
BUFFER ZONE by Savvas Stavrou
PICK A HAND by Stavros Kostopoulos
ANGRY FISH by Kostas Chaliasas

19:30 JOAN BAEZ I AM A NOISE (2023, USA, 113')

Directors: Karen O'Connor, Miri Navasky, Maeve O'Boyle
 A folk music legend, an unparalleled songwriter, a tireless activist and icon of a radical era, Joan Baez talks about the milestones of her life and career during her definitive farewell tour. This latter detail gives an air of elegy to a generous film filled with landmark events of 20th century American history, through the life of a great musician, her political awakening, the social battles which defined her and Bob Dylan 'who broke her heart', creating thus a precious portrait of great archival and emotional value.

22:00 FEMME (2023, UK, 99')

Directors: Sam H. Freeman, Ng Choon Ping
 Jules, an impressive drag performer in a London club, sees his world crumble when he is violently attacked attempting to push back the homophobic remarks of a group of young people. Sometime later, however, among the regulars of a gay sauna, Jules recognizes the head of the group and organizes a daring revenge plan which will endanger his life and hold you at the edge of your seat. A tense thriller, and a sexually bold noir, where sexuality, identity, the complex meaning of clothes in our social definition, and the toxic male/female stereotypes, serve perfectly a suspenseful plot. Nathan Stewart-Jarrett of 'Misfits' is superb in the central role.

DANAOS 2

17:45 20 DAYS IN MARIUPOL / 20 ДНІВ У МАРІУПОЛІ

(2023, Ukraine, 94') **D.C. (R)**
Director: Mstyslav Chernov

A group of AP reporters are trapped in Mariupol during the first days of the Russian invasion. Among them the director and war correspondent that was about to record images of an apocalypse while his homeland was viciously attacked. A camera steadily focusing on the victims records images of the most intense, most true -and for that inconceivable- war frontline report has ever seen. Pulitzer-winner Chernov presents one of the most significant contemporary works, capturing an historic moment in all its horrifying grandeur. Audience Award winner in this year's Sundance film festival.

Warning: The film contains very harsh images

DANAOS 1

17:30 STORY AVE (2023, USA, 94') (R)

Director: Aristotle Torres
 This is undoubtedly the brain child of someone inspired by Spike Lee. A newcomer director puts a wounded child against a wounded adult and waits who'll run first. Kadir just lost a brother and Luis tries to forget he has lost a son. They will meet during a cold New York night at the subway, when the first will attempt to burgle the other at gunpoint. It's the beginning of a loving, brisk and stylishly directed tale in contemporary Bronx. Guzmán is disarming in his role and Asante Blackk walks his way towards adulthood through hip hop rimes and graffiti in the walls.

19:30 THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE / DAS LEHRERZIMMER

(2023, Germany, 94')
Director: İlker Çatak

An idealistic teacher at a primary school causes an avalanche when she decides to investigate who is responsible for a series of minor thefts. With its exemplary screenplay, the masterful stroke of being directed as a thriller, the great leading performance by Leonie Benesch ('The White Ribbon') and the intelligent responses given to crucial issues such as political correctness, cancel culture and the traps of democratic institutions and societies, this excellent film becomes one of the great surprises of the year. Two awards at the Berlin Festival Panorama and a strong contender for a place in next year's nominations for Best International Feature Film.

Protagonist, Leonie Benesch in attendance

22:00 COPENHAGEN DOES NOT EXIST / KØBENHAVN FINDES IKKE

(2023, Denmark, 98') **I.C.**
Director: Martin Skovbjerg

Young Ida mysteriously disappears without a trace. Attempting to solve the mystery, her father and brother lock her boyfriend in an empty apartment, interrogating him daily on the nature of their involvement and her last days. But how many of the boyfriend's sayings are true? Academy award nominee ('The Worst Person in the World'), Eskil Vogt, the most in demand Scandinavian writer at the moment, unfolds through perhaps misleading flashbacks the unusual love story of two people that chose and dared to be different. And the talented director dresses it all in an ominous, yet charming, atmosphere of an understated thriller where nothing is as it seems.

Director in attendance

19:45 THE SPECTRE OF BOKO HARAM / LE SPECTRE DE BOKO HARAM

(2023, Cameroon / France, 75') **D.C. (R)**
Director: Cyrielle Raingou

A terrible wound of the Islamic world, Boko Haram, is not just an extremist group. It is an organism teaching its members to kill out of personal need. It is the face of pure evil on Earth. Against it, the director places the children's innocence in their attempt to create their own world, while next to them one more military operation is in order. Thus, absolute moments of horror turn into fairytales told by the fire. A magical documentary of an unseen corner of the planet, built upon the most dangerous contradictions. Golden Tiger winner at the Rotterdam IFF.

ASTY

18:45 ROCK HUDSON: ALL THAT HEAVEN ALLOWED

(2023, UK, 104') (R)
Director: Stephen Kijak
 An orgasmic documentary for every sexual preference, since Roy's from Illinois extreme makeover to Rock from Hollywood is so successful you expect him to propose. It is sad actually watching how a shrewd agent condemned Rock Hudson in a life deep in the closet, but, on the other hand, the film is so lighthearted that makes you forget it. Adding an exploration of his considerable talent and a review of how his death from AIDS complications changed global awareness, this is the bio-doc of the year.

20:45 BITTEN / LA MORSURE (2023, France, 87') **I.C.**

Director: Romain de Saint-Blanquat
 1967, France. Convinced she will die the next morning, 17-year-old Françoise persuades her friend to play hooky from the boarding school and spend her last evening in a masked ball that takes place in a deserted villa in the woods. Ominous visions, enigmatic future foreseeing medallions, menacing male figures and a boy that may or may not be a vampire, shall mark the wee hours of their drunken night, in this most unorthodox coming of age story of the year. Marvelous soundtrack, foggy cinematography and a fairy tale ambience straight out of Jean Rollin or 'Valerie and her Week of Wonders', connect the dots in a film that breathes its own air somewhere between reality and fantasy, dream and nightmare.

TRIBUTE: SCALA
22:30 BLOOD AND BLACK LACE / 6 DONNE PER L'ASSASSINO

(1964, Italy / France / West Germany, 88')
Director: Mario Bava

The mother of all slasher films comes from Italy, signed by the greatest horror master of European cinema, and it is actually his most pleasurable enjoyable film. Immersing everything in an impressive technicolor pool, Mario Bava moves away from the world of realism composing an operatic thriller where every scene counts and every murder depiction is a small masterpiece, as a series of female models die by the gloved hand of an unseen sadist killer. Plot and characters give subtle ways to the genuine glorification of style and direction, which Bava showcases with a perverse joy that feels contagious.

21:30 TOTEM / TÔTEM (2023, Mexico / Denmark / France, 95') **I.C. (R)**

Director: Lila Avilés
 Mexico's official submission for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film, and a film awarded at Berlinale, is one of the most beautiful films ever made about childhood. It focuses on a seven-year-old girl preparing with her extended family for the celebration of her father's birthday. As the feverish preparations give way to the party, the young girl realizes that the celebration serves also a melancholic farewell and that true love is the only shelter and comfort from the great sorrows of the world. A cinematic thing of beauty.

ASTOR

18:00 TEMPORARIES / RICHELIEU (2023, Canada / France, 89') **I.C.**

Director: Pier-Philippe Chevigny
 Following a painful breakup that also left her debt-ridden, Guatemalan Ariane is forced to get a job as translator in a factory that uses cheap workers from her country. Inevitably she also gets to be the go-between the heavily suffering workers and the factory bosses who take advantage of the people. Her own instinct of survival will collide with her impulse to help and her sense of justice. A blazing protagonist and a Ken Loach-influenced drama, gives a newcomer the opportunity of a shuttering story that walks assuredly between hard-fought realism and emotional sincerity, leading to a necessary cinematic cry for a humanity desperately missing.
Director in attendance

20:00 ABOUT DRY GRASSES / KURU OTLAR ÜSTÜNE

(2023, Turkey / France / Germany, 197')
Director: Nuri Bilge Ceylan

Samet is a middle-aged teacher, reaching his fourth year of obligatory service in a traditional village of Anatolia. He dreams of being transferred to Istanbul, but also develops a controversial obsession with one of his students. When a love note is found in the bag of the 14-year-old girl, Samet ends up unjustly accused and fights to prove his innocence. Awarded in Cannes for its astounding female protagonist, Ceylan's film bears the seal of its fundamental director. His irresistible narrative style describes majestic lyrical sequences that find the essence of a fiery drama, while the refined dialogue lifts off by the superb performances. Turkey's official submission for the Oscars.

Protagonist, Deniz Celiloglu in attendance

IDEAL

17:00 RICEBOY SLEEPS
(2022, Canada, 117') I.C. (R)

Director: Anthony Shim

During the '90s, a young unmarried mother emigrates with her little boy from Korea to Canada in an attempt to secure for him a better life. As they adapt in the idyllic white suburbs, they will soon come face to face with racism in every step. Drawing from personal experience, the director offers a synopsis of an entire Asian generation, enveloping it in a tender and relentlessly sincere story of love between a mother and a son. Lyrical and fragile, here is a coming of age chronicle of survival that won literally dozens of awards in the international festival circuit.

19:30 MEMORY
(2023, Mexico / USA, 100')

Director: Michel Franco

Sylvia leads a quiet, structured life, living with her teenage daughter in a house of many locks. She hasn't had a drop of alcohol in the last 13 years. In a high school reunion she meets Saul, who follows her home the same night. Their chance meeting awakes painful memories, moments that for one come and go like flashes, and for the other are covered by the cloudy veil of doubt. Talented filmmaker Michel Franco departs from his usual provocative style and surprises with this deeply humane study of characters filled with imperfections, delivering a heartbreaking drama elevated by Jessica Chastain and Peter Sarsgaard, Best Actor in this year's Venice Film Festival, both in career best performances.

Director in attendance

22:00 ONLY THE RIVER FLOWS / HE BIAN DE CUO WU
(2023, China, 102') (R)

Director: Wei Shujun

A series of murders unsettles a quiet little town in the provinces of China. Under the pressure of his superiors, a young detective takes the case and soon boasts an arrest. Could it be, however, that the true murderer is still out there? In the best tradition of stunning investigative thrillers like 'Memories of Murder' and 'Zodiac', Wei Shujun delivers an excellently directed, captivating riddle that stares awed into a noir-ish existential abyss.

DANAOS 2

19:30 SMOKE SAUNA SISTERHOOD / SAVVUSANNA SÕSARAD
(2023, Estonia / France / Iceland, 89') D.C. (R)

Director: Anna Hints

An anonymous sisterhood comes together regularly in a traditional sauna, located somewhere deep in a magical forest. Their discussions flow, while the seasons change and the local customs find their way in the narratives. The film etches its own map on the bodies and souls of the women, starting unsuspectingly but leading gradually to unexpected confessional crescendi, as the women rest in the dream of a better world. Directing Award for a World Cinema Documentary in Sundance.

Director in attendance

DANAOS 1

17:00 GREEK SHORT STORIES - IN COMPETITION VIII (2023, 116')

READY by Eirini Vianelli

THE PARADE by Michalis Galanopoulos

ARIZONES by Giorgos Iliopoulos

THE CHAOS SHE LEFT BEHIND by Nikos Kolioukos

GREENHOUSE by George Georgakopoulos

20:00 THE ECHO / EL ECO
(2023, Mexico / Germany, 102') D.C.

Director: Tatiana Huezo

'Echo' is the name of a small rural community in Northern Mexico, where a few families cultivate the earth and lead a cycle of life directly connected with nature itself, the succession of the seasons, birth and death. The adversities of a land forgotten by time are not felt only by the elders but also by the children who are called to mature in an untimely, harsh manner. One of those children, however, will attempt to disrupt this anachronistic cycle. Tatiana Huezo, winner of Golden Athena with 'Prayers for the Stolen' two years ago, surrenders to her documentary roots delivering a small gem.

22:00 DREAM SCENARIO
(2023, USA, 100')

Director: Kristoffer Borgli

Everything in Paul's life, an academic, family-man living an unsurprising life, turns upside down when millions of people start seeing him in their dreams. But when these night calls take a nightmarish turn, Paul is called to save his sanity and reputation, while dealing with all the unexpected fame. Celebrity and cancel culture blend in this trippy comedy which sure seems like an early favorite for an Original Screenplay Oscar nomination and has already decorated Nicolas Cage with some of the most enthusiastic reviews of his career.

21:30 HOARD
(2023, UK, 126') I.C. (R)

Director: Luna Carmoon

Maria, 10, lives in 1984 London with her mother, Cynthia, in a garbage (and love)-filled house. Despite Cynthia's psychosis, she is utterly devoted to her daughter, gathering trash she offers her in absolute adoration. Until one day Maria is violently exiled from her childhood's garbage fort so as to be adopted by a tender foster mother. But when an old acquaintance appears the past resurfaces at once. 'After-sun' references are inevitable in this daring Neil Jordan and Andrea Arnold-influenced debut of a talent to be reckoned with. An amazing lead performance, Joseph Quinn from 'Stranger Things' in his first essential role and a magical sense that won't go away serve perfectly a movie that won four prizes in the recent Venice film festival.

ASTY

17:45 QUEENDOM
(2023, USA / France, 103') D.C. (R)

Director: Agniia Galdanova

A cinematic trip in the depths of Russia, the last place on Earth one might expect to meet a radical drag performer. Gena is an out-of-this-earth being, standing on its highest heels deep in the snow, wearing handmade clothes inspired from outer space. If one thing lands her back, is living with her grumpy, ever-loving grandparents in a remote, isolated fishing village. When her Moscow school expels her, due to her protesting against the Ukrainian invasion, her life is in danger. She returns to the village one last time, explains why she can't join the army, what Instagram is and how come drag performing is one of the most political acts of our time. Next stop, the world.

20:00 RETURN OF THE CREEPS
(2023, Greece, 99')

Director: Nikos Chantziis

Athens 1982. Somewhere between Kypseli, Patisia and Exarchia districts, Creep Records was born. In its distinguished four-year run, Creep Records featured on its roster some of the most important bands of the Greek New Wave, Post Punk and Dark Wave scene. Creep Records released a series of iconic records that are, to this day, music works of inestimable sentimental value. Besides the personal narratives of the founder of Creep Records, Babis Dallidis, the film also features members of the bands who recorded with the label, such as Angelo & His Egos, Art of Parties, Clown, Cpt Nefos, Headleaders, Metro Decay, Rehearsed Dreams, The Reporters, South of No North, Villa 21 & The Vyllies.

Director in attendance

TRIBUTE: SCALA
22:00 IMMORAL TALES /

CONTES IMMORAUX

(1973, France, 105')

Director: Walerian Borowczyk

Avant-garde animator and pornographer, Walerian Borowczyk, delivered his finest work in this sensuous anthology film, consisting of four stories. From the wet findlings between two teenage cousins to the frenzied masturbating crescendo of a God-fearing young woman, and from the literal bloodbaths of the crimson countess Elizabeth Bathory to the incestuous orgies of Lucrezia Borgia, Borowczyk delivers a tour de force from humor to horror and awkwardness to lust. Filled with dazzling renaissance/rococo imagery, the film flirts unabashedly with everything forbidden, singing a blasphemous hymn to human sexuality.

ASTOR

17:00 LOST COUNTRY
(2023, Serbia / France / Croatia / Luxembourg, 105') I.C. (R)

Director: Vladimir Perišić

1996, Serbia. Amidst protests against the Milošević regime, 15-year-old Stefan will have to revolt against what he holds most precious. He must face his beloved mother, the object of rebellion for his friends due to her being a press representative for the corrupt government. Politically conscious and forging a great sense of empathy that brings to mind the cinema of Krzysztof Kieślowski, Vladimir Perišić's film depicts the pressing dilemma of his green hero as a dangerous, oppressing dragnet is closing in. Jasna Djuricic, the jaw-dropping actress of 'Quo Vadis, Aida?' plays the mother. Best Actor Award in the Festival of Sarajevo for the young protagonist.

19:15 20,000 SPECIES OF BEES / 20.000 ESPECIES DE ABEJAS
(2023, Spain, 125') I.C. (R)

Director: Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren

It is the beginning of summer, but for 8-year-old trans girl Lucia it is a moment of seismic changes in her fragile inner world. Her mother is encouraging, but people behave as if she's capricious. However, during their vacation in the Basque Country, through socializing with open-minded (or not so) relatives, the brave little girl will attempt to find herself and reintroduce it to others. That way this heart-felt, tender coming-of-age debut, featuring an astounding and Berlinale awarded lead performance by Sofia Otero, transforms into a statement of ecumenical importance on the right to define your identity and be loved for what you really are. Not what others expect from you.

22:00 OMEN / AUGURE
(2023, Belgium / Netherlands / DR Congo, 91') I.C.

Director: Baloji

Koffie lives in Belgium with his girlfriend. He is an outcast from his African family, because of a demonic sign in his face. Prior to becoming a father he decides to return so as to reconcile. An epileptic seizure opens the door to the psychedelic feast that follows. Paco is a member of an adolescent gang of cross dressers, dipped in glitter and violence. He and his queer friends dress in pink in a Congo resembling a 'Mad Max' filmed during the New Orleans carnival. Chapters of this African anthology may seem random but they are all interconnected in a film dimension where the screenplay gives way to legend and the voodoo meets phantasmagoria. Best Newcomer in 'Un Certain Regard' in Cannes Film Festival and Belgium's official submission for Best International Film at the Oscars.

Director in attendance

IDEAL

17:30 GREEK SHORT STORIES - IN COMPETITION IX (2023, 80')

KAFKA'S COLLECTION OF PORN by Aristotelis Maragkos

HOTEL CENTAUR by Lino Kafidas, Dimitris Kafidas
THE SECOND LIFE OF BURNED TREES by Anna Vasou
ESCHATON AD by Andrea Gatopoulos
UNORTHODOX by Konstantinos Antonopoulos
LIGHT OF LIGHT by Neritan Zinxhiria

19:30 THE LAST WALTZ (1978, USA, 117')

Director: Martin Scorsese

During the 1976 Thanksgiving, at the 'Winterland' arena in San Francisco, The Band decided to bid farewell to its audience, leaving behind an entire era. Robbie Robertson and his band mates were supported on the stage by legends such as Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, Van Morrison, Neil Diamond, among others. Scorsese's work, one of the most significant concert films of all time, remains the emotionally charged recording of an unforgettable live show, in which classic American rock gave way to the next generation. And although the evening did possess an air of celebration rather than that of a requiem, those last notes of 'I Shall Be Released' always will remind that then and there something beautiful was forever lost.

45th anniversary screening of the film, tribute to Robbie Robertson

22:00 PRISCILLA (2023, USA, 110')

Director: Sofia Coppola

Once upon a time, a shy teen found herself in the spot millions of girls envied: She became sweetheart (and wife) of Elvis Presley, the greatest pop idol of the 20th century. Sofia Coppola summarizes Priscilla Presley's unorthodox coming of age story, which from 17 to 27 saw her living by the side of a moody King in a palace that was to be her golden cage. Based on the memoirs of the woman herself, the film begins as the actualization of a pink fantasy, and continues showing a girl disappointed that ballads end in tears and simultaneously confident as to not show faith in imaginary loves. Cailie Spaeny received Best Actress award for her performance in Venice IFF. Next to her Jacob Elordi, the upcoming star of 'Euphoria'.

DANAOS 2

19:30 THERE WAS A TOWER. A PORTRAIT OF MIHÁLY VÍG / OTT TORONY VOLT (2023, Hungary, 103')

Director: András Kécsa

Outside Hungary, Mihály Víg is better known for his soundtracks in the films of Béla Tarr, having sealed with his minimalist, highly atmospheric sound works like 'Werckmeister Harmonies' and 'The Turin Horse', while he was the protagonist of 'Satantango'. In his country, however, Víg is steadily considered since the '80s a major representative and pioneer of the underground and new wave scene, parallel to an adventurous life. A life which András Kécsa, Tarr's assistant director, is the right man to investigate and does so by delivering a documentary about a special talent and unconventional character. Tilda Swinton serves as executive producer.

Director in attendance

DANAOS 1

17:45 WHEN WILL IT BE LIKE IT NEVER WAS BEFORE / WANN WIRD ES ENDLICH WIEDER SO, WIE ES NIE WAR (2023, Germany, 116')

Director: Sonja Heiss

The director of a groundbreaking psychiatric clinic lives with his family in a beautiful villa at the premises of the clinic. His wife and three sons coexist daily with the inmates of the institution in a condition of absolute acceptance. But everyone seeks some sort of tenderness in any way they can. Colorful and faultlessly art-directed, the film is a touching coming of age story of an entire family placed to the fore of a '70s background.

20:00 THE (EX)PERIENCE OF LOVE / LE SYNDROME DES AMOURS PASSÉES (2023, France / Belgium, 89')

Directors: Ann Sirot and Raphaël Balboni

Before moving to the next step of having a family, Sandra and Remi decide to be unfaithful first. Laughing at the face of IVF, 'The (Ex)perience of Love' reaches upon a different diagnosis/advice for the adversities of a contemporary couple: Instead of counting sperm and ova, take off on a sexual trip to the past, sleep with every former lover, and the negative energy will evaporate. Stamping on commonly accepted references about love, the jolly duet of Ann Sirot and Raphaël Balboni unfurls a series of imaginative sexual encounters - from a sauna masked ball to sensuous balloon wars - in this most unexpected of rom-coms that's about to give you ideas.

22:00 COPENHAGEN DOES NOT EXIST / KØBENHAVN FINDES IKKE (2023, Denmark, 98') I.C. (R)

Director: Martin Skovbjerg

Young Ida mysteriously disappears without a trace. Attempting to solve the mystery, her father and brother lock her boyfriend in an empty apartment, interrogating him daily on the nature of their involvement and her last days. But how many of the boyfriend's sayings are true? Academy award nominee ('The Worst Person in the World'), Eskil Vogt, the most in demand Scandinavian writer at the moment, unfurls through perhaps misleading flashbacks the unusual love story of two people that chose and dared to be different. And the talented director dresses it all in an ominous, yet charming, atmosphere of an understated thriller where nothing is as it seems.

22:00 BITTEN / LA MORSURE (2023, France, 87') I.C. (R)

Director: Romain de Saint-Blanquat

1967, France. Convinced she will die the next morning, 17-year-old Françoise persuades her friend to play hooky from the boarding school and spend her last evening in a masked ball that takes place in a deserted villa in the woods. Ominous visions, enigmatic future foreseeing medallions, menacing male figures and a boy that may or may not be a vampire, shall mark the wee hours of their drunken night, in this most unorthodox coming of age story of the year. Marvelous soundtrack, foggy cinematography and a fairy tale ambience straight out of Jean Rollin or 'Valerie and her Week of Wonders', connect the dots in a film that breathes its own air somewhere between reality and fantasy, dream and nightmare.

ASTY

17:30 THE SOUND OF COLOGNE (2022, Germany, 99') (R)

Director: Kristina Schippling

No less than a rhythmical, information-heavy journey on the streets, the clubs and the wild record companies of Cologne, the motherland of electronic music. From the cosmic experiments of Stockhausen, to the krautrock greatness of CAN, and from the charge of 128bpm to the age of maturity and minimal techno, Schippling's documentary is developed upon the relationship between the city and its nocturnal creatures, all those individuals who stayed wide awake to discover the sound of the future. Perhaps they also found the music that changed the world.

19:30 ARTHUR & DIANA (2023, Germany, 108') I.C. (R)

Director: Sara Summa

Stuck in the Berlin traffic, Arthur and his neurotic sister Diana, and child, leave for a road trip to central Europe in a confessional journey that brings to mind nostalgic school vacations that never ended. Nothing prepares you for this fascinating movie trip, which constantly changes moods and gear through the colorful, sometimes melancholic and utterly cute adventures of two bohemian individuals that just don't want to grow old.

Director in attendance

22:00 PLAYLAND (2023, USA, 72')

Director: Georden West

Neither fiction nor documentary, perhaps not even a movie. More like an invitation of souls engraved in sublime, eerie tableaux vivants. 'Playland' takes place at a legendary Boston gay bar the night before its demolition. For 60 years it offered refuge to the town's queer population, standing as a cultural and social relic of years past. And now, the ghosts of its people answer to the calling of a drag queen for one last time. What follows is a dreamy, marvelously haunted happening of stylized images, performance art, audio documents and music, all as if at a station to the afterworld. Dazzling, otherworldly, imaginative, complex in concept and execution, 'Playland' films history like a rendezvous of spirits.

TRIBUTE: SCALA 00:00 THUNDERCRACK!

(1975, USA, 159')

Director: Curt McDowell

During a nightmarish thunderstorm night, three men and three women seek shelter at the gothic mansion of a lonely, elderly and heavily drunk woman. As soon as they are free of their wet clothes, the visitors will be the protagonists of an evening throughout which macabre surprises alternate with countless sexual encounters and positions they share. 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show' of porn flicks, a filthy epic of trash cinema, a legend of the underground and a kinky delirious parody aptly called 'the ultimate bisexual porn horror of all time', still stands today as one of the most important, and until recently most rarely seen, emblems of '70s midnight section.

Unsuitable for underage viewers

ASTOR

17:00 SLOW / TU MAN NIEKO NEPRIMENI (2023, Lithuania / Spain / Sweden, 108') I.C. (R)

Director: Marija Kavtaradze

A young dance teacher and dancer thinks she has found the ideal lover, and partner possibly, in a charming sign language interpreter. But he quickly announces to her that he is asexual. This problematic condition makes things rather hard between them, though they try ceaselessly to make it work, since the match is obvious. And thus commences a bittersweet story of an unusual love story, of a kind new to cinema. The two leading performances share incredible chemistry, the direction showers them with love and compassion, all resulting to an utterly romantic, melancholy love story that Lithuania suggests for next year's International Oscar and Sundance Film Festival hands World Cinema Directing Award.

19:30 OMEN / AUGURE (2023, Belgium / Netherlands / DR Congo, 91') I.C. (R)

Director: Baloji

Koffie lives in Belgium with his girlfriend. He is an outcast from his African family, because of a demonic sign in his face. Prior to becoming a father he decides to return so as to reconcile. An epileptic seizure opens the door to the psychedelic feast that follows. Paco is a member of an adolescent gang of cross dressers, dipped in glitter and violence. He and his queer friends dress in pink in a Congo resembling a 'Mad Max' filmed during the New Orleans carnival. Chapters of this African anthology may seem random but they are all interconnected in a film dimension where the screenplay gives way to legend and the voodoo meets phantasmagoria. Best Newcomer in 'Un Certain Regard' in Cannes Film Festival and Belgium's official submission for Best International Film at the Oscars.

Director in attendance

22:00 TEMPORARIES / RICHELIEU (2023, Canada / France, 89') I.C. (R)

Director: Pier-Philippe Chevigny

Following a painful breakup that also left her debt-ridden, Guatemalan Ariane is forced to get a job as translator in a factory that uses cheap workers from her country. Inevitably she also gets to be the go-between the heavily suffering workers and the factory bosses who take advantage of the people. Her own instinct of survival will collide with her impulse to help and her sense of justice. A blazing protagonist and a Ken Loach-influenced drama, gives a newcomer the opportunity of a shattering story that walks assuredly between hard-fought realism and emotional sincerity, leading to a necessary cinematic cry for a humanity desperately missing.

Director in attendance

IDEAL

18:00 SILVER HAZE**(2023, Netherlands / UK, 103') (R)****Director:** Sacha Polak

A young working-class woman lives with the memory – and the body scars – of a mysterious fire during her childhood. When she meets Florence, the attraction is mutual. Love, for the first time, makes her believe in herself and escape her suffocating life. Yet, the open wounds of the past remain. Tender and heartfelt, marked with a memorable leading performance, here is a coming of age film in the best social realism tradition. Teddy Award winner at the recent Berlinale.

20:00 HAVE YOU GOT IT YET? THE STORY OF SYD BARRETT AND PINK FLOYD**(2023, UK, 94')****Directors:** Roddy Bogawa, Storm Thorgerson

Even for those familiar with Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett, this is the first time the story is told in such detail from those who experienced the self-destructive whirlpool the enigmatic Barrett was. David Gilmour, Roger Waters and Nick Mason, through interviews and never-before-seen documents, attempt their own interpretation. Describing him as the 'aggressively intelligent' leader of a subterranean revolt, as the guiding light in the abyss and as the rarest of gems that was soon to be lost to schizophrenia (later inspiring the legendary 'Wish You Were Here'), they only manage to magnify even further the legend of this most shining of the crazy diamonds of psychedelia.

TRIBUTE: SCALA**22:00 THE TENANT / LE LOCATAIRE****(1976, France, 126')****Director:** Roman Polanski

One of Polanski's more personal and justly more famous films sees him as the protagonist in the role of an economic migrant, an introvert trying to adapt to a hostile Paris, who realizes a chilling identification with the previous, tragically killed tenant of his apartment. Impressive closing of a trilogy that began with 'Repulsion' and continued with 'Rosemary's Baby', which transcends being just a tremendously effective horror film by twisting towards a Kafka-esque thriller on urban paranoia, primal metaphysical fears and intellectual meltdown.

DANAOS 1

17:00 PUAN**(2023, Argentina / Italy / France / Germany / Brazil, 109') (R)****Directors:** María Alché, Benjamín Naishtat

Marcelo is a Philosophy professor who has devoted his life to teaching. When his mentor dies unexpectedly, he firmly believes the seat of the Department belongs to him. Alas, his plans are sidelined when a younger colleague appears as a contender, due to his reputation and innate social skills. One of the finest representatives of contemporary Latin-American cinema, and an upcoming filmmaker from Argentina, join forces in a mature situational comedy for demanding audiences, balancing unpredictable humor with edgy social commentary.

19:00 SUBTRACTION / TAFRIGH**(2022, Iran / France, 107') (R)****Director:** Mani Haghighi

An unexpected encounter makes a pregnant driving teacher suspect that her husband is unfaithful to her. But when she follows him to an unknown apartment she is about to discover something far more unsettling. Four (?) surprising protagonists captivate us in this most atypical Iranian film, which unfurls the tragic consequences of a fatal encounter between two married couples. Villeneuve's 'Enemy' meets Zulawski's 'Possession' in a virtuoso mixture of mystery, allegory and fantasy.

21:15 GREEN BORDER / ZIELONA GRANICA**(2023, Poland / Czech Republic / France / Belgium, 147')****Director:** Agnieszka Holland

Where the dangerous swampy forests of Belarus and Poland draw the so-called 'Green Border', refugees from every corner of the world are trapped in their search for a better European life in the geopolitical crisis 'Europe's last dictator', Alexander Lukashenko, has created. There, like pawns in an invisible war, the lives of a Syrian refugee family, a British teacher-activist and a young border guard, will collide. 33 years after 'Europa-Europa', one-time Oscar nominee veteran Agnieszka Holland returns with this topical and revealing drama. A film that aims to the heart, demanding that we consider the terrible moral dilemmas ordinary people suffer daily. Special Jury Prize at the recent Venice FF.

21:30 THE ECHO / EL ECO**(2023, Mexico / Germany, 102') D.C. (R)****Director:** Tatiana Huezo

'Echo' is the name of a small rural community in Northern Mexico, where a few families cultivate the earth and lead a cycle of life directly connected with nature itself, the succession of the seasons, birth and death. The adversities of a land forgotten by time are not felt only by the elders but also by the children who are called to mature in an untimely, harsh manner. One of those children, however, will attempt to disrupt this anachronistic cycle. Tatiana Huezo, winner of Golden Athena with 'Prayers for the Stolen' two years ago, surrenders to her documentary roots delivering a small gem.

ASTY

TRIBUTE: SCALA**18:00 THE SHOUT****(1978, UK, 86')****Director:** Jerzy Skolimowski

A mysterious stranger claiming to have returned after years of roaming the Australian desert, and in possession of supernatural powers through which he could even take a human life, invades the fragile marriage of a couple living in a peaceful English village. In the same manner, the great Polish filmmaker invades the flow of a regular drama following a metaphysical route that allows him to play with the limits of the real and the imaginary as well as with the audience's expectations regarding what comes next, narrating a horror parable about the conflict of civilized human beings with their primal selves. Amazing performances by Alan Bates, John Hurt and Susannah York, complete a dreamy and eerie atmosphere. Grand Prix at Cannes.

20:00 CREATURA**(2023, Spain, 112') (R)****Director:** Elena Martín

Anne is a successful lawyer, living with her husband and their two daughters. When her husband's 17-year-old son from a previous marriage moves in with them, Anne starts a fiery affair with him endangering her career and family life. Revisiting 2019's acclaimed Danish film, 'Queen of Hearts', Catherine Breillat strikes again with her best film in ages. The ideal acting ensemble helps her unravel sardonically the already scandalous story, disorienting audience expectations, subverting the characters' balance of power and violently rupturing the French bourgeoisie illusion of happiness. Nominated for the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

22:30 FEMME**(2023, UK, 99') (R)****Directors:** Sam H. Freeman, Ng Choon Ping

Jules, an impressive drag performer in a London club, sees his world crumble when he is violently attacked attempting to push back the homophobic remarks of a group of young people. Sometime later, however, among the regulars of a gay sauna, Jules recognizes the head of the group and organizes a daring revenge plan which will endanger his life and hold you at the edge of your seat. A tense thriller, and a sexually bold noir, where sexuality, identity, the complex meaning of clothes in our social definition, and the toxic male/female stereotypes, serve perfectly a suspenseful plot. Nathan Stewart-Jarrett of 'Misfits' is superb in the central role.

ASTOR

18:00 WERNER HERZOG: RADICAL DREAMER**(2022, Germany / UK, 90') (R)****Director:** Thomas von Steinaecker

Herzog lives the American Dream. It may sound contradictory, considering he is one of the most unconventional cinema artists ever, but 'Radical Dreamer' puts him on the pedestal he deserves. Underneath, utterly charmed, Kidman, Pattinson, Bale and other Hollywood a-listers cannot believe Herzog asked to collaborate with them. And he, driving his monstrous SUV in the streets of LA, this gutsy 80-year-old, talks about things past and future, refers to his childhood and discloses details of a life deserving to reach the big screen.

20:00 RED ISLAND / L'ÎLE ROUGE**(2023, France / Belgium, 116')****Director:** Robin Campillo

In 1970s Madagascar, a 10-year-old comics-loving boy takes in the tropical paradise around him. His vivid imagination feeds on the surroundings. Soon, however, he will have to face the world of the adults and experience the first cracks in the ideal image they have of him. Drawing from personal recollections, the director of '120 Beats Per Minute' clashes History and nostalgia against rationality and morality, identifying us with his petite protagonist in this parable for the end of innocence and the beginning of a relentless world, that of the adults.

22:30 THE ROYAL HOTEL**(2023, Australia / UK, 91')****Director:** Kitty Green

Cash-strapped, two young American women visiting Australia, end up working at the 'Royal Hotel', a pub in the middle of nowhere whose customers are the mine workers of the area. Isolated in a place where no one is to be trusted, they have to withstand the male dragnet closing threateningly in. Flirting masterfully with horror cinema, the film lets the viewer decide whether what he sees is a thriller on toxic masculinity or one on female paranoia under severe stress. In any case, Kitty Green knows her way around genre mechanisms, enough to detonate an absolute feminist bomb.

DANAOS 2

19:30 THE ELEPHANT 6 RECORDING CO.**(2022, USA, 93') (R)****Director:** Chad Stockfleth

30 years ago, a North American artists' collective tried to imagine how Brian Wilson's still unpublished, but already part of musical legend, 'Smile' would sound. Devoted to their psychedelic quest and wandering in their non-commercial dogma, bands like Neutral Milk Hotel, of Montreal, Apples in Stereo and Olivia Tremor Control, among many others, redefined lo-fi and gave birth to their own legend. Unusual and revealing, here is a music doc testament straight from the heart of creativity.

ATHENS CONCERT HALL

20:00 CLOSING CEREMONY - PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**21:00 THE BOY AND THE HERON****(2023, Japan, 124')****Director:** Hayao Miyazaki

Undoubted event of the cinematic 2023, Miyazaki's return to cinema is a triumphant one with an almost autobiographical film worthy of his legacy. Visually unparalleled, 'The Boy and the Heron' is about a 12-year-old boy who loses his mother in WW2 and leaves with his remaining family for the countryside to start a new life. Nature pauses during his lament until the boy, guided by a myste-

rious heron, transcends the membrane dividing the world of the living with that of the dead. If this is Miyazaki's last film, then his career ends majestically indeed.

After the start of the ceremony, entry is NOT permitted in the theater. The screening will begin right after the end of the ceremony

IDEAL

18:00 GOODBYE DRAGON INN / BU SAN
(2003, Taiwan, 82')**Director:** Tsai Ming-liang

For its last night in operation, a historic Taipei cinema screens the legendary wuxia, 'Dragon Inn', a source of nostalgia for its sparse audience and those who work in the movie house for the last time. Humidity from the constant rain outside thickens while the ghosts of Cinema past meet for a last evening around the big screen. A masterful comment on the movie theaters we adored and will cease to exist, 'Dragon Inn' makes it indisputably in the ranks of the finest works in the history of cinema.

The screening is a tribute to IDEAL theater**20:00 KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON**
(2023, USA, 206')**Director:** Martin Scorsese

American history is full of buried skeletons waiting for someone to excavate them. Some of those skeletons were unearthed by Grann's best seller which inspires Martin Scorsese's new film which in turn uncovers the chronicle of a series of murders that took place at Osage County about a century ago. It proved to be part of a greater conspiracy aimed to uproot natives and usurp their wealth. It is one of the plots in the film. The other involves the literally poisonous love affair between a young Indian and a disastrously naïve man she picks as her husband. Around these two stories revolve the bigger story of Old West's violent transition to 20th century modernity. The most anticipated 2023 film offers a grandiose, demanding cinema that was worth the wait.

DANAOS 1

17:30 AWARD-WINNING GREEK SHORT STORIES

A collection of the award-winning short films from the Greek short film competition section.

19:45 PRETTY RED DRESS
(2022, UK, 110') (R)**Director:** Dionne Edwards

In a house where Tina Turner is kind of a patron saint, Candice – preparing for an audition for a musical about Tina – welcomes her husband who is just out of prison. A sparkling red dress will be the apple of discord between them. Travis will buy it for Candice, but their daughter will catch him wearing it. Done with humor and optimism, 'Pretty Red Dress' refuses to allow the earthquake below the family house demolish Travis from his high heels, searching for a way to let him be himself without shadowing the women of his life.

22:00 AWARD-WINNING FILM SCREENING

Watch one of the award-winning films of the Festival's International Competition section!

ASTY

17:00 JOAN BAEZ I AM A NOISE
(2023, USA, 113') (R)**Director:** Karen O'Connor, Miri Navasky, Maeve O'Boyle

A folk music legend, an unparalleled songwriter, a tireless activist and icon of a radical era, Joan Baez talks about the milestones of her life and career during her definitive farewell tour. This latter detail gives an air of elegy to a generous film filled with landmark events of 20th century American history, through the life of a great musician, her political awakening, the social battles which defined her and Bob Dylan 'who broke her heart', creating thus a precious portrait of great archival and emotional value.

19:30 RESTORE POINT / BOD OBNOVY
(2023, Czech Republic / Slovakia / Poland / Serbia, 108') (R)**Director:** Robert Hlož

In the near future everyone has a constitutional right to a 'full' life. Through a groundbreaking service, someone dying unnaturally can be 'restored', as long as he has a back-up file of the last 48 hours. A young detective, in her attempt to crack the mystery of a double homicide, faces a technophobic terrorist group out to undermine the moral grounds of a futuristic society threatened by conspiracy. Cyberpunk world building and a thick mystery plot provoke cinematic comparisons to 'Blade Runner'. By the end an incredibly advanced European production prevails, sheltering a miraculous production design and a director seriously expected to be soon invited to Hollywood.

22:00 PLAYLAND
(2023, USA, 72') (R)**Director:** Georden West

Neither fiction nor documentary, perhaps not even a movie. More like an invitation of souls engraved in sublime, eerie tableaux vivants. 'Playland' takes place at a legendary Boston gay bar the night before its demolition. For 60 years it offered refuge to the town's queer population, standing as a cultural and social relic of years past. And now, the ghosts of its people answer to the calling of a drag queen for one last time. What follows is a dreamy, marvelously haunted happening of stylized images, performance art, audio documents and music, all as if at a station to the afterworld. Dazzling, otherworldly, imaginative, complex in concept and execution, 'Playland' films history like a rendezvous of spirits.

ASTOR

18:00 ABOUT DRY GRASSES / KURU OTLAR ÜSTÜNE**(2023, Turkey / France / Germany, 197') (R)****Director:** Nuri Bilge Ceylan

Samet is a middle-aged teacher, reaching his fourth year of obligatory service in a traditional village of Anatolia. He dreams of being transferred to Istanbul, but also develops a controversial obsession with one of his students. When a love note is found in the bag of the 14-year-old girl, Samet ends up unjustly accused and fights to prove his innocence. Awarded in Cannes for its astounding female protagonist, Ceylan's film bears the seal of its fundamental director. His irresistible narrative style describes majestic lyrical sequences that find the essence of a fiery drama, while the refined dialogue lifts off by the superb performances. Turkey's official submission for the Oscars.

22:00 MUTINY IN HEAVEN: THE BIRTHDAY PARTY**(2023, Australia, 98') (R)****Director:** Ian White

Speaking about the myth of the tormented musician, perhaps none suffered more than The Birthday Party en route to becoming the legendary The Bad Seeds. Uncanny documentary on the post-punk beginnings of Nick Cave, built upon voices from the past. Endowed with an amazing, never-before-seen footage, 'Mutiny in Heaven' is loud to an earth-shattering volume, while the director presents the once destitute, hopeless band, and their love affair with drugs. Still, everything is shadowed by their live shows – with the exception perhaps of Cave wearing a giant diaper on 'Nick the Stripper'.

DANAOS 2

19:30 ENTER THE CLONES OF BRUCE
(2023, USA, 94') (R)**Director:** David Gregory

Did you know that Bruce Lee's death caused such distress to his fans that producers filmed his funeral in order to use it in future flicks? Thus, people like Bruce Lai, Bruce Lo, Bruce Le, Dragon Lee and hordes of imitators were brought to life building a cinematic martial art empire which existed in full glory during the '70s and the '80s. Dead at 32, Lee turned into a legend, changing forever the way the West understood Asians. 'Enter the Clones of Bruce', however, is not here to dictate a moral, but instead to dive in the video club sanctuaries and remind you of a time your ambition was to become a karateka.

21:45 THE LAST YEAR OF DARKNESS / WU YE CHU ZOU**(2023, China / USA, 92') D.C. (R)****Director:** Benjamin Mullinkosson

Every weekend in the crumbling Funky Town club, beats the heart of the LGBTQ culture of a chaotic, ever-changing Chinese metropolis. To find it, one must go through construction works hiding it. In it, a group of outsiders crosses the screen. They look disconnected, at first, but as time goes by they will become beloved. 'The Last Year of Darkness' records a long list of debauchery and loud music, while at the same time overflows with tenderness and moments of lyrical despair. When the construction work finishes, 'Funky Town' is demolished. Probably because the neighborhood doesn't want any 'freaks' around. And life goes on.

IDEAL

18:30 TWILIGHT / SZÜRKÜLET
(1990, Hungary, 105') (R)

Director: György Fehér

At a mountainous village in Hungary, a tough detective investigates a series of schoolgirl murders. While locals seem to be in denial of the horrible events, the investigator sinks gradually in the obsession over an ostensibly never-ending mystery. Made up of engraving-like images of a world where light seems to dry up, rarely screened 'Twilight' remained for years in obscurity. Its recent restoration reveals in all its grandeur the blackness behind the staggering aesthetic completion and arrests in its full monochromatic splendor an apocalyptic vision from innocence's end. One of the most atmospheric and ominous films ever made.

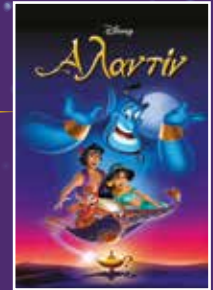
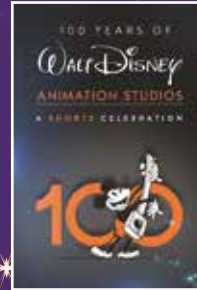
21:00 ALL OF US STRANGERS
(2023, UK, 105')

Director: Andrew Haigh

Adam is the sole tenant of an apartment building at the edge of the city. Or that's what he thinks. Because one night his neighbor knocks on the door and an affair begins. However, in Adam's life there is one weird thing going on: His dead parents mysteriously still reside in his family home. From this metaphysical twist, Haigh's film asks what would happen if one more opportunity to settle painful loose ends were given to us. With the help of two magnificent performances by Andrew Scott and Paul Mescal, Haigh ('Weekend', '45 Years', both significant works of contemporary Brit cinema) delivers his masterwork: A magical film about to bring out miscellaneous emotional responses from its audience. One is certain. When the sublime, melancholic story of Adam ends, no one will be left uninvolved. And for some, one of the best films of the year may be one of the best films of their life.

Disney 100

Celebrating
100 Years of Magic



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH
MUNICIPAL THEATRE OF PIRAEUS

**18:30 100 YEARS OF DISNEY ANIMATION:
A SHORTS CELEBRATION**
(2023, USA, 90')

Directors: Walt Disney, Ben Sharpsteen, Wilfred Jackson, Jack Hannah, Jon Kahrs, Jacob Frey
Walt Disney once famously said he hoped 'that we never lose sight of one thing - 'it was all started by a mouse'. Even before the introduction of Mickey Mouse, it was, in fact, all started by a short film. Enjoy rare treats from the earliest days of animation, starting with the introduction of sound and Mickey Mouse, and leading through the decades to some of today's most popular short films. Learn how Walt Disney and his artists experimented with new animation technology and techniques - a tradition within the short form which continues to this day at the studios bearing his name.

Films screened:

Cinderella (Laugh-o-gram; 1922), Alice's Wonderland (1923), Trolley Troubles (1927), Steamboat Willie (1928), Clock Cleaners (1937), The Old Mill (1937), Trailer Horn (1950), Lambert the Sheepish Lion (1952), Paperman (2012), Going Home (2021)

20:15 FANTASIA
(1940, USA, 126')

'Fantasia' is a celebration for children and fine adults, an intricate experiment, and a glorious, unique moment for the American cinema. It is also the film that Walt Disney envisioned as a fantasy collage wrapped in classical music, a legendary production, a phantasmagoria of color and ageless enthusiasm. But above all, for those who grew up with it, this is the splendid moment when mind, ear and gaze are trained to beauty.

The film will be screened dubbed in Greek

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH
DANAOS 1

15:00 THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG
(2009, USA, 97')

Directors: John Musker, Ron Clements

A poor girl in 1920s New Orleans dreams of owning a restaurant. But when her prayers lead her to kiss a frog, in case he becomes a prince, she turns amphibious herself and gets involved in a story of voodoo, jazz, chases and (surprise, surprise) finding true love. Unfairly under-appreciated entry to the Disney canon, it is favored by the glorious return to hand-drawn design and a run for cover to routines that previous generations loved in animation. The liveliness, the supporting characters (an adorable alligator trumpeter!), the dazzlingly warm colors and the fitting, rhythmical soundtrack by the great Randy Newman, transcribe delightfully a classic Grimm fairytale reminding the age of innocence of the studio.

The film will be screened dubbed in Greek

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1st
DANAOS 1

15:00 ALADDIN
(1992, USA, 94')

Director: John Musker, Ron Clements

Aladdin, a good-hearted urchin from the 'Arabian Nights' finds for the despicable Jafar the magic lamp. The film that catapulted Disney into the new era was an inconceivable blockbuster 1 out of 5 Americans saw in the theaters, making it the most commercial film of 1992. It also brought in half a billion dollars in video rentals. Amazing songs and soundtrack (Oscars, both) make you sad for its contemporaries, unforgettable sidekick characters and inexhaustible fun.

The film will be screened dubbed in Greek

FREE ENTRY

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH

Goethe-Institut Athen (14-16, Omirou Str., Athens)

11:30 «FATIH AKIN, HEAD ON»

Masterclass conducted by the internationally acclaimed director Fatih Akin, discussing the issue of consultation and guidance for young filmmakers with regard to direction.

Discussion moderator: **Panos Gkenas**, in charge for the section 'Greek Short Stories' - In Competition

In co-operation with
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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH

DANAOS II

17:00 Stanislavski Method: Emotion in the Treatment of Mental Addiction (2023, Greece, 68')

Director: Alexandros Mavrogiannis

The play 'Awakening' by Eirini Tsalera was presented on March 29th 2023 in KETHEA EN DRASI Therapeutic Community in the Korydallos I Detention Center. The Stanislavski Method served as a compass and the persistence of the participants, coupled with the love of the therapists, were the means that helped create a play which aimed to enhance the therapeutic approach to mental rehab, through the Stanislavski dramatic training system. The documentary is based on the testimonies of the personnel of therapy and training, as well as the participants in the play, members of KETHEA EN DRASI Therapeutic Communities in the Korydallos I Detention Center and the Eleona's Women Prison in Shiva.

A discussion will follow in attendance of the filmmakers

Alexandros Mavrogiannis, Director

Nikos Houvartas, President of the Centre for Social Rehabilitation of the Centre for the Reception and Rehabilitation of Released Prisoners KETHEA EN DRASI

Katerina Theodoridou, Psychologist, In Charge of the Transitional Centre for Consulting and Mental Addiction at the Correctional Centre of Korydallos

Antonia Roussaki, Psychologist, Deputy in Charge of the Transitional Centre for Consulting and Mental Addiction at the Detention Centre for Women at Eleonas Thivon

TUESDAY OCTOBER 3RD

DANAOS II

17:00 Periptero: Je T'aime Moi Non Plus (2022, Greece, 43')

Director: Pier Blattner

The kiosk. This absolutely unique Greek construction-small business, that has characterized Greece for roughly the last 120 years. Initially, the kiosk was a state reward to those who fought for their country and were injured/mutilated during the wars of the late 19th century. Pier Blattner's documentary, however, after a short historical retrospection, deals with how the crisis hit the Greek kiosk in recent years. Traveling throughout the country, Blattner

FREE ENTRY

speaks with kiosk owners, the people and public officials, in order to understand the political, social and cultural dimension of a phenomenon that seems to be fading, but persists, albeit wounded, by virtue of its usefulness.

Discussion will follow with director in attendance

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4TH

ASTY

17:00 Transistence

(2023, Greece / Spain, 26')

Directors: Anastasia Vaitsoyopoulou, Ioannis Tsioulis

10/07/2023. Ana, a trans woman, who migrated to Greece from Cuba, is brutally murdered in her apartment downtown Athens. One more transphobic crime in a country recognizing and giving very few rights to trans persons. The same year, Spain votes the most progressive legal framework for trans rights in Europe. How does the law affect the lives of the members of this community? People that fight for trans rights, from the first trans MP of Spain, Carla Antonelli, to Secretary of State for Equality, Ángela Rodríguez Martínez, share their reality in a two-speed society. Popaganda journalists Anastasia Vaitsoyopoulou and Ioannis Tsioulis travel from Athens to Madrid in order to explore the trans experience.

A discussion will follow with an all-queer panel consisting of:

Anastasia Vaitsoyopoulou (she/her), journalist-co-director of the film

Anna Kouroupou (she/her), director of Red Umbrella Athens

Filippos Paganis (he/him), psychologist-member of the scientific group Orlando LGBT+

Vassilis Sotiropoulos (he/him), lawyer-legal advisor of the Support Union for Trans People

Ioannis Tsioulis (he/him), journalist, co-director of the film

Xenia Zoksimovic (they/them), worker in research and education for social justice and psychotherapy

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5TH

Goethe-Institut Athen (14-16, Omirou Str., Athens)

CREW UNITED DAY

12:00 Inside the Mind of a Casting Director: a masterclass with **Susanne Ritter** (In English)

A Q&A will follow (Running time: 90')

13:30 Screening of the film **Töchter**, by Nana Neul (2021), a co-production of Germany-Greece- Italy (Running time: 122')

Courtesy of: Heimatfilm kai Heretic

15:45 Show me the Crew! – A presentation of **Crew United Greece** by **Venia Vergou** (Running time: 30')

Co-production of:
Crew United Greece and
Goethe Institut Athen



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PRICES

Venue Screenings: **7 Euros**
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FILM PASSES

5 screenings: **30 Euros**
 10 screenings: **50 Euros**
 20 screenings: **75 Euros**

IMPORTANT NOTES

- You can purchase your ticket from **www.more.com** online, at physical points of sale or by a phone reservation in the number 211 7700 000, Monday to Friday 10:00-18:00.
- We strongly advise the purchase of your ticket **before** your arrival at the venue. Ideally, tickets should be electronically stored in your mobile phone, or be printed already so that entry is safe and unobstructed.
- Each cinema issues tickets **exclusively** for screenings on its premises.
- Each **cinema box office** operates 60' before the first screening and 30' after the beginning of the last screening during the days of the festival.
- Ticket sales for every festival venue is possible at the Press Office but only through **credit card charge** (not cash).
- Cancellations and alterations of tickets is **NOT** allowed.
- Online ticket sale is completed **15'** prior to the start of the screening of the film. During the last 15' tickets are sold **only** in the venue of the screening.
- Holders of passes must issue tickets of zero value by using the unique code of their pass. Pass demonstration does **NOT** secure entrance.
- Accredited visitors must issue tickets of zero value by using the unique code of their pass. Pass demonstration does **NOT** secure entrance.
- Holders of passes may use their pass for the same screening and issue **as many** zero value tickets as they have available in their pass.
- Holders of passes may use their card to issue zero value tickets for every 5 or 7 Euro screening, **except** for the Megaron The Athens Concert Hall closing ceremony.
- For the Closing Award Ceremony at the Megaron The Athens Concert Hall, tickets are issued from September 22 and exclusively from **megaron.gr** and the ticket office of the Megaron (Vasilissis Sofias & Kokkali, Monday to Friday 10:00-18:00, except official holidays).

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- Sunday: Closed

* For any information regarding your ticket or your pass customers may address the consumer service live chat of **more.com** or by email to the **support@more.com** and the **PRESS OFFICE | FESTIVAL CUSTOMER SUPPORT OFFICE** during office hours.

* Information for the Festival program and ticket issuing: **www.aiff.gr**



29 ATHENS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PARTIES

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH

22:30 SHORT CUTS

Meet and greet party for the Greek
 Shorts filmmakers
 (DJ) Set: Cormoranos
BOILER (4, Vlahava Str.)



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH

00:00 THE SOUND OF THE FUTURE

Party on occasion of the 'Sound of Cologne'
 documentary
 (DJ) Set: Zorz (Untag, Creatures of Light, Pi
 Electronics), Katra]
ROMANZO (3, Anaxagora Str.)



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH

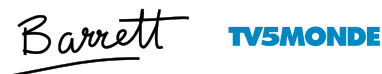
22:30 FOLK BARDS

Party on occasion of the titular documentary
IMEROS (2, Alexandras Ave.)

MONDAY OCTOBER 2ND

22:00 PARTY FRANCOPHONE NIGHT

On occasion of the screening of the film
 'Last Summer'
BARRETT (11, Protogenous Str.)



THURSDAY OCTOBER 5TH

22:00 CREEPSHOW

DJ Set from the director and crew members
 of the film 'Return of the Creeps'
DEATH DISCO (16, Ogygou Str.)



SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH

00:00 GET INTO THE GROOVE

Closing party
 (DJ) Set: Andreas Kyrkos, Loukas
 Katsikas)
ROMANZO (3, Anaxagora Str.)



MONDAY OCTOBER 9TH

23:00 THE LAST PICTURE SHOW

Tribute party for IDEAL cinema
SIDE-BAR (3, Santarosa Str.)



THE FESTIVAL SECTIONS


- INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION
- STRANGER THAN FICTION / IN COMPETITION
- ICONS
- GREEK SHORT STORIES / IN COMPETITION
- MUSIC & FILM
- OPENING NIGHTS
- SPECIAL SCREENING
- TRIBUTE **SCALA**


I.C.: International Competition
D.C.: Documentary Competition


Journalists accredited by the Festival can have a zero-fee ticket issued up to 15 minutes prior to the screening start time


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 (METRO STATION Panepistimio) tel. 210 3211 950



ASTY
 Korai 4, Klafthmonos Square, Athens
 (METRO STATION Panepistimio)
 tel. 210 3214 775, 210 3221 925

ΔΑΝΑΟΣ

DANAOS 1 & 2
 Kifisias Ave. 109, Athens
 (METRO STATION Panormou)
 tel. 210 6922 655



IDEAL

IDEAL
 Panepistimiou 46, Athens
 (METRO STATION Omonia & Panepistimio)
 tel. 210 3826 720



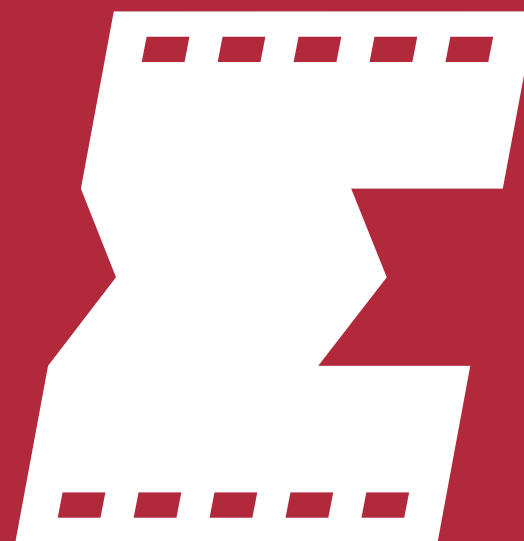
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 Tel. 210 4143 310



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