



IT'S A WRAP! PAPAKALIATIS' WHAT IF BRINGS FESTIVAL TO A CLOSE.

The Delphi Bank 23rd Greek Film Festival, an event proudly presented by the Greek Community of Melbourne, officially closed on Sunday 23 October with Christopher Papakaliatis' debut film and box office hit **WHAT IF**. Papakaliatis enjoyed huge success at this year's Festival, with his moving Opening Night feature **WORLDS APART** playing to over 1400 patrons on Opening Night alone.

The Closing Night event at Palace Cinema Como drew a diverse crowd who were entertained during the pre-film celebration by Melbourne musical duo PolyXeni (Jenny Theologidis and Wayne Simmons).

The closing weekend also included a special event at the Astor Theatre with a screening of Randal Kleiser's (*Grease*, *The Blue Lagoon*) **Summer Lovers** (1982), Described as "a beach party movie for the 1980s" the bikini-clad classic was followed by hours of dancing thanks to Melbourne DJ James Belias.

Earlier in the Festival, Melbourne journalist Helen Kapalos presented her directorial debut **A LIFE OF ITS OWN: THE TRUTH ABOUT MEDICAL MARIJUANA** which was followed by a moving Q&A with Kapalos herself and family interviewed in the documentary who shared their experiences with medical cannabis.

The **7th Greek-Australian Short Film Festival** (curated by Jim Koutsoukos and Katerina Kotsonis) presented two exceptional short film programs, with the Best Short Film prize in the Australian Program going to Ian Tran for his 'donutumentary' **OLYMPIC NICK** about Footscray Olympic Doughnuts legend Nick Tsiligiris.

The Festival's youngest filmmakers were celebrated during **6th Greek Student Film Competition**, an event proudly supported by the Victorian Department of Education and Training and the Greek Community of Melbourne, with assistance from the Modern Greek Teachers Association.

This year's competition attracted 20 entries from schools in Victoria and NSW, all creatively interpreting the theme 'From morning until night' and incorporating a signature item which this year was 'clock'.

2016 WINNING FILMS

PRIMARY SCHOOL CATEGORY

First Prize

Grade 4 Class of the **Greek Community Language Schools** (Malvern Campus) for their film **Ta Melisogenethlia**. Teacher in charge of project, **Maria Stella Papageorgiou**.

Second Prize

The Prep and Grade One Class of **Oakleigh Grammar School**, for their film **Apo to Proi Os to Vradi**. Teacher in charge of project, **Kiki Kousourakis**.

Third Prize

Greek Orthodox Community of NSW Afternoon Schools for their film **Einai Ora Gia Ellinika**. Teachers in charge of project, **Eleni Papagionnopoulos** and **Efi Spaliara**.

SECONDARY SCHOOL CATEGORY

First Prize

Greek Community Language Schools (City Campus) for their film **Ola Alazoun**. Teacher in charge of project **Irene Kodoudakis**.

Second Prize

Greek Community Language Schools (Alphington Campus) for their film **Dio Kosmoi, Mia Stigmi**. Teacher in charge of project **Sofia Chaniotaki**.

Third Prize

Year 7 class of the **Greek Community Language Schools** (Doncaster Campus) for their film **Taxidi Stin Arxaia Ellada**. Teacher in charge of project, **Eleni Dimitriou**.

The Festival may have officially closed, but in true Greek fashion there is still more to come. All four feature films by Yorgos Lanthimos, the godfather of the 'New Greek Wave' will be screened as double-bills at The Astor Theatre on Thursday 27 October (**KINETTA + DOGTOOTH**) and Thursday 3 November (**ALPS + THE LOBSTER**). On Sunday 27 November we present Manousos Manousakis much anticipated **CLOUDY SUNDAY** followed by a performance by Melbourne's much-loved Greek blues band *Rebetiki*.

For tickets and more info visit greekfilmfestival.com.au