

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
January 1990

THEO ANGELOPOULOS

February 16 - March 4, 1990

Théo Angelopoulos, considered to be one of the most influential directors in contemporary cinema, is the focus of a retrospective opening at The Museum of Modern Art on February 16, 1990. While his films are virtually unknown in the United States, the Greek filmmaker is highly regarded in Europe for establishing a singular style that is distinguished by its formal complexity and beauty. THEO ANGELOPOULOS includes all eight films made by the director between 1970 and 1988 and features the American premiere of Landscape in the Mist (1988), his most recent film and the Greek entry for this year's Academy Awards. The retrospective continues through March 4, 1990.

Many of Angelopoulos's films unfold as journeys which, though conveyed as fables, depict painful social realities of much recent Greek history. His style is precise, deliberate, and lyrical; he is a master of breathtaking images and exquisitely composed long takes and tracking shots. Simultaneously epic and minimalist, spare and dense, grave and farcical, Angelopoulos's visual technique is as instantly recognizable as the styles of such masters as Michelangelo Antonioni, Kenji Mizoguchi, and Andrei Tarkovsky.

Among the films featured in the series is Angelopoulos's remarkable first feature, Reconstruction (1970), a tale woven around a murder in a desolate Greek village and the fate of the desperate couple responsible for it. The director's popular, critically acclaimed film The Travelling Players (1974-75) is an epic story about a group of actors that tours Greece from 1939

-more-

to 1952, an odyssey that reflects the political history of Greece during this period. Voyage To Cythera (1984) tells the haunting story of a man who returns to Greece from years of exile in Russia and who refuses to come to terms with his past or his present.

Théo Angelopoulos was born in Athens in 1936 to a family of merchants and studied law at the University of Athens. After completing his military service, he went to Paris to attend the Sorbonne and then enrolled to study film in the prestigious French film school, IDHEC. He returned to Athens in 1964 and, until 1967, was a film critic for the leftist paper Democratic Change.

At festivals throughout Europe, Angelopoulos's films have been awarded numerous prizes. Landscape in the Mist, which won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival in 1988, has just won the European Felix Award for Best Picture, the equivalent to the American Oscar. Angelopoulos has also received the Prix Georges Sadoul and the Best Foreign Film Award at the Hyeres Film Festival, France, in 1971 for Reconstruction; the Golden Lion at the 1980 Venice Film Festival for Megalexandros; and the award for Best Screenplay at the 1984 Cannes Film Festival for Voyage To Cythera. His work has twice been selected for NEW DIRECTORS/NEW FILMS, the international festival coorganized by The Museum of Modern Art and the Film Society of Lincoln Center.

THEO ANGELOPOULOS has been organized by Adrienne Mancina, curator, and Jytte Jensen, curatorial assistant, in collaboration with the Greek Film Center, Athens, and its representative in New York, George Kaloyeropoulos.

* * *

No. 8

For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.

THEO ANGELOPOULOS

Exhibition Schedule

All films are directed by Théo Angelopoulos and in Greek with English subtitles.

Friday, February 16

3:00 p.m. Athens. 1982. 40 min.

6:00 p.m. Landscape in the Mist (Topio stin Omichli). 1988. 125 min.

Saturday, February 17

1:00 p.m. Athens. 1982. 40 min.

3:00 p.m. The Travelling Players (O Thiassos). 1974-75. 230 min.

Sunday, February 18

2:00 p.m. The Beekeeper (O Melissokomos). 1986. 121 min.

5:00 p.m. Reconstruction (Anaparastassi). 1970. 110 min.

Monday, February 19

3:00 p.m. O Megalexandros. 1980. 210 min.

Tuesday, February 20

2:30 p.m. The Hunters (I Kynighi). 1977. 165 min.

6:00 p.m. Voyage to Cythera (Taxidi sta Kithira). 1984. 137 min.

Thursday, February 22

2:30 p.m. Days of '36 (Meres tou '36). 1972. 170 min.

Friday, February 23

6:00 p.m. The Beekeeper (O Melissokomos). 1986. 121 min.

Saturday, February 24

2:00 p.m. Voyage to Cythera (Taxidi sta Kithira). 1984. 137 min.

5:00 p.m. Landscape in the Mist (Topio stin Omichli). 1988. 125 min.

Sunday, February 25

2:30 p.m. O Megalexandros. 1980. 210 min.

Thursday, March 1

6:00 p.m. Reconstruction (Anaparastassi). 1970. 110 min.

Friday, March 2

6:00 p.m. Days of '36 (Meres tou '36). 1972. 170 min.

Saturday, March 3

2:30 p.m. The Hunters (I Kynighi). 1977. 165 min.

Sunday, March 4

2:30 p.m. The Travelling Players (O Thiassos). 1974-75. 230 min.