



GREEK FILM FESTIVAL LAUNCHES 2016 PROGRAM TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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THE DELPHI BANK 23rd GREEK FILM FESTIVAL has released its full 2016 Melbourne program. Featuring a selection of the latest features, documentaries and shorts made in Greece or directed by Greek-Australian filmmakers, the Festival will offer a proud survey of contemporary Greek film between **12-23 Oct** along with the previously announced spotlight on **Yorgos Lanthimos**, which will screen at The Astor Theatre from **22 Oct-3 Nov**.

The Festival is thrilled to present Melbourne-based TV journalist Helen Kapalos' new documentary ***A Life of Its Own: The Truth About Medical Marijuana*** as part of its program. Earlier this year the Victorian Government passed a Bill to legalise access to medicinal cannabis in exceptional circumstances. Kapalos aims to provide clarity and understanding around this controversial issue, offering a deeply personal investigation into the medicinal benefits, and the radical and legal research being undertaken in Israel, contrasted with the – until recently – black market here in Australia. Kapalos will participate in a Q&A after the screening on Sat 15 Oct.

The program includes another Australian feature debut, director Kosta Nikas' corrosive thriller ***Sacred Heart***. His film tackles the intersection of faith and the clergy around a tragedy that forces a formerly religious man to reject his God, taking the sub-genre of psychological drama on a theological odyssey.

Greece's next generation have been lensed by two filmmakers with bold visions about the future of the country and its people. Sofia Exarchou's debut feature ***Park*** is a timely portrayal of a young generation living alongside the ruins of the now-abandoned Olympic Village in Athens. ***Park*** won the Work-in-Progress Award for Most Promising Project at Karlovy Vary, and was the first Greek film to be selected for the prestigious Sundance Director's Lab, placing Exarchou among the ranks of Greece's most exciting new filmmakers.

Constantine Giannaris also deals with the plight of Athenian youth in ***Spring Awakening***, a cautionary tale about a group of five disenfranchised teenagers armed with Bonnie and-Clyde ideals. Touted as the Greek version of Larry Clark's *Kids*, it grapples with the salient realities for a generation growing up under social and economic collapse.

The paradoxically hopeful ***SMAC*** bravely upends audience expectations about how stories on terminal cancer can be told. Director Elias Demetriou offers a profound and loving depiction of one woman's fight against her mortality with a tour-de-force performance by Evangelia Andreadaki.

Finally the Festival will nod to the classics in a Greek-language only retrospective of Greek cinema giant **Thanasis Veggos**. One of the best comedic actors of all time – the ‘Greek Charlie Chaplin’ – made a living out of playing the everyman, putting so much of himself into his roles that his characters often bore his name.

Choosing from a filmography of fifty films, the Greek Film Festival pays tribute to Veggos by screening five classic films seldom seen outside of Greece. The films span the subversively political to the outright hilarious and include: ***Thanasis in the Land of Slaps*** (1975), ***Holidays in Vietnam*** (1971), ***The Careless Idiot*** (1971), ***Dictator Calling Thanasis*** (1973) and ***The Charlatan*** (1973) which takes a comedic but humanistic view of migration that echoes strongly into the present day.

The Greek Australian Short Film Festival includes a number of exemplary shorts in its Australian and International programs, including ***The Curse of Don Scarducci***, starring Alec Baldwin, about a quintessential mob boss who can't quite stomach his next hit.

The Festival's previously announced special events include the Opening Night screenings of ***Worlds Apart***, the event screening and '80s after-party for the 1982 guilty pleasure film ***Summer Lovers*** and the **Yorgos Lanthimos** spotlight at The Astor Theatre.

The Festival will also screen:

[Alps](#)
[Beneath the Olive Tree](#)
[Blind Sun](#)
[Chevalier \(co-presented with ACMI\)](#)
[Dogtooth](#)
[Dream of a Shadow](#)
[Highway to Hellas](#)
[Invisible](#)
[Kinetta](#)
[One Breath](#)
[Silent](#)
[Summer Lovers](#)
[Suntan](#)
[The Lobster](#)
[This is a Coup](#)
[What If](#)
[World's Apart](#)
[Australian Shorts*](#)
[International Shorts*](#)

*Part of the Greek Australian Short Film Festival

Tickets are on sale now from www.greekfilmfestival.com.au.

The Delphi Bank 23rd Greek Film Festival runs 12-23 October 2016 at Palace Cinema Como and The Astor, and also travels to Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Canberra and Brisbane.

Chevalier plays exclusively at ACMI Cinemas from Thursday 6 October. Tickets from www.acmi.net.au

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