

Cinematography is a Greek word!



The 18th Annual Greek Film Festival of Sydney presented by the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW and sponsored by the Bank of Cyprus Australia opens today with a satirical take on the political machinations currently plaguing today's Greece.

An adaption of Dimitris Pastha's play, *Need for Lies* (dir. Ieroklis Michaelidis), no film has ever been more befitting to launch the Greek Film Festival.

In a program packed with special events Mytliene is coming to Leichhardt on Sunday 16 October. Prior to the 6pm screening of *Journey to Mytilene* cinema-goers have the opportunity to taste the tra-

ditional culinary delights and the authentic Greek ouzo aperitif that the region is famous for.

special thanks to the Mytilenean Brotherhood of NSW for their time and efforts in organising this event. The standard ticket price includes the tasting.

The full program is available online and tickets are on sale now through MCA Ticketing by calling 1300 306 776 or online at www.greekfilmfestival.com.au.

The Greek Film Festival of Sydney is an event of the Greek Festival of Sydney, and an initiative of the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW and is sponsored by the Bank of Cyprus Australia

Week 1 Schedule

Red Sky (Drama, 2011)
Director: Layia Yiourgou
Session times:
Thu. 13th Oct., 6:45pm
Sat. 15th Oct., 9pm



Against the idyllic backdrop of Southern Crete and the Libyan Sea unfolds this smouldering, erotic drama that sees the friendship of two men tested by the intrusion of a beautiful woman into their perfect world. In an attempt to make a new start far from the city's maddening crowds, friends Aris (Orfeas Avgoustidis) and Stelios (Apostolis Totsikas) begin a banana greenhouse business on the island of Crete, where they live a simple life focused on work and the nearby tavern. Foreign tourists come and go, but Cordoba (Pihla Viitala) – a friend of Aris' sister – has a more insidious affect. Cordoba arouses interest in both men, who vie for her affection despite their initial reticence at bringing her into their fold. But she cannot decide who she wants, identifying elements of her ideal man in both their personalities, which leads to an explosive situation.

Official website: www.redsky-film.com

Knifer (Drama, 2010)
Director: Yannis Economides
Session times: Thu. 13th Oct., 9pm



Winner of best film, best director, best screenplay at the Hellenic Film Academy Awards 2011. Yannis Economides' multi award-winning tale of lust, power, envy and anger promises to be one of the hottest tickets at this year's festival. Through the eyes of the idle and bitter Nikos (Stathis Stamoulakatos), the film explores Athens' modern, gritty dark side – the Athens you won't find on guided tours and postcards. This is an Athens on economic life-support. The sudden death of Nikos' father signals the return of his

uncle Alekos (Vangelis Mourikis). A business relationship develops between them that propels Nikos into a world pervaded by restlessness, hatred and bitterness. *Knifer* scooped the pool at the Hellenic Film Academy Awards this year, taking out Best Film, Best Director and Best Screenplay. It was also judged Best Greek Film of the Year at the Greek Association of Film Critics awards. Warnings: Strong frequent coarse language and violence
 Official website: www.knifer.gr

Apnea (Drama, 2010)
Director: Aris Bafaloukas
Session times: Fri. 14th Oct., 9pm

Winner of an audience vote and a FIPRESCI (International Federation of Film Critics) Award at the Thessaloniki Film Festival.

"There is a strong echo of the films of Michelangelo Antonioni in *Apnea*, a dreamily atmospheric, hypnotic first feature" (The List, UK). Dimitris (Sotiris Pastras) – a 23-year-old swimmer – dives into the water of a dark pool after achieving success in the European Championships. He has fulfilled the dream of a lifetime, but feels emptier than ever. As his body floats in the water, the past comes flooding into his mind, reminding him about his relationship with Elsa (Youlika Skafida), an environmental activist who has mysteriously disappeared. "The deeper you become aware of your true needs and decide to fight irrespectively of the consequences in order to satisfy them, the deeper and more fully you breathe" (Aris Bafaloukas).

Official website: www.apnea-film.com

Plato's Academy (Comedy, 2009)
Director: Filippos Tsitos
Session times:
Fri. 14th Oct., 6:45pm
Sun. 16th Oct., 1:30pm
Wed. 19th Oct, 6:45pm

This sharp comedy/drama took out the 2009 Orpheus Award for Best Feature Film at the Los Angeles Greek Film Festival. Winner of the best leading actor award at the Locarno Film Festival in 2009. Bitter after being abandoned by his wife and forced to care for his elderly mother, who has suffered a stroke,

Stavros (Antonis Kafetzopoulos) spends his days with his mates drinking coffee, playing soccer and sneering at the Chinese and Eastern European labourers working on projects in their neighbourhood. Globalisation and xenophobia collide as Stavros finds himself confronting his prejudices – and questions about his own identity – when Nikos (Yorgos Souxes), an itinerant Albanian labourer, enters his world to hilarious, yet profound effect.

Everything Is Going To Be Alright (Comedy, 2009)
Director: Giannis Xanthopoulos
Session times: Sat. 15th Oct, 6:30pm

A comedy where 'Ruthless People' meets 'Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels'. Miltiadis (Akis Sakellariou) cooks up a scheme to kidnap well-known and notoriously corrupt lawyer Yotis Mathiopoulos (Dimitris Piatas). To help him execute the plan, he enlists the help of his fiancée, Gina (Faye Xila), and her "unofficial" partner, the short-fused Fanis (Orfeas Avgoustidis). Things are thrown into chaos when a comedy of errors sees our band of crooks wind up with Yotis' aunt, Elenitsa (played by Greek cinema veteran, Efi Papatheodorou) as their captive instead of Yotis. They are unaware that Yotis has been plotting to get rid of her anyway. Propelled into a world of thugs and organised crime, Miltiadis, Gina and Fanis soon learn that Aunt Elenitsa isn't the benign elder she may initially seem – and so their lives are sent into a tail-spin.