



GREEK FILM
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PRESS RELEASE

GREEK FILM ARCHIVE AT HOME

**ONLINE SCREENINGS WILL CONTINUE WITH OUR NEW PROGRAMME
FROM APRIL 23 UNTIL MAY**

FROM THE **OGRE OF ATHENS BY NIKOS KOUNDOUROS TO DOCUMENTARIES BY
COSTAS VRETTAKOS**

COMMENCEMENT: 20:00

The Greek Film Archive continues its online screenings, with success. **On Thursday 23 April (20:00)**, it will present its new programme, containing a **representative selection of films from post-world war II cinema**, for the first time to be screened online through our new digital theatre. Amongst these films are, The **Ogre of Athens**, The **Magic City** and **The River** by **Nikos Koundouros**. **Six narrative fiction films and three documentaries** will be screened in total. These include some of the rare films from the Film Archive's collection, that have not been screened often, but also other films that although, have been frequently showcased, do not cease to be, important milestones in the history of Greek cinema.

The process will be the same: each film will have its **online premiere at a specific date and time** in the **updated website of the Film Archive (www.tainiothiki.gr)**, and will be **available online for 72 hours**. Once this time expires, the next film will commence. N

New programme begins: Thursday 23/4 at 20:00. Screenings will continue until May.

The selection of films, provides a representative sample of the historical period, of the development of Greek studios (Anzervos, Finos Film), in the early post-war period — the appearance of a first generation of directors/auteurs including the distinctive case of Nikos Koundouros; the appearance of the first female Greek director, Lila Kourkoulakou, to participate in competition in Venice film festival; to the great ambassador of documentaries -who had his apprenticeship under Henry Langlois in Cinematheque Francaise- Lambros Liaropoulos. From the time of the dictatorship and

the Metapolitefsi (“regime change”), we present an important film by Yiorgos Stambouloupoulos, which faced significant problems with censorship yet was distinguished in foreign film festivals, and two documentaries by the important literary writer, director and great supporter of the Film Archive, Costas Vrettakos.

With this second cycle, the audience will get to know our Archive, even more, as well as our multidimensional activities (preservation, restoration, digitization and screening of films of Greek cinema). At the same time, **through the website, members of the audience will be able to learn more details about these films.**

Thus, after the completion of our tribute to silent and early sound cinema, with films that the Greek Film Archive had restored and digitised, a series of **landmark post-war films of Greek cinema**, will take their place — extending from the 40’s and reaching the years of the dictatorship, the metapolitefsi and the late 80’s.

Amongst these are **six narrative fiction films** that include some of the most well known films of **Nikos Koundouros**, but also important films by **Lila Kourkoulakou** and **Yiorgos Stambouloupoulos**. The opening of the tribute will take place with the historic film **Anna of Rhodes** by **Giannis Filippou** and **Michalis Gaziadis**, which was restored by the Greek Film Archive — whilst **three documentaries** signed by **Lambros Liaropoulos** and **Costas Vrettakos**, will also be screened.

The following films will be screened from 23 April - 14 May:

THURSDAY 23/4: **ANNA OF RHODES**(Giannis Filippou, Michalis Gaziadis, 1948)

SUNDAY 26/4: **THE RIVER**(Nikos Koundouros, 1959)

WEDNESDAY 29/4: **OPEN LETTER**(Yiorgos Stambouloupoulos, 1967)

SATURDAY 2/5: **LETTER FROM CHARLEROI**(Lambros Liaropoulos, 1965) **and THE OGRE OF ATHENS** (Nikos Koundouros, 1956)

TUESDAY 5/5: **LAYER OF DESTRUCTION** (Costas Vrettakos, 1980) **and THE RESCUE OF A MONUMENT** (Costas Vrettakos, 1987)

FRIDAY 8/5: **THE ISLAND OF SILENCE** (Lila Kourkoulakou, 1958)

MONDAY 11/5: **THE MAGIC CITY** (Nikos Koundouros, 1954)

START TIME: **20:00**.

Each film will be available **online for 72 hours**.

A friendly reminder that we have already uploaded the short film **THE WHEEL (1964)** by **Thodoros Adamopoulos** on our website, (will be available for the remainder of the month) — a walkabout-film in Athens, which we can especially enjoy today, in these difficult times of confinement. The film is about the adventures of a car wheel in Attica. The wheel unexpectedly falls off from the car and wanders around the city. Starring: Vaggelis Kazan, Christos Tsagas, Dimitris Papanikolaou.

You can see our programme of films here:

<http://www.tainiothiki.gr/el/ekdiloseis/arxeio-ekdiloseon/283-i-tainiothiki-sto-spiti-ii>

and follow us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/tainiothikigr/> and on instagram <https://www.instagram.com/tainiothikigr/> to learn more about them!

FILM SYNOPSIS

***ANNA OF RHODES (Giannis Filippou, Michalis Gaziadis, 1948)**

Romantic and adventurous film set during the German occupation in Rhodes.

One of the first post-war Greek film productions, marking the operation of the first Greek film studios, to become fully operational in the post-war period. The film marks the first production of Anzervos, the most important production company after Finos Film. The film was shot in natural locations, and for the most part in Rhodes, and its subject is the resistance of the Greek people against the German and Italian occupiers. The film stars some of the most important actors of cinema and the theatre in their time (Ketty Panou, Lambros Konstadaras, Yannis Prineas).

***THE RIVER (Nikos Koundouros, 1959)**

A filmic essay on the concept of borders and freedom.

Nikos Koundouros collaborated with Iakovos Kambanellis, Antonis Samarakis and Notis Peryalis in this film's screenplay. With spectacular cinematography by Giovanni Varriano, Koundouros manages to extract the aesthetic result that his artistic gaze was aiming for but can now be accomplished with the right director of photography. The first film in Europe that legally acknowledged to the director the right to secure his own version of the edit (director's cut).

***OPEN LETTER (Yiorgos Stambouloupoulos, 1967)**

The taking of consciousness of a young man, with catalyst his romance with an activist and charming teacher.

Filmed during the dictatorship and censored by the regime, the film by Yiorgos Stambouloupoulos, tells the story of a young petite bourgeoisie, born during the occupation and prepared by social conditioning to conform and be "comfortable" in modern life. The young man tries to not react and think, seeking a form of escape in various love affairs, until he meets the conscientious young teacher.

***LETTER FROM CHARLEROI (Lambros Liaropoulos, 1965)**

The deferred homecoming (nostos) of a Greek miner in the Belgian coal-mines.

In his documentary, Lambros Liaropoulos, outlines the battle of Greek emigrant coalminers in Belgium. Ten years after, the first emigration wave of Greek laborers to Belgium's coal-mines, the director gazes from a particular and personal vantage-point, the issues and problems confronting these laborers, in a European country, which provides them with all their material needs, except for the possibility of returning to their homeland.

***THE OGRE OF ATHENS (Nikos Koundouros, 1956)**

A gang in search for a leader accepts a wretched civil servant who pays with his life this false identity

With this film, written by Iakovos Kambanellis and scored by Manos Chatzidakis; Nikos Koundouros brings to Greece the “Auteur Cinema” outside the predominant logic, of commercial production. This film, using a parable of an insignificant civil servant who impersonates the great criminal (Dinos Iliopoulos), articulates a critical point of view, in post-war repressive consensus. Today, it is considered one of the most important films of Greek cinema.

***LAYER OF DESTRUCTION (Costas Vrettakos, 1980)**

An excavation and discovery, becomes a unique document on ancient Kalipolis, that is drowning under the waters of Mornos.

Costas Vrettakos breaks ground in the genre of archaeological documentary, recording with his lens the excavations on the discovery of ancient city of Kallipolis, in the late 70's, and at the same time the sinking of this ancient city from the waters of the artificial lake, of Mornos. The need for water supply in Athens becomes the motor of destruction...

***THE RESCUE OF A MONUMENT (Costas Vrettakos, 1987)**

The chronicles of the rescue and maintenance between 1973-86; a recording of the undertaking; of the Acropolis rock.

The chronicle of the maintenance work that was carried out, on the Acropolis rock, from 1973 to 1986. The documentary captures the slow pace of work and changes, which gradually taking place, as well as the anxiety of the scientists and the technical staff, in the face of the immense responsibility they faced.

***ISLAND OF SILENCE (Lila Kourkoulakou, 1958)**

A brave look at the confinement of lepers in Spinalonga.

Lila Kourkoulakou, the first female director of narrative fiction to participate in an international film festival (Venice), partakes in her debut with a fiction film about the life of lepers; filming in Spinalonga itself, which was then still operating as a leper colony. In her film, with elements of neorealism and documentary, she tells the story of the struggle of young couple; doctors, dealing with leprosy on the island. Her film, in fact, became the reason the leper colony was shut down.

***MAGIC CITY (Nikos Koundouros, 1954)**

Poverty and solidarity in a poor-neighborhood that opposes the blackmail of the powerful in the underworld.

It is considered the first neorealist film in Greek cinema and is the director's cinematic debut. Nikos Koundouros, excited by the script of Margarita Lyberaki, focus his lens on the refugee neighborhood of Dourgouti. Its dwellers, found on the opposite side of the spectrum, look at the city center, and are fascinated by this cheap mirage of a prefabricated happiness: a magic city...

Greek Film Archive

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