

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
March 1993

CineMythology: A Retrospective of Greek Film

April 23 - June 14, 1993

The first film exhibition to provide an overview of the history of Greek cinema is presented at The Museum of Modern Art from April 23 to June 14, 1993. **CineMythology: A Retrospective of Greek Film**, composed of forty-five films, reveals a cinema with a strong sense of social awareness. Thematically, it draws on distinctly Greek sources, including mythology and classical drama; questions of national identity, displacement and immigration; and the transformation of an agrarian society into a modern industrial one.

During the opening weekend of the exhibition, Melina Mercouri and Irene Papas introduce films in which they star. On Friday, April 23, at 6:00 p.m., Ms. Mercouri and director Michalis Cacoyannis introduce *Stella* (1955). On Saturday, April 24, at 5:00 p.m., Ms. Papas and Mr. Cacoyannis introduce *Electra* (1962). On Sunday, April 25, at 2:00 p.m., Ms. Mercouri introduces *Never on Sunday* (1960). Other programs feature appearances by directors Costas Ferris, Nikos Koundouros, Nicos Papatakis, Pantelis Voulgaris, and Costas Vrettakos.

While Greek cinema is clearly a part of a European tradition, it possesses a distinct style with periods of excellence often interrupted by turbulent political events. The early developments of Greek cinema, late in comparison to Europe and the United States, exhibit unique qualities. *Social Decay* (1931, Stelios Tatasopoulos) is informed by a distinct political and social awareness, and *Daphnis and Chloe* (1931, Oresits Laskos) is closely tied

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to classical Greek drama and mythology in both content and aesthetic style. Both films were newly restored for the exhibition.

In the 1940s, Greek film production was virtually halted due to World War II and the ensuing Greek civil war. The period of studio productions began in the 1950s, complete with a star system and the export of such internationally popular films as *Stella*. Concurrently, an alternative cinema, strongly influenced by Italian neorealism, surfaced with the films *Bitter Bread* (1951, Grigoris Grigoriou) and *Magic City* (1954, Nikos Koundouros). This alternative cinema movement is also noted for the exceptional artistic accomplishments evident in Cacoyiannis's tradition of classical drama and Koundouros's magical realism. One prominent example is Koundouros's masterpiece *O Drakos, The Ogre of Athens* (1956).

During the military regime of the late 1960s, the "new Greek cinema" -- inspired by the alternative films of the 1950s -- was ushered in with the work of Angelopoulos, Voulgaris, and Panayotopoulos, among others whose work is featured in the exhibition. Also included are truly original and powerful works that are not familiar abroad, such as Nikos Papatakis's *Thanos and Despina, The Shepherds of Disaster* (1967), Alexis Damianos's *Evdokia* (1971), and Stavros Tornos's *Balamos* (1982).

Along with the rest of Europe in the 1970s, Greek cinema experienced a crisis which led to state support of the industry through the Greek Film Centre. Still in effect, this sponsorship subsidizes a new generation of filmmakers and participates in coproductions with other European countries.

An accompanying catalogue includes essays on the history of Greek cinema and notes on the individual films and directors represented in the series.

After the New York showing, the exhibition travels to the Pacific Film Archive, University Art Museum, Berkeley; the Film Center at the Art Institute of Chicago; the Cleveland Museum of Art; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and elsewhere in the United States, Canada, England, and New Zealand (to be announced).

CineMythology: A Retrospective of Greek Film was organized by Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, in collaboration with the Greek Film Centre, Athens, and its representative in New York, George Kalogeropoulos; and in association with The Greek Film Archive, Athens. It is presented under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, Greece, and the Foundation for Hellenic Culture, Greece. Additional funding is provided by ERT, S.A. Greek Radio-Television.

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No. 21

For further information or film stills, contact Barbara Marshall, film press representative, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.

The Museum of Modern Art

CineMythology: A Retrospective of Greek Film
April 23 - June 14, 1993

Exhibition Schedule

All films are in Greek with English subtitles or intertitles, unless otherwise noted.

Friday, April 23

- 2:30 p.m. *O Drakos, The Ogre of Athens*. 1956. Nikos Koundouros. With Dinos Iliopoulos and Margarita Papageorgiou. 105 min.
6:00 p.m. *Stella*. 1955. Michael Cacoyannis. With Melina Mercouri and Giorgos Foundas. 95 min.
Program introduced by the director and Melina Mercouri.

Saturday, April 24

- 2:00 p.m. *Reconstruction (Anaparastassi)*. 1970. Theo Angelopoulos. With Toulia Stathopoulou and Yannis Totsikas. 100 min.
5:00 p.m. *Electra*. 1962. Michael Cacoyannis. With Irene Papas and Yannis Fertis. 120 min.
Program introduced by the director and Irene Papas.

Sunday, April 25

- 2:00 p.m. *Never on Sunday (Pote tin Kiriaki)*. 1960. Jules Dassin. With Melina Mercouri and Jules Dassin. 92 min.
Program introduced by Melina Mercouri.
5:00 p.m. *Magic City (Magiki Polis)*. 1954. Nikos Koundouros. With Giorgos Foundas and Margarita Papageorgiou. 90 min.
Program introduced by the director.

Monday, April 26

- 2:30 p.m. *Thanos and Despina or The Shepherds of Disaster (I Voski tis Simforas)*. 1967. Nico Papatakis. With Olga Carlatou and Giorgos Dialekmenos. 121 min.
6:00 p.m. *The Idlers of the Fertile Valley (I Tembelides tis Eforis Kiladas)*. 1978. Nikos Panayotopoulos. With Olga Carlatou and Vassilis Diamandopoulos. 115 min.

Tuesday, April 27

- 2:30 p.m. *Evdokia*. 1971. Alexis Damianos. With Maria Vassiliou and Giorgos Koutouzis. 97 min.
6:00 p.m. *1922*. 1978. Nikos Koundouros. With Vassilis Laggos and Antigone Amanitou. 135 min.

Thursday, April 29

- 2:30 p.m. *...deserter (...Lipotachtis)*. 1988. Giorgos Korras and Christos Voupouras. With Stelios Mainas and Toulia Stathopoulou. 121 min.
6:00 p.m. *Daphnis and Chloe*.* 1931. Orestes Laskos. With Apollo Marsvas

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and Lucy Matli. 68 min.
Lover of the Shepherdess (O Agapitikos tis Voskopoulas).
 Fragments. 1932. Dimitris Tsakiris. With Dimitris
 Tsakiris and Nina Afendaki. 12 min.
 Program introduced by Theodoros Adamopoulos, Director, Greek
 Film Archive.

Friday, April 30

2:30 p.m. *Until the Ship Sails (Mechri to Plio)*. 1966. Alexis Damianos.
 With Alexis Damianos and Christos Tsangas. 100 min.
 6:00 p.m. *Never on Sunday*. See Sunday, April 25 at 2:00.

Saturday, May 1

2:00 p.m. *The Children of Helidona (Ta Pedia tis Helidonas)*. 1987.
 Costas Vrettakos. With Alekos Alexandrakis and Mary
 Chronopoulou. 118 min.
 Program introduced by the director.
 5:00 p.m. *Rembetiko*. 1983. Costas Ferris. With Sotiria Leonardou and
 Nikos Kalogeropoulos. 120 min.
 Program introduced by the director.

Sunday, May 2

2:00 p.m. *The Engagement of Anna (To Proxenio tis Annas)*. 1972. Pantelis
 Voulgaris. With Anna Vayena and Stavros Kalaroglou. 82 min.
 Program introduced by the director.
 5:00 p.m. *Thanos and Despina or The Shepherds of Disaster*.
 See Monday, April 26 at 2:30.
 Program introduced by the director.

Monday, May 3

2:30 p.m. *Electra*. See Saturday, April 24 at 5:00.
 6:00 p.m. *The Price of Love (I Timi tis Agapis)*. 1984. Tonia Marketaki.
 With Toulia Stathopoulou and Annie Loulou. 110 min.

Tuesday, May 4

2:30 p.m. *Sweet Bunch (Glikia Simoria)*. 1983. Nikos Nikolaidis. With
 Takis Moschos and Dora Masklavanou. 157 min.
 6:00 p.m. *Topos*. 1985. Antoinetta Angelidi. With Maya Liberopoulou and
 Annita Santorineou. 85 min.

Thursday, May 6

2:30 p.m. *Rembetiko*. See Saturday, May 1 at 5:00.
 6:00 p.m. *Stella*. See Friday, April 23 at 6:00.

Friday, May 7

2:30 p.m. *The Engagement of Anna*. See Sunday, May 2 at 2:00.
 6:00 p.m. *...deserter*. See Thursday, April 29 at 2:30.

Saturday, May 8

2:00 p.m. *The Idlers of the Fertile Valley*. See Monday, April 26 at 6:00.
 5:00 p.m. *Sweet Bunch*. See Tuesday, May 4 at 2:30.

Sunday, May 9

- 2:00 p.m. *What Did You Do in the War, Thanassis (Ti Ekanes Ston Polemo Thanasi)*. 1971. Dinos Katsouridis. With Thanassis Vengos and Antonis Papadopoulos. 92 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Evdokia*. See Tuesday, April 27 at 2:30.

Monday, May 10

- 2:30 p.m. *O Drakos, The Ogre of Athens*. See Friday, April 23 at 2:30.
- 6:00 p.m. *Meteora*.** 1923. Michalis Dorizas. 4 min.
- The Adventures of Villar (I Peripeties Tou Villar)*.** 1926. Joseph Hepp. With Nikos Sfakianakis and Nitsa Filossophou. With Greek intertitles. 25 min.
- The Magician of Athens (O Magos tis Athinas)*.* Fragments. 1930. Achilleas Madras. With Achilleas Madras and Frieda Poupelina. With Greek intertitles. 10 min.
- Maria Pentayotissa*.** Fragments. 1929. Achilleas Madras. With Frieda Poupelina and Emilios Veakis. With Greek intertitles. 20 min.

Tuesday, May 11

- 2:30 p.m. *Social Decay (Kinoniki Sapila)*.** 1932. Stelios Tatassopoulos. With Stelios Tatassopoulos and Danae Grizou. 60 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *The Drunkard (O Methistakas)*. 1950. Giorgos Tzavellas. With Orestes Makris and Dimitris Horn. 91 min.

Thursday, May 13

- 2:30 p.m. *Bitter Bread (Pikro Psomi)*. 1951. Grigoris Grigoriou. With Eleni Zafirou and Ida Christinaki. 81 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Music, Poverty and Pride (Laterna, Ftochia ke Filotimo)*. 1955. Alekos Sakellarios. With Vassilis Avlonitis and Mimis Fotopoulos. 80 min.

Friday, May 14

- 2:30 p.m. *Topos*. See Tuesday, May 4 at 6:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *Counterfeit Coin (Kalpiki Lira)*. 1955. Giorgos Tzavellas. With Vassilis Logothetidis and Ilia Livikou. 115 min.

Saturday, May 15

- 2:00 p.m. *Astero*.** 1929. Dimitris Gaziadis. With Aliki Theodoridou and Emilios Veakis. Fragments. 12 min.
- Astero*. 1959. Dinos Dimopoulos. With Aliki Vouyouklaki and Dimitris Papamichail. 95 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Social Decay*.* See Tuesday, May 11 at 2:30.

Sunday, May 16

- 2:00 p.m. *Until the Ship Sails*. Friday, April 30 at 2:30.
- 5:00 p.m. *Daphnis and Chloe*/Lover of the Shepherdess*. See Thursday, April 29 at 6:00.

Monday, May 17

- 2:30 p.m. *Magic City*. See Sunday, April 25 at 5:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *Blood on the Land (To Choma Vaftike Kokkino)*. 1965. Vassilis

Georgiadis. With Nikos Kourkoulos and Mary Chronopoulou.
135 min.

Tuesday, May 18

- 2:30 p.m. *The Children of Helidona* (Ta Pedia tis Helidonas).
See Saturday, May 1 at 2:00.
6:00 p.m. *What Did You Do in the War, Thanassis*. See Sunday, May 9 at 2:00.

Thursday, May 20

- 2:30 p.m. *The Drunkard*. See Tuesday, May 11 at 6:00.
6:00 p.m. *Loafing and Camouflage* (Loufa ke Paralagi). 1984. Nikos Perakis. With Nikos Kalogeropoulos and Giorgos Kimoulis.
98 min.

Friday, May 21

- 2:30 p.m. *1922*. See Tuesday, April 27 at 6:00.
6:00 p.m. *Reconstruction*. See Saturday, April 24 at 2:00.

Saturday, May 22

- 2:00 p.m. *Bitter Bread*. See Thursday, May 13 at 2:30.
5:00 p.m. *A Foolish Love* (I Apenanti). 1981. Giorgos Panoussopoulos.
With Betty Livanou and Aris Retsos. 110 min.

Sunday, May 23

- 2:00 p.m. *With Glittering Eyes* (Me tin Lampsi sta Matia). 1966. Panos Glykofridis. With Lavrentis Dianellos and Giorgos Foundas.
100 min.
5:00 p.m. *Happy Day*. 1976. Pantelis Voulgaris. With Stavros Kalaroglou and Stathis Yalelis. 105 min.

Monday, May 24

- 2:30 p.m. *Music, Poverty and Pride*. See Thursday, May 13 at 6:00.
6:00 p.m. *Counterfeit Coin*. See Friday, May 14 at 6:00.

Tuesday, May 25

- 2:30 p.m. *Face to Face* (Prosopo me Prosopo). 1966. Roviros Manthoulis.
With Costas Messaris and Eleni Stavropoulou. 90 min.
6:00 p.m. *With Glittering Eyes*. See Sunday, May 23 at 2:00.

Thursday, May 27

- 2:30 p.m. *The Price of Love*. See Monday, May 3 at 6:00.
6:00 p.m. *Blood on the Land*. See Monday, May 17 at 6:00.

Friday, May 28

- 2:30 p.m. *Astero**/Astero*. See Saturday, May 15 at 2:00.
6:00 p.m. *Excursion* (Ekdromi). 1966. Takis Kanellopoulos. With Lily Papayanni and Angelos Antonopoulos. 85 min.

Saturday, May 29

- 2:00 p.m. *Balamos*. 1982. Stavros Tornes. With Stavros Tornes and Eleni Maniati. 80 min.

5:00 p.m. *Fear (O Fovos)*. 1966. Costas Manoussakis. With Elli Fotiou and Anestis Vlachos. 110 min.

Sunday, May 30

2:00 p.m. *Theophilos*. 1987. Lakis Papastathis. With Dimitris Katalifos and Stamatis Fassoulis. 115 min.

5:00 p.m. *Face to Face*. See Tuesday, May 25 at 2:30.

Monday, May 31

2:00 p.m. *Invincible Lovers (Akatanikiti Erastes)*. 1988. Stavros Tsiolis. With Olia Lazaridou and Tassos Miliotis. 80 min.

5:00 p.m. *Love Wanders in the Night (I Dromi tis Agapis Ine Nichterini)*. 1981. Frieda Liappa. With Maria Skountzou and Mirka Papakonstantinou. 90 min.

Tuesday, June 1

2:30 p.m. *Invincible Lovers*. See Monday, May 31 at 2:00.

6:00 p.m. *Happy Day*. See Sunday, May 23 at 5:00.

Thursday, June 3

2:30 p.m. *A Foolish Love*. See Saturday, May 22 at 5:00.

Friday, June 4

2:30 p.m. *Love Wanders in the Night*. See Monday, May 31 at 5:00.

6:00 p.m. *Iphigenia*. 1977. Michael Cacoyannis. With Irene Papas and Costas Kazakos. 130 min.

Saturday, June 5

2:00 p.m. *The Woman Who Dreamed (I Gineka pou Evlepe ta Onira)*. 1988. Nikos Panayotopoulos. With Myrto Paraschi and Yannis Bezos. 105 min.

5:00 p.m. *The Photograph (Photographia)*. 1986. Nico Papatakis. With Christos Tsangas and Aris Retsos. 102 min.

Sunday, June 6

2:00 p.m. *Meteora**/The Adventures of Villar**/The Magician of Athens/Maria Pentayotissa***. See Monday, May 10 at 6:00.

5:00 p.m. *Voyage to Cythera (Taxidi sta Kithira)*. 1984. Theo Angelopoulos. With Manos Katrakis and Mary Chronopoulou. 138 min.

Monday, June 7

2:30 p.m. *Fear*. See Saturday, May 29 at 5:00.

6:00 p.m. *Balamos*. See Saturday, May 29 at 2:00.

Tuesday, June 8

2:30 p.m. *Iphigenia*. See Friday, June 4 at 6:00.

6:00 p.m. *Unfair Competition (Athemitos Sinagonismos)*. 1985. Dimos Avdeliodis. With Dimos Avdeliodis and Yannis Avdeliodis. 21 min.

The Tree We Hurt (To Dendro pou Pligoname). 1986. Dimos Avdeliodis. With Yannis Avdeliodis and Nikos Mioteris. 75 min.

Thursday, June 10

- 2:30 p.m. *The Photograph*. See Saturday, June 5 at 5:00.
 6:00 p.m. *The Travelling Players (O Thiasos)*. 1975. Theo Angelopoulos.
 With Eva Kotamanidou and Aliki Georgouli. 230 min.

Friday, June 11

- 2:30 p.m. *Theophilos*. See Sunday, May 30 at 2:00.
 6:00 p.m. *Voyage to Cythera*. See Sunday, June 6 at 5:00.

Saturday, June 12

- 2:00 p.m. *The Travelling Players*. See Thursday, June 10 at 6:00.
 5:00 p.m. *Excursion*. See Friday, May 28 at 6:00.

Sunday, June 13

- 2:00 p.m. *Loafing and Camouflage*. See Thursday, May 20 at 6:00.
 5:00 p.m. *Unfair Competition/The Tree We Hurt*. See Tuesday, June 8 at 6:00.

Monday, June 14

- 2:30 p.m. *The Woman Who Dreamed*. See Saturday, June 5 at 2:00.

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* Silent film, original accompaniment by Stuart Oderman

** Silent film, no piano accompaniment