

MEDIA RELEASE

THE DELPHI BANK 21ST GREEK FILM FESTIVAL REVEALS ITS FULL PROGRAM *PROMAKHOS* ANNOUNCED AS CLOSING NIGHT FILM

The Delphi Bank 21st Greek Film Festival can finally announce its full offering ahead of the Opening Night in Sydney on October 14 and Melbourne on October 15. Wrapping up in true Grecian style, the Closing Night film *Promakhos* takes viewers on a journey to return the Parthenon Marbles to Greece and bring justice to Athena.

Audiences can expect a repertoire of over twenty films in this year's program, with cinematic master shots of the Mediterranean sea taking the fore in *At Home*, Bollywood song and dance routines in *Block 12*, and in *Common Denominator* viewers become privy to conversations centred around online dating and infidelity, providing an insight into the worlds of three different men that are all at a loss with the women in their lives.

Promakhos, co-directed by Coerte Voorhees and John Voorhees, caps off the Delphi Bank 21st Greek Film Festival with an epic love story about the test of true love through sacrifice. For over two centuries, the legality behind the removal of the Parthenon Marbles from the Acropolis has been the subject of much controversy and passionate debate. In a highly charged and spectacular fashion, two Athenian attorneys (Pantelis Kodogiannis and Cassandra Voyagis) pursue litigation against the British Museum to return these classical Greek sculptures to their rightful home and endure a number of difficulties along the way.

As previously announced, *Little England* will open the festival – director Pantelis Voulgaris' work will feature a second time with the 10th Anniversary Screening of *Brides* (2004). *Brides* tracks the story of a mail order bride who finds herself on a ship en route to the United States to marry a man she has never seen, until along the way she falls in love with an American photographer who is returning home from a failed career and marriage.

Premiering to considerable acclaim in this year's Un Certain Regard at Cannes Film Festival, *Xenia* delves deeply into patriarchy, homosexuality and immigrant rights, affording this film the opportunity to strike a chord with both Australian and Greek audiences. *Stratos*, the moody and melancholic Greek crime noir, is a masterful addition to director Yannis Economides' collection of good men trying to right things in all the wrong ways, as seen previously in the multi award-winning *Knifer* (GFF 2011). Joining the list of award winning films, *Miss Violence* is a gruesomely disturbing tale of domestic and sexual abuse that swept this year's Hellenic Film Academy Awards and won the Silver Lion for Best Director at the Venice Film Festival. *A Blast* is a shrill expression of anger led by a striking and courageous lead performance by Angeliki Papoulia, who plays Maria, a woman who started her adult life with the best of intentions, but ten years later feels her world falling out from under her as she attacks herself, her past, the people she loves, her country and the perception of her sex in a relentless battle to find truth.

The Delphi Bank 21st Greek Film Festival hosts a number of films that provide weight to the nature of changing relationships and the raw beauty and confusion that comes with new, unexpected beginnings. *Standing Aside, Watching* is a Greek tragedy that borrows beautifully from the Hollywood Western genre. Antigone (Marina Symeou) is a failed 30-something actress returning to her hometown as an 'outsider' with an intention to reconnect with old friends, but her plan to return to the simpler village life she once knew comes undone. *Committed* is an unconventional and moving romantic comedy about the pains of modern-day relationships. A chance meeting between a man being pressured to propose to his girlfriend and a striking

21st GREEK FILM FESTIVAL

14 October - 2 November 2014

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runaway bride forces two strangers to confront their hang-ups about love and commitment as they set off on an unforgettable road-trip across Cyprus and embark on an odyssey into self-discovery in the process. **September** tackles the themes of grief and loss as we are introduced to Ana (Kora Karvouni) and her dog Manu, who share an inseparable relationship. They're the centre of each other's lives until that co-dependency is shattered when Manu passes away.

A documentaries sub-section includes; **Evaporating Borders**, which presents a new way of thinking about the impact of immigration and sees emerging documentary filmmaker Iva Radivojevic expose Cyprus' too often ignored refugee crisis; **Following Shira's Journey: A Greek Jewish Odyssey** shines a light on the thriving Jewish communities in Greece prior to World War II; **Love In The Time of Crisis** investigates whether intimacy can act as a sufficient escape during calamitous times of political and economic crisis; **The Other Human** looks at local hero Konstantinos Polychronopoulos and his soup kitchen which has become a symbol of solidarity in crisis-ridden Athens; **Playing With Fire** elucidates the stark truth for women's affairs and rights in Afghanistan through director Anneta Papathanasiou; and **Time for Heroes** highlights a Washington DC-based journalist who does not hesitate to wage a duel with history and whose struggle has seen him take a place in history as the only man who has dared sue the CIA.

Returning as part of the Delphi Bank 21st Greek Film Festival, the Greek-Australian Short Film Festival will celebrate its fifth year with a program expansion to include a session dedicated to international short films from Greece and beyond for the first time. Filmmakers will compete for Best Short Film prizes in local and international categories.

This is only a selection of the 24 films that make up the Delphi Bank 21st Greek Film Festival program across Sydney and Melbourne. The full program is available at www.greekfilmfestival.com.au

Opening night tickets are now on sale through www.palacecinemas.com.au or by calling (03) 9827 7533 in Melbourne and (02) 9564 5620 in Sydney.

Listing Details:

Sydney 14 October – 2 November Palace Norton St

Melbourne 15 October – 2 November Palace Cinema Como

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