

CROSSROADS
CO-PRODUCTION FORUM
NOVEMBER 16-18 2009



50th THESSALONIKI
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

13-22.11.2009

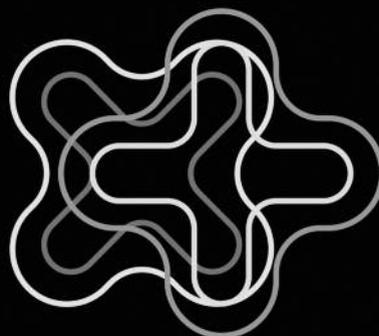
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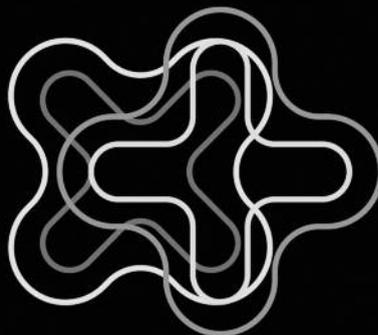
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Welcome to the 5th edition of the Crossroads Co-production Forum!

Crossroads was launched with great success in November 2005 by the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, as a way to bring together films in development that contain a link to the Mediterranean and Balkan regions with renowned industry experts, buyers, distributors, financiers and sales agents.

Crossroads is a unique opportunity for the participants from our region to find partners and co-producers. It is quite an experience to discuss and present their projects with an opportunity to “test” them while they are still in development and to gain valuable feedback that will help in all next stages of production. Crossroads creates many occasions for official and unofficial meetings in the convivial atmosphere of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival.

This year, Crossroads is very proud to announce the establishment of a new collaboration with **Producers’ Network** in Cannes. The producer of the winning project in Crossroads 2009, will be awarded with a free accreditation to Producers’ Network at the Cannes Film Festival 2010.

We also initiated collaboration with the **Mediterranean Film Institute** (MFI) and its advanced script and project development program MFI SCRIPT 2 FILM WORKSHOPS. The program is a specialized training initiative operating under the umbrella of the MEDIA Programme of the EU. Each year a project developed through MFI SCRIPT 2 FILM WORKSHOPS will be selected to participate in Crossroads and be presented to its panel of experts, whereas the MFI will be giving a scholarship to a Crossroads film project to participate and be developed in its Workshops.

Last but not least, last year’s successful partnership with **Sofia Meetings** of the Sofia Film Festival, is flourishing with the award winning projects from both ends being presented in each other’s Forums. This gives the projects the time to develop and the opportunity to prove to their potential partners the quality of their work.





In addition, **Agora**, the film market of the Festival, will present during Crossroads the **Works in Progress** screenings to all industry guests.

This year we selected **17 projects** from Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Jordan, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Syria and Turkey. All selected projects will be presented with experienced producers and directors to defend their artistic vision and are all eligible for the Crossroads Award.

In previous years, the awards went to Yesim Ustaoglu's project **Pandora's Box in 2006** (Golden and Silver Shell for Best Film and Best Actress, San Sebastian International Film Festival 2008), Nadav Lapid's **Le Policier** in 2007 (presented later at l'Atelier du Cinéma, Cannes IFF 2008 and currently under production). Last year's winners Iglïka Triffonova's **False Witness** and Yannis Sakaridis' **America Square** are aiming to shoot in 2010.

This year's Thessaloniki International Film Festival will host **2** Crossroads films: **Ajami** (Israel, Crossroads 2005) selected in the International Competition and **Kino Caravan** (Romania, Crossroads 2007) selected in the Balkan Survey section.

Thank you all for being part of this 5th edition of Crossroads and for making the Thessaloniki International Film Festival your rendez-vous for the next years!

Despina Mouzaki

Thessaloniki International Film Festival Director

Marie-Pierre Macia

*Crossroads Artistic Director
and the Crossroads Team*



Achim Gabriel
Director

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Selected Filmography

How Do You Do? (short), 2009
Segment "Short Back and Sides"
A Man Follows a Woman (med), 2009
Bric Brac (short), 2008
Saga (short), 2008

Adalbert's Dream

Credits

Produced by: Green Film & Libra Film

Director: Gabriel Achim

Scriptwriter: Gabriel Achim & Cosmin Manolache

Budget: 750.000 Euros

Secured Financing: 20%

Synopsis

Adalbert's Dream is a black comedy based on a real story, which happened in a Romanian communist factory in the 80's. A work accident is re-enacted on camera, but the re-enacting becomes a new accident: the worker playing the victim also gets his hand cut.

Director's Statement

Adalbert's Dream is a perfect opportunity to resort to dark humor and to question human weakness, which comes easier to the fore during totalitarian regimes. But despite appearances, Adalbert's Dream is not a political film. Politics is the mere background that helps the film focus on its main "subject": humanity, which emerges from forceful dialogues and events of an unpredictable cynicism.

In order to make sure that these private truths become part of a universal truth, I melted them into metaphor, which in my case is a dream. A surreal dream, presented as the film "Adalbert's Dream" to an audience of workers with no artistic interest. The dream undermines an oppressive and depressive reality (the final years of a ferocious communist regime) and turns in the end in a different metaphor – the metaphor of the lost hand, which is symbolic for an entire era.

Green Film & Libra Film

Company Profile

Libra Film is an independent production company founded in 1994.

In 2004, Libra produced the award-winning documentary "Great Communist Bank Robbery", by Alexandru Solomon, co-production with Les Films D'Ici (France), BBC, ZDF/ARTE, France 2 with support of Eurimages, Jan Vrijman Fund and Discovery Campus Masterschool.

In 2006 Libra produced the local box-office hit "Love Sick", by Tudor Giurgiu, with the support of Romanian Film Center, Hubert Bals Fund, Global Film Initiative and SEE Cinema Network. The film had its premiere within the Berlinale, Panorama section.

Libra Film was also the Romanian partner for Kornél Mundruczó's Cannes 2008 competition film "Delta", awarded with the FIPRESCI award. Libra Film also co-produced the directorial debut of actress Fanny Ardant, "Ashes and Blood" and is the main producer behind "The Kino Caravan" by Titus Muntean, co-production with Filmkombinat (Germany).

Most recent title, "Katalin Varga", by Peter Strickland won a Silver Bear at Berlinale 2009.

Producer's Profile

Film/TV Producer/Director

Tudor Giurgiu is the founder of the production company Libra Film, film distribution company Transylvania Film and film/music magazine Re:public. He is also the founder and honorary President of the Transylvannia Int'l Film Festival – TIFF (1st and the most important Int'l Festival for feature films from Romania).

Also the founder of Romanian Film Promotion, an organization dealing with promotion of Romanian films abroad and also with the annual organization of TIFF.

Initiator of the GOPO Awards, (annual awards for best achievements in local filmmaking - local equivalent of the Oscar or Cesar awards).

He is a member of the board of ACRO, Romanian Filmmakers' Association.



Tudor Giurgiu

Producer

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Selected Filmography

Katalin Varga, 2009
 Ashes and Blood, 2009 (co-producer)
 Delta, 2008 (co-producer)
 Love Sick, 2006
 Great Communist Bank Robbery (doc), 2004

Any Given Night the Sun Could Shine



Alicia Billon
Director

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Selected Filmography

Bettina i Martí (TV), 2008
The Importance of Being Called (TV), 2007
Silence of Images (short), 2006
Closer to the End (short), 2002
On the Wire (short), 2001

Credits

Produced by: Benecé Produccions

Director: Alicia Billon

Scriptwriter: Alicia Billon

Budget: 1.700.000 Euros

Secured Financing: 39%

Synopsis

Any Given Night the Sun Could Shine is a tale centred on the character of Ciro, an 8-year-old boy who lives in a small village and who has a magic, innocent and curious view of the world. His destiny is to be employed in his father's shop, but he wants something else; Ciro wants to tell stories.

Any Given Night the Sun Could Shine seeks to be a film of sensations, in which a boy's childhood gives us thousands of precious stories, which, whether they are real or not, will take us back to the magic of our dreams.

It is a marvellous visual portrait of characters, with evocative and nostalgic stories. Ciro will grow up and he will transform his daily secrets, such as love or what lies beyond the village limits and the challenges of life and courage into music. He will also learn to understand that some dreams actually can come true while others, we will simply chase throughout our entire lives.

Director's Statement

When producer Xavier Atance asked me to make a film based on the songs by famous Catalan Singer Jaume Sisa, I was immediately taken back to my childhood, when his melodies kept me company.

I wanted to write a story that would take us back to our childhood, to our times of adolescence, when we were making the choices that would mark our life paths.

I really like the idea of people discovering who they are day by day or the way we sometimes mess up and make the wrong decisions.

By means of this entertaining story that could be anybody's story, I'd like to show that maybe one of the key factors for finding happiness is being honest with oneself and holding on to the essence of who we are.

Benecé Produccions

Company Profile

Benecé Produccions S.L. was founded in 1986 as an audiovisual production company, and since then has carried out its activity in the field of video, television, cinema and advertising production and direction. For the last 8 years, Benecé has been developing its line of full-length fiction films and documentaries, framed within the original, inquisitive viewpoint of their creators and the relevance to history and the contemporary world. This new line took off with titles such as "El Cas Pinochet" (2001), by Patricio Guzmán, or "Cravan vs Cravan" (2002), by Isaki Lacuesta. Recent productions include "Ingrid" (2008) by Eduard Cortés and "Los Condenados" by Isaki Lacuesta. The latter won the international critic's price (FIBPRESCI) at the San Sebastian Film Festival 2009. Benecé's team of professionals is made up of 30 permanent staff and a carefully selected group of collaborators who bring their specific viewpoint to each project.

Producer's Profile

Xavier Atance is co-founder of Benecé Produccions and producer of all the audiovisual productions made by Benecé.

Marieke van den Bersselaar studied Film and Television at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. She then left her country to live in Barcelona, Spain.

There, she started working at the audiovisual production company Nanouk Films, searching financing for documentary projects and producing countless video clips and other audiovisual projects. As a freelancer, she worked in different kinds of audiovisual projects for a variety of production companies in Barcelona. In 2008 she started financing and producing two documentaries for the production company Black Train Films.

Recently, she's entered Benecé Produccions where she helps finding financing and distribution for both Benecé's documentaries and feature films.



**Marieke van den Bersselaar,
Xavier Atance**
Producers

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Selected Filmography

Los Condenados, 2009
Ingrid, 2009
Nadar (doc), 2008
El Pallasso i el Führer (TV), 2007
Dies d'Agost, 2006



Rana Kazkaz & Anas Khalaf
Directors

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Filmography

Gibran, 2011 (in development)
Exquisite Corpse (short), 2008
Kemo Sabe (short), 2007
Driving to Zigzigland, 2007

DamaScenes

Credits

Produced by: Rana Kazkaz & Anas Khalaf

Director: Rana Kazkaz & Anas Khalaf

Scriptwriter: Screenplay by Rana Kazkaz –
Story by Rana Kazkaz & Anas Khalaf

Co-Producers: Les Films de Zayna (France),
Sombbrero Films (France)

Budget: 1.000.000 Euros

Secured Financing: 12%

Synopsis

Damascus, Syria – The Present. Although their spiritual beliefs, ties to the past and dreams for the present are different, six Damascenes – a Mother and Daughter, a Father and Son, a Grandfather and Granddaughter - with backgrounds deeply rooted in tradition, struggle with their ability to live in a modernizing world. They do, however, share one thing in common - life has thrust them together during a peculiar time – Ramadan. Whether faced with finding a suitable husband, pursuing meaningful employment or coping with illness or the death of a loved one, these six main characters find themselves confronted by a similar struggle, between modernity and tradition. Ultimately, these confrontations – humorous and tragic – will require that these characters realize that their survival as individuals and as family depends on their ability to make peace with the present instead of living in a glorified past.

Director's Statement

It is widely accepted that Damascus is the oldest, continuously inhabited capital city in the world. As such, Damascus is bound to centuries-old traditions. For this reason, its path towards modernity, although inevitable, is embraced by some of its citizens and rejected by others. Our humble wish for the citizens of Damascus, including ourselves, is that we learn to honour the past and make peace with the present in order to improve our future. Our hope is that DamaScenes, the film, will offer the world an enlightening window into this city and its inhabitants - a place and people often misunderstood, as they are not typically visited by outsiders.

Les Films de Zayna

Company Profile

In August 2008, Palmyre Badinier founded the Paris-based film production company Les Films De Zayna along with Raed Andoni. "Fix Me", their first feature length documentary will have its World Premier at the 2009 Dubai International Film Festival. Directed by Raed, and co-produced with several Swiss and French partners, "Fix Me" is one of only three documentary films that were awarded the prestigious support of ARTE France Cinéma last year. In addition to "DamaScenes", Palmyre is currently developing the feature film "A Guitar in My Hand" directed by Ismail El Habbash, and a collective documentary film.

Producer's Profile

Producer-Director Rana Kazkaz is a Syrian-American, born in France. Her screenplay "Gibran" was selected by Tribeca All Access, the Middle East Screenwriter's Lab, and MFCB, Cannes for development. Kazkaz has directed two shorts films "Kemo Sabe" and "Exquisite Corpse", for which she was also the Producer. Kazkaz will serve as Co-producer on the "Gibran" feature.

Born in Damascus, Syria and raised in Paris, France, Producer-Director Anas Khalaf worked in Los Angeles with Frederic Golchan Productions. He then went on to co-produce "Prospect", an independent feature film. With BintFilm, Anas served as Executive Producer of "Driving to Zigzigland" and developed the Palestinian film "Sleeping on Stones".

Born in France, Palmyre Badinier graduated from Paris' Sorbonne University with a master degree in Law and Management for the Audiovisual Industry and from the Institute of Eastern Languages with a degree in Arabic. Prior to starting her own production company, Les Films de Zayna, Palmyre worked for Ramallah based Dar Films as their director of international co-productions for documentary and feature films.



Palmyre Badinier

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Filmography

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Exquisite Corpse (short), 2008

Kemo Sabe (short), 2007

Driving to Zigzigland, 2007



Takis Dimitrakopoulos
Director

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Selected Filmography

Archeologia tis Akois (doc), 1998
The Avignon Festival (doc), 1994
Oedipus (doc), 1992
Afigisi (short), 1987

The Debt

Credits

Produced by: 2K Films Ltd.
Director: Takis Dimitrakopoulos
Scriptwriter: Nikos Faroupos

Co-Producers: Ginger Foot Films, (Germany)
Greek Film Center (tbc),
Budget: 816.500 Euros
Secured Financing: 14%

Synopsis

Mark, a man in his thirties, is living the bad side of everyday life, trying to make a living as a translator. One day he spots the old loan shark that drove his father to suicide. Looking back, Mark finds out that he is responsible for every misfortune of his life. Instinctively he decides to kill him. Trying to find a gun, he gets in touch with the underworld where he meets an Albanian pimp who keeps Maria, a young prostitute, in custody. He gets the gun and kills the loan shark. During his attempt to escape from the crime scene, an eyewitness sees him and starts blackmailing him. Mark is now in trouble and things are getting more complicated as the district attorney in charge of the case is Porfirius, Mark's friend from University, who suspects him. But as a Pakistani is being blamed for the murder, Mark tries to atone himself by saving Maria and clashes with his childhood friend.

Director's Statement

There are people with demonized souls, restless souls, who constantly exceed themselves. They can sacrifice themselves for others, but do not hesitate to become killers. Mark is one of them. On the one hand he sacrificed himself for his friend during a riot in Germany, where he attended University and on the other hand he kills a man, who he thinks ruined his life, without hesitation.

His personality lies between a Saint and a Vindicator. He lives on the borders of his own rationality, contrary to his friend who has blended in with the system. However, these two worlds owe to each other and are both trying to get rid of their guilt.

That is the debt that this film is negotiating.

2K Films Ltd.

Company Profile

2K Films was founded in 2006 by George Kalomenopoulos as an independent production company with the purpose to produce high quality films and documentaries for the international market.

2K Films aims to work with devoted Greek and foreign directors who share the company's credo for artistic value audiovisual products made with respect and professionalism, producing movies of global interest for a broad audience.

Recent filmography includes "Dreaming of Zhejiang" a road-boat movie shot in China, directed by M.A. Kritikou and co-produced with the Cultural Channel of the Zhejiang Province, awarded with the Second Prize- International Documentary Competition of Hangzhou-China 2006 LTD, Audience Prize- PlatformaVideo Festival-Athens 2006, Official Participation and worldwide screening within the first international Pangea Day-U.S.A. 2007. "T 4 Trouble and the Self Admiration Society" a film by Dimitris Athiridis, supported by the Greek Film Center. Official Selection of the 11th Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, Greece 2009, awarded with the 1st Prize Best Documentary-LAGFF-USA 2009, nationwide theatrical release is scheduled for 2010.

Producers' Profile

Born in Thessaloniki, studied History, Sociology and Comparative Literature at the RWTH Aachen. He works as producer, executive producer and line producer in the production of numerous features, docs and tv-c's.

He has also been involved as a producer or/and line producer in many international co-productions, among them award winning films. He has collaborated with local and international partners including ERT, ZDF, TVNZ, UFA, Telefilm Saar and EBU.

He has attended several seminars and conferences, among others as participant at the Annual Meeting of the EBU Fiction Executives in Venice 25-26 Sep 2006, and as member of the European Delegation at the International Producer's Day held within the GZDOC in Ghouangzhou, China in Dec 2008. He is currently working on "The Debt" which was presented in May 2009 at the Annual meeting of the Eurovision Fiction Executives organized by EBU in Luzern. He is also developing the creative documentary "Living in Sacred Islands" to be coproduced with ERT.



George Kalomenopoulos
Producer

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Selected Filmography

T 4 Trouble and The Self Admiration Society (doc), 2009
Dreaming of Zhejiang (doc), 2006
The Music Cape (doc), 2004
Paradise Is a Personal Matter, 2001 Exec. producer
Hotel Mama, 1999 Line producer



Radu Jude
Director

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Filmography

The Happiest Girl in the World, 2009
Alexandra (short), 2007
The Tube With a Hat (short), 2006

Everybody in Our Family

Credits

Produced by: Hi Film Productions

Director: Radu Jude

Scriptwriter: Corina Sabau & Radu Jude

Budget: 720.000 Euros

Synopsis

Tavi, a 35-year-old man, has been dreaming for a long time of the short vacation he's about to spend with his daughter, Alexandra. His dreams and expectations are fuelled by the situation he's in following his divorce from Beatrice, the mother of the 5-year-old girl. Tavi is allowed to see his daughter only twice a month and the judge settled the aforementioned vacation giving him only 10 days every year. All hell breaks loose when Beatrice, his ex-wife, and her new partner Cezar, decide to stop him from taking Alexandra because the child caught a cold. Tavi freaks out completely and teaches them a lesson that they will all remember including, unfortunately, the little girl.

Director's Statement

The film wishes to show how desperation and the lack of communication can generate and maintain the conflict between human beings, in this case a man and his ex-wife fighting over a child. In a way, the film is an exploration of what happens when everybody feels that "Hell is other people".

Hi Film Productions

Company Profile

Founded 5 years ago, Hi Film has won over 50 prizes around the world at festivals such as Berlinale, Sundance, Locarno, San Francisco, AFI Fest and participated in festivals like Cannes, IDFA, Gotenborg.

Among the productions of Hi Film one can find co-productions with France, Italy, Germany, Spain, The Netherlands, Belgium, Croatia, Luxembourg, and the list is open for future projects. Recent productions include Radu Jude's "The Happiest Girl in the World" (CICAE Award - 2009 Forum Berlinale, FIPRESCI Prize - Sofia IFF and IndieLisboa, Best Feature - EFF Palic, selected for ACID Program in Cannes, Toronto, Moscow, etc) and "First of All, Felicia" by Melissa de Raaf and Razvan Radulescu (selected in Sarajevo IFF, AFI Fest LA etc & awarded special mention in Namur.)

Hi Film's current objective is to find co-producers for its projects, sell its films as well as to find projects that need a Romanian partner. We're also looking for films to be shot in Romania – taking advantage of the competitive prices and the great variety of locations we can offer.

Producers' Profile

Working in the industry for the last 17 years on films involving Charlotte Rampling, Cristian Mungiu, Jeremy Irons, Nae Caranfil and Alexandra Maria Lara, Ada Solomon created her own company Hi Film 5 years ago. The films produced by Ada with Hi Film were selected in over 100 prestigious festivals and awarded in over 50 such as Sundance, New Directors/New Films, Semaine de la Critique, Locarno, IDFA Amsterdam, Dok Leipzig, Visions du Reel, Nyon, Berlinale Forum, ACID Program in Cannes, Toronto.

Since founding Hi Film, Ada co-produced with France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium, The Netherlands, Croatia and Luxembourg.

Ada Solomon is also the initiator of NexT Film Fest in Bucharest, dedicated to the memory of Cristian Nemescu and Andrei Toncu, co-owns 2 multiplex cinemas in Romania, is a member of the board of the Romanian Association of Cineasts and the Romanian coordinator for EAVE.



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Selected Filmography

The Happiest Girl in the World, 2009
First of All, Felicia, 2009
My Beautiful Dacia (doc), 2009
Mar Nero, 2008
Cold Waves (doc), 2007



Elias Demetriou
Director

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Selected Filmography

Coat Fitting (short), 2006
Pyla, Living Together Separately (doc), 2004
Merry Kitschmas (short), 2000
Tricolore (short), 1998
Prive (short), 1996

Fish n' Chips

Credits

Produced by: Stavros Papageorgiou

Director: Elias Demetriou

Scriptwriter: Elias Demetriou

Co-Producers: Highway Productions

Budget: 1.000.000 Euros

Secured Financing: 40 %

Synopsis

Andy, a hard working Cypriot emigrant in London, gets fired from the fish shop where he works as a cook. He decides to return with his mother, who suffers from dementia, his girlfriend Karin (an ex-East German) and her daughter, to Cyprus to run their own fish shop. Their dreams are fulfilled but they turn into a nightmare. The shop fails because Andy missed the fact that Cyprus is not London. Failure leads to misery and creates conflict between the members of his peculiar family. Andy refuses to face reality and struggles to keep the shop going, but the only thing he achieves, is to be left alone. Andy becomes conscious that he is nothing more than a tourist in his own homeland. He might return to London defeated but through his journey he finds his identity and discovers that his home is where he fits best.

Director's Statement

My story is about the process of finding yourself. And to find yourself you have to put all your fears behind you, like Andy does. So, the story is about that innermost journey we all have to go through in order to find who we are...

I have always been very concerned with identities and homelands. As it happens I am a refugee myself, albeit with three different nationalities. I was always trying to find the connection between house and home. With this story I am trying to find a passionate answer to Andy's question. Where is his homeland? In the place where he lives and works and has spent the biggest part of his life or at the place where he was born?

I also seek to make people appreciate what immigrants go through, and make them smile at their problems.

Tetraktys Films LTD

Company Profile

Cyprus' more active independent film production company in terms of number of films developed and produced with the support of the Cyprus Cinema Advisory Committee (SEKIN) the National Film Fund body – a department within the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus and MEDIA PLUS Development Programme.

Tetraktys Films is the only production company in Cyprus that is a member of the European Documentary Network (EDN) with associates in Europe and the USA.

Tetraktys Films' main activity consists of the development and production of industrial films, documentaries, short films and recently of feature films. The company moreover offers production facilities to foreign producers and TV broadcasters filming in Cyprus, providing crew, equipment and production management.

Producers' Profile

My participation at the EAVE workshop program with the Fish n' Chips project definitely helped to increase my professionalism and help towards a proper development of my company's projects. Fish N' Chips deals with the humanistic aspect of the heterogeneity of our society through embracing the harsh reality and the drama that immigration, as a social issue, represents. Thus, based on the proved sensitivity on the issue of immigration, I am convinced that the film has the potential to share big success. The practical issues of distribution include release to Cinemas Nationwide and Internationally as well as distribution on DVD. In spite of the fact that we are dealing with an art house film, I am in search of ways to market it as a commercial film on a National and International level.



Stavros Papageorgiou

Producer

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Selected Filmography

The Silkman, 2011 (in development)
 Contact (doc), 2009
 Lullaby (short), 2009
 Bicommunal Summer Camps (short doc), 2008
 The Log Books of George Seferis (doc),
 2002 co-producer



Özcan Alper
Director

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Filmography

Autumn, 2008,
Rhapsody and Melancholy
in Tokai City (short), 2005
Voyage in Time With a Scientist (doc), 2002
Grandmother (short), 2001

The Future Lasts Forever

Credits

Produced by: Nar Film
Director: Özcan Alper
Scriptwriter: Özcan Alper
Co-Producers: FilmFabrik Köln (Germany)

Budget: 798.000 Euros
Secured Financing: 12%

Synopsis

Neslihan (25), a journalist from Istanbul, embarks on a journey to southeast Turkey to cover a story about the effects of the thirty-year-long “unacknowledged war”. The short trip turns out to be the longest journey of her life. Along the way, she crosses paths with Ahmet (26), a street vendor who sells bootleg DVDs, Uncle Antranik, the keeper of the only church in service – though rundown- in Diyarbakır, Vedat and Uğur, two street vendor kids and Uncle Enver. While Neslihan the journalist focuses on the pain of others, she has to face a loss in her own personal life with which she has not yet come to terms. In her entire journey, a crow accompanies Neslihan along the way.

Director’s Statement

The film is about reviving the memory of hundreds of stories, traumatic events and unresolved issues by taking a close look at the journey of five characters, as if they were five stills. Since 1984, nearly 5000 villages and farmlands have been evacuated in the name of the “unacknowledged war” in the southeast of Turkey. The forced migration brought about many social and political problems, such as overcrowding of the cities, poverty and domestic violence. Diyarbakır, the metropolitan centre of the east and the southeast, is affected the most. Mass migration became the source of a multitude of problems as the city was not prepared in terms of economy and infrastructure. Critical thinking and art can enable a renewed emotional life and an ability to reimagine society. The Future Lasts Forever aims at seeing the big picture we avoid, beyond events and figures, through looking at the five pictures Neslihan takes.

Nar Film

Company Profile

Özcan Alper and Ersin Çelik found Nar Film in 2009. Currently, Nar Film is producing "The Future Lasts Forever", second feature film by Özcan Alper and some documentary projects about social and historical issues in Turkey.

Producers' Profile

Producers Özcan Alper and Ersin Çelik produced "Autumn" in 2008, the first feature film by Özcan Alper which was screened and awarded in important festivals around the world and Turkey. Özcan Alper has directed several short and documentary films between 2001-2008. They also distributed "Hunger" in Turkey, the first feature film by Steve McQueen, which was awarded with Camera D'Or at Cannes Film Festival 2008. In 2009, they organized "Caucasus Film Days" in Artvin, a city in North-East of Turkey.



**Esra Demirkiran,
Ersin Çelik, Özcan Alper**
Producers

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Filmography

Autumn, 2008



Stephan Komandarev
Director

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Selected Filmography

The Town of Badante women (doc), 2009
The War (short), 2008
The World is Big and Salvation Lurks
Around the Corner, 2008
Alphabet of Hope (doc), 2003
Dogs' Home, 2000

The Judgment

Credits

Produced by: Argo Film
Director: Stephan Komandarev
Scriptwriter: Stephan Komandarev,
Marin Damianov

Co-Producers: LE Vision (Germany)
Budget: 1.500.000 Euros

Synopsis

25 years ago at the Bulgarian-Turkish border Boyko took part in the murder of a young man and a young woman from the German Democratic Republic who wanted to escape the socialist regime. Today he is convinced that he is being punished – his 7-year-old daughter is very sick. In order to find money for the treatment he has to smuggle illegal immigrants in the other direction – from Turkey to Bulgaria and the EU. Fate puts him in the same position as 25 years ago. At the same place. Should he save or sacrifice the lives of a couple of immigrants? How can he atone for his sin in order to find forgiveness and save his child?

Director's Statement

It is my deep conviction that in Bulgaria today there is one very important and current topic – the topic of repentance and forgiveness. Of punishment. Of the sins that were committed in the past and are still committed today. This is what my film is about.

A while ago I spent a lot of time in one of the most interesting regions of Bulgaria – the Southeast – a place where three borders meet – the Bulgarian, the Greek and the Turkish. In this area I shot 3 documentary films: "Bread Over the Fence" – (2002), "Alphabet of Hope" (2003) and "The Town of Badante Women" (2009). Across this border, twenty years ago, refugees from the communist block looked for a way to the West. Nowadays, across the same border, but in the opposite direction, refugees from Asia, the Near East and Africa seek for illegal ways to enter the Promised Land of the European Union. The characters and events described in the project are real.

Argo Film

Producers' Profiles

Stephan Komandarev - Bulgarian director, producer and scriptwriter, born in 1966 in Sofia. He is a member of the Bulgarian Film Directors' Association. He graduated from the Medical Academy in Sofia (1993) and completed a degree in Film & TV directing at the New Bulgarian University (1998).

In 1999 Stephan Komandarev founded the company Argo Film. In the beginning the company produced short films, TV spots and music videos. Its first documentary was the award-winning "Alphabet of Hope" (2003).

Stephan Komandarev's work includes documentary and feature films. He is a lecturer at the Film Department of the New Bulgarian University since 2008.

Stephan Komandarev

Producer

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Filmography

The Town of Badante Women (doc), 2009

Alphabet of Hope (doc), 2003



Avi Mussel
Director

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Filmography

Mactub (TV), 2004
Korby's Girlfriend (short), 1999

Manshad

Credits

Produced by: Oriana Productions

Director: Avi Mussel

Scriptwriter: Amit Ron

Budget: 1.015.000 Euros

Synopsis

Haled, a stocky 40-year-old Bedouin, is charged with a rape he didn't commit. In an attempt to prove his innocence he embarks on a quest among his friends and family. In the process, Haled is sucked into the tribal justice system and codes of honour. During his search for respectable men who will vouch for him in the Manshad (the trial), he discovers who the real rapist is, understands the destiny awaiting the young girl who was raped, and realizes that due to these same codes and laws, there is nothing he can do against the rapist. Haled can be acquitted of the charges, but then he will have to choose between the good of his family and his life within the tribe, and what he feels is the right thing to do.

Director's Statement

Manshad is about people and before anything else, we will focus on the characters, who are searching and fighting for their grip on a world constantly changing. Capturing the disappearing world of the Bedouins is my ambition. Life as part of a tribe, the strong traditions and the proximity to the earth – this will all be told through our hero, Haled. This is not a political film, nor a documentary. It is the story of one Bedouin and through him the story depicts part of the Bedouin existence of today, not as colourful folklore, but in a realistic way. There is another hero in the film – the desert. This is a desert film – it will be shot in the desert and look like it – dry, arid, exposed, beaten by the sun during the day, freezing at night. Manshad is a film about dust, wind and fire and about its people.

Oriana Productions

Company Profile

Oriana Productions is an Israeli productions company. At present the company produces mainly drama and documentary content for television and cinema and among its clients are Israeli Channel 2 and the Israeli Cable Company.

Oriana Ghivoly-Genigar, who has been in the business since 2000, established the company in 2007. Oriana Productions was established as a boutique productions company, and strives to create quality content while maximizing the abilities and ambitions of the creators and the production itself.

"Noah's Ark" a new drama series produced by Oriana Productions for Channel 2 Reshet will begin to broadcast in October, and "Too Good to Be True", a documentary series is now broadcasted on Channel 8, the Israeli documentary channel. There are also a number of documentary, feature and drama projects in various stages of development and production at Oriana Productions at the present time.

Producers' Profile

Oriana Ghivoly-Genigar established Oriana Productions in 2007. Before establishing the company, Oriana worked as a producer at various companies and on quite a number of projects. Oriana's last job was as the Head of Productions at JCS Productions, where she was the producer in charge of a large number of productions, among them "In Therapy" (drama series now in production at HBO entitled "In Treatment"), "The Arbitrator" (drama series), the feature film "Someone to Run With", "Life Isn't Everything" (Sitcom), and many more. Before that she worked as a freelance producer on the following projects: the drama mini-series "Melanoma my Love", the reality show "The Laughter Academy", the satirical series "8 Minutes a Day", and more.



Oriana Ghivoly-Genigar
Producer

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Filmography

Someone to Run With, 2006
Out of Sight, 2004



Altinaï Petrovitch Njegosh
Director

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Filmography

Strictelement en Mesure Sans Ralentir
(short), 2008
De Quoi les Choses Sont Faites (short), 2008
Side By Side (short), 2007
Bondy (short), 2007
Trois Fois Rien (short), 2006

Odyssey of a Vagabond Princess

Credits

Produced by: Shilo Films
Director: Altinaï Petrovitch Njegosh
Scriptwriter: Altinaï Petrovitch Njegosh

Budget: 1.200.000 Euros
Secured Financing: 7.000 Euros (CNC)

Synopsis

It all began in 1989, a few months before the fall of the Berlin wall, with a mysterious telephone call. A young girl, who was born in Paris and lived there all her life, learns that she is the descendent of the royal family of Montenegro, a small country in the heart of the Balkans. She is to discover a new people and another culture. She finds herself torn between two opposing worlds. Twenty years on, this same girl has become a filmmaker. She decides to undertake a journey to the country of her roots on the trail of her ancestors in an attempt to throw light on her identity and find her place in a society that is both familiar and foreign. This journey to the depths of the "Black Mountain" is an opportunity to get to know Montenegrins, the history of a country, her family and her own destiny. This film is the journey of a vagabond princess...

Director's Statement

The discovery of Montenegro was a huge shock for me, on all fronts. At that time I was 12 years old... Now I am 32... Meanwhile I've become a filmmaker. I've decided to play my own role, and be the main character of a film that will be made along the lines of a modern fairy tale including both wonderful and frightening events beginning with the mysterious telephone call in 1989 that altered my comfortable Parisian life. Far from Paris, I wander the accident-ridden roads of the Black Mountains. Where have the former heroes gone? How can history, the mythical past that I embody through my origins, still flow in everyone's veins? I leave Paris, my city, my references and I go to live out my fairy tale, me, the vagrant Princess in exile in my own country. What is this fairy tale really: a dream, a nightmare or a lost illusion?

Shilo Films

Company Profile

Shilo Films is a European film production company located in Paris, France. Created in 2001, it brings together the producers Geoffroy Grison and Janja Kralj. The company is committed to auteur-based cinema and the original vision of its directors. Shilo Films works with a network of partners all over the world and the productions are oriented towards the international market. Their films have been internationally acclaimed and selected for some of the most prestigious film festivals, including Cannes, Berlin, Rome and Venice.

Producers' Profile

Janja Kralj was born in 1980 in Zagreb, Croatia. At the age of 18, she moved to Paris where she studied Art History at the Sorbonne. Janja Kralj had her first experience in cinema as a production coordinator on Laurent de Bartillat's "The Vanishing Point" (Rome Film Fest 2007). She then became part of the Shilo Films team and collaborated on such features as "Tehilim" by Raphael Nadjari (Official Competition Cannes 2007), and "Plum Rain" by Frédéric Fisbach (Venice Films Festival 2007). In 2007 she worked as the executive producer on Margherita Caron's documentary "Donkey's Eye". In 2008, she became a producer along with Geoffroy Grison and started to develop her own feature film projects with Croatia, "Heaven on Earth" by Ognjen Svilicic (in post production). Janja is currently working on several international projects in collaboration with foreign producers as well as on Altinai Petrovitch Njegosh's first feature.



Janja Kralj
Producer

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Selected Shilo Filmography

Heaven on Earth, 2009 (post production)
The Vanishing Point, 2007
Tehilim, 2007 co-producer
Plum Rain, 2007 co-producer
Avanim, 2004 co-producer



Maya Kenig
Director

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Filmography

Around Trip (short), 2008
In Utero (short), 2007
Top of the World (short), 2006
My Mom (doc), 2005

Off-White Lies

Credits

Produced by: Gum Films
Director: Maya Kenig

Scriptwriter: Maya Kenig
Budget: 800.000 Euros

Synopsis

After years of being separated from her father, Libby, a rebellious teen, is sent to Israel to live with him while the Second Lebanon War rages in the background. But her father, Shaul, who turns out to be a flaky inventor, is "between apartments". With nowhere to live, he comes up with a brilliant plan. The two of them will pose as refugees from the North, seeking shelter from the bombardments with a family in Jerusalem who offers to put them up based on this false pretence. Finally in a "normal" household, Libby and Shaul start to build their father-daughter relationship.

Gradually the phony identities and lies take their toll. Libby feels estranged and unwanted by her egocentric dad, and the chaotic atmosphere caused by the war doesn't help. In a desperate attempt to be noticed, Libby takes a step into adulthood from which there is no return.

Director's Statement

When the Second Lebanon war began, I became a Mother, and found myself breastfeeding while watching news on TV. Amid the horrors, one item stood out- Esther, from a bombarded city up north, was sitting in Yael's kitchen in Tel-Aviv, chatting. Apparently two days earlier, Esther and Yael were complete strangers, but now they were close friends. Yael's family took in Esther's family, on account of the war. It was beautiful, amusing and mostly absurd. My Dad was "between apartments" then. So he and his daughter, my half-sister, were hanging around some bizarre places- and it was a blast.

I suggested he act like Esther and find a family to host them. He just laughed. I decided to make a film about it instead, about a father and daughter looking for shelter. Not just walls and a ceiling, but a home, like the one I'm trying to create for my daughter.

Gum Films

Company Profile

GumFilms is a production company that specializes in fiction and documentary art-house films. Yoav Roeh and Aurit Zamir, the founders, graduated from the prestigious Sam Spiegel Film School, and have been making movies since 2002.

Yoav has produced fictions and documentaries and TV series within different collaborations. Among them: "Zion and His Brother" dir. Eran Merav (Sundance 2009), "State of Israel vs. Tali Fahima" dir. Tal Hakim (Jerusalem Film Festival, 2006), "Noodle" dir. Ayelet Menahemi (special Grand Prize of the Jury, Montreal, 2007), "What a Wonderful Place" dir. Eyal Halfon (Special Prize of the Jury, Karlovy Vary, 2005, Best Film- Israel Academy Awards, 2005), "Melting Siberia" dir. Ido Haar (Official Selection, Silverdocs, 2005), "Miss Entebbe" dir. Omri Levi (Special Mention, Berlinale, 2003).

Aurit has established herself as a leading first AD on feature films, dramas and TV series. The company's first documentary, "Long Distance" premiered in Docaviv Film Festival and won the best cinematography.

Producers' Profile

Yoav Roeh and Aurit Zamir graduated from the prestigious Sam Spiegel Film School with special honors. They directed award winning short films. Yoav produced feature films and documentaries that screened at the Berlinale, Karlovy Vary, Sundance, and has won Best Film at the Israel Academy Awards. Aurit worked as a first AD on feature films, dramas and TV series, with acclaimed directors such as Nir Bergman "Broken Wings" and Eran Kolirin "The Band's Visit".

In 2008, they founded Gum Films, a home for fresh talents and unique voices.



Aurit Zamir & Yoav Roeh

Producers

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Selected Filmography

Zion and His Brother, 2009
 Long Distance (doc), 2009
 Noodle, 2007
 What a Wonderful Place, 2005
 Melting Siberia (doc), 2005

Pasqua



Ivan Marinovic
Director

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Selected Filmography

A Football Story (short), 2009
The Confession (short), 2008

Credits

Produced by: A Atalanta
Director: Ivan Marinovic
Scriptwriter: Ivan Marinovic

Co-Producers: FAMU (Czech Republic),
UFSCG (Montenegro)
Budget: 1.000.000 Euros
Secured Financing: 40 %

Synopsis

Captain Niko gets in trouble when his fishing business becomes unsustainable. Pasqua, the boat on which he spent thirty years and which a local gangster owns, is about to be sold to the mafia that smuggles Albanian people to Italy. He takes desperate measures to pay Pasqua off by accepting to smuggle cigarettes from Montenegro (cigarette trafficking center in the '90, while under economical embargo) to Italy. Along the journey he and his ridiculous, eccentric crew go through misadventures involving other smugglers, Carabinieri and a mysterious castaway from one of the smuggling speedboats, beautiful Marina, who will create great disturbance among the crew. Her connection to the smuggler boss Marcello will cause many twists and turns in the story. The Captain overcomes all difficulties and manages to keep his boat, but the involvement with the mafia pushes him to finally make the biggest possible sacrifice for him; that is, to sink the boat.

Director's Statement

Despite the heist plot pattern, the story, is character-based, offering a combination of cinematic and storytelling values. The dynamic plot makes it interesting for a broader audience while keeping the authentic qualities of an auteur confession. Splendour of nature in coastal Montenegro calls for meditative passages as a relief between the tense and absurd situations. The story is taking place at sea, which sets it in a wide angled format in order to exploit compositions involving the boats and the horizon. The architecture of the boat pushes the mise-en-scene to be precisely designed expressing the dynamic relations between the characters. The main relationship of the story is between the captain and his boat, reflecting his ego, status, freedom and the integrity that he fights for throughout situations that build up towards the catharsis and his inner conflict. It is a tragedy filled with humanism and humour that prevails even in the darkest of moments in the Balkans and the Mediterranean.

A Atalanta

Company Profile

A Atlanta Film is an independent film and television production company based in Ljubljana and established in 1992. Owner and president of the company is the producer Branislav Srdić who is connected with sister companies in ex-Yugoslavia such as (Mainframe - Croatia, Belgrade Film Group - Serbia, Monte Negro, BAM Film - FYROM). A Atlanta Film offers services in productions, co-productions, distribution and equipment rental.

It has currently in production the short animated film "The Kiddo" and already in distribution "The Transition" dir. Boris Palcic, and has co-produced many films such as "The Tour" dir. Goran Markovic (Montreal 2008, Best Director & FIPRESCI awards), "Red Zora" dir. Peter Kahane and "Love Fair – Gucha" dir. Dusan Milic (Berlinale, Panorama 2007).

Producers' Profile

Branislav Srdić has experience in both Film and TV production. He has served as producer, line producer, executive producer, production manager and first assistant director in international co-productions in Slovenia, Croatia, FYROM, Bosnia- Herzegovina, former countries of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. From 1992 he is the founder and President of A Atalanta Company Ltd. a company, which handles film, video and TV productions and distribution in Ljubljana, Slovenia.



Branislav Srdić
Producer

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Selected Filmography

The Transition, 2008
The Tour, 2008 Co-producer
Die Rote Zora, 2007 Line Producer
Love Fair in Gucha, 2006 Line producer
Heidi, 2005 Co-Producer



Hazim Bitar
Director

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Filmography

Winds of Change (short), 2009
Thyme Goes On (short), 2009
The View (short), 2008 co-director
Sharar (short), 2006 co-director
Growing up in Amman Suburbia
(short doc), 2006

Taraj'o

Credits

Director: Hazim Bitar
Scriptwriter: Hazim Bitar

Budget: 250.000 Euros
Secured Financing: 38 %

Synopsis

Upon his mother's death, Talal discovers he is not the only surviving member of his family. When his mother's last will is read, Talal the son is told that the distribution of his mother's inheritance is pre-conditioned upon him finding a lost sister, who was abandoned by his mother during her torturous exodus from Jaffa to the Baq'a refugee camp in Jordan during the 1948 Israeli ethnic cleansing campaigns. Talal seeks the assistance of university professor Karam. She is a professor and a renowned expert on refugee affairs. During those visits, they discover traces of scattered and forgotten Palestinian communities, once petit bourgeois city dwellers now forced to live on subsistence in remote and desolate communities, along the exodus route, as farm labourers, peddlers, and small merchants.

Director's Statement

Many Diaspora Palestinians develop a dissassociative memory; a desire to forget or to take a short or long break from reality in the form of premeditated acts of forgetfulness. This feature film is a road trip along the path of the exiled. It's a parody of the Palestinian journey and the accidents that move us further away or bring us closer to who we are.

The most celebrated example of this syndrome can be observed in the life and upbringing of the celebrated Palestinian intellectual Edward W. Said, author of the renowned scholarly book Orientalism (1979). Dr. Said was raised by his parents in the Diaspora to NOT be a Palestinian. But events beyond his control conspired to reveal to him his organic identity.

This film is about collective forgetfulness and recollection.

Tashkeel AFC Productions

Company Profile

With a cumulative experience since 1989, Tashkeel was spun off from a successful film collective in which Jordan's leading indie production group claimed the top spot for non-TV dramatic productions. Tashkeel has produced an award-winning list of short films such as "The View", "Sharar", "Overdose", "Growing Up", "Uncivil Liberties", "What a Job", and more. Since its founding, Tashkeel has assisted in the making of over 40 short fiction, non-fiction, animation, and experimental productions.

Producers' Profile

Hazim Bitar is a Palestinian-Jordanian producer, writer, and director. He founded the Amman Filmmakers Cooperative, which serves as the launching pad for some of Jordan's leading independent filmmakers. Since its founding, the Cooperative has provided cinema education to hundreds of Jordanians and Palestinians, mainly in disadvantaged areas. His credits include numerous award-winning documentaries and films; his cooperative has produced short films that have been selected to various Academy-certified short film festivals. Bitar served on the international jury of the academy-certified Tampere International Film Festival. Bitar is the founder and director of the Jordan Short Film Festival (JSFF), established in 2005 with the main purpose of giving voice to Jordanian and Arab indie filmmakers. He is invited frequently to international forums to speak on independent cinema in Jordan. In 2007, L'Institut Français du Proche-Orient, a prominent French think tank on the Middle East, named Bitar as one of 27 influential Jordanian figures.

Hazim Bitar Producer

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Filmography

Winds of Change (short), 2009
Thyme Goes On (short), 2009
The View (short), 2008 co-director
Sharar (short), 2006 co-director
Growing Up in Amman Suburbia (short doc), 2006



Derviş Zaim
Director

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Selected Filmography

Dot, 2008
Waiting for Heaven, 2006
Mud, 2003
Elephants and Grass, 2000
Somersault in a Coffin, 1997

Shadows and Faces

Credits

Produced by: Marathon Film
Director: Derviş Zaim
Scriptwriter: Derviş Zaim

Budget: 650.000 Euros
Secured Financing: 40 %

Synopsis

What would a man risk to avoid getting blood on his hands if he found himself and his family unwittingly surrounded by violence? What are the ways to protect innocence and remain human in a world dominated by violence? Set in Cyprus of 1963, this story is inspired by a real-life incident that took place during the ethnic clashes between Turks and Greeks, and presents its own myths and belief in peace within an impressive visual and dramatic structure.

Two wise middle-aged protagonists, a Turkish and Greek Cypriot living in Cyprus of the 1960s, lead the story against a backdrop of social catastrophe. Both want to survive the turbulence without harming anybody, and they need to support each other in their pursuit of a happy and harmonious life. They also need to guide their sons, young adults who believe violence and retaliation are the best instruments to achieve their ends.

Director's Statement

Shadows and Faces is a tribute to hope and tolerance between human beings of different ethnicities. It deals with the dynamics of having and protecting a family against a war waging outside. Shadows and Faces focuses on the idea that individuals can create harmony within themselves by communicating with their dark, evil side. The themes of peace and harmony are also brought out through the tradition of the shadow play (Karagöz). The shadow play is a medium that resonates with wisdom and the celebration of life.

The film presents a drama with strong psychological elements. Politics is used simply as a backdrop to establish a distinct, powerful human condition and memorable character development within this context. The traditional flavour of shadow theatre also helps to reinforce the moral fibre of the story.

Marathon Film

Company Profile

Producer-director Derviş Zaim established Marathon Film in the mid 90's. The company has produced or co-produced six feature film projects and a documentary.

The company's filmography includes the director's own films, "Somersault in a Coffin" 1996 (Toronto, San Sebastian, San Francisco, Turin, Thessaloniki, Amiens, Montpellier, Chicago and New York's New directors/New Films), "Elephants and Grass" (FIPRESCI award at İstanbul Film Festival, Best Director, Actress, Art Direction and Editing at Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival), "Mud" (UNESCO Award in Venice Film Festival), "Waiting For Heaven" (the first film of a trilogy won Best Artistic Contribution in Cairo, Special Jury Prize in Adana), and "Dot" (Best Director in İstanbul Film Festival, Montreal, Sarajevo, Thessaloniki) and has also co-directed and co-produced with Panicos Chrysanthou the documentary "Parallel Trips" and the latter's feature film "Akamas".

Derviş Zaim

Producer

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The Story of the Green Line



Panicos Chrysanthou
Director

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Filmography

Akamas, 2006
Parallel Trips (doc), 2003
Our Wall (doc), 1993
A Detail in Cyprus (doc), 1987

Credits

Produced by: Artimages Ltd
Director: Panicos Chrysanthou
Scriptwriter: Panicos Chrysanthou

Budget: 1.300.000 Euros
Secured Financing: 50%

Synopsis

A Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot soldier who guard posts on opposite sides of the Green Line make a deal to take each other to their former villages on the "other side" of the divide. A dangerous trip with secret motives; one wants to see his love, the other to kill his father's murderer.

Director's Statement

The film tells the story of a friendship between two young soldiers from opposite sides of the Green Line of Nicosia. It tries to show how this friendship blossoms, not by means of slogans, but gradually, as a process of the psyche. The two youths have every reason to hate each other; in fact, each of them is a victim of actions perpetrated by the other's side. And yet, endowed with hearts still pure and minds open to the truths they come across, the two youths manage to avoid the mental straightjacket of nationalism that is being forced upon them, to feel compassion for each other and understand how alike they are in sharing painful experience and trauma.

Artimages Ltd

Company Profile

Artimages Ltd, founded in 1995, produces art films in a small country, which has only a short tradition in the field of production. This means that the company operates in particularly difficult conditions. Artimages has managed to coproduce 3 films in collaboration with Turkish Cypriot director and producer Dervis Zaim (Marathon Film), which promote the idea of peace and tolerance in an area suffered from national conflicts and fanaticism.

Panicos Chrysanthou

Producer

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Filmography

Akamas, 2006
Mud, 2004 co-production
Parallel Trips (doc), 2003
Footsteps of Aphrodite (doc), 1998



Kazim Öz
Director

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Selected Filmography

The Last Season: Shawaks (doc), 2009
The Storm, 2008
The Distance (doc), 2005
The Photograph, 2001
The Land (short), 1999

Two Sides of the Ramparts

Credits

Produced by: Mesopotamia Cinema & Yapim13

Director: Kazim Öz

Scriptwriter: Kazim Öz

Budget: 899.000 Euros

Secured Financing: 18%

Synopsis

Niyazi, a traditional man in his thinking and lifestyle, lives in Diyarbakir and keeps on his profession, saddling, which is now almost extinct. He is also an extraordinary dengbej (a traditional Kurdish vocal musician) who sometimes sings for his visitors. Niyazi's son, Hasan, is an apprentice at the shop. He does not attend school and is a hip-hop music and dance fanatic. Whenever he escapes from the saddling shop, Hasan hangs out with his group of hip-hoppers, dancing around the historical ramparts of the old Diyarbakir. The ramparts, in fact, are the hangout place for Qırıxs, who are a socially isolated group of men, unique to Diyarbakir. They often have platonic love affairs, drink and smoke around the ramparts, talking about their loves. Niyazi hates his son's hip-hop music and dance and Hasan cannot stand his father's old-fashioned dengbej songs. And the Qırıxs despise both of them. The project deals with the generational conflict between Niyazi and Hasan through the duel of two musical genres, hip-hop and dengbej tradition, against a backdrop of a historical yet changing Kurdish city.

Director's Statement

Tradition and change are the two symbiotic phenomena that have been in clash with each other throughout the history of humanity. As societies develop and evolve, cultural values emerge. In time, the new way of life becomes a cultural value and turns into tradition itself. At times, the clash between tradition and novelty proves to be very interesting, especially when individuals representing each side of the conflict do not communicate well with each other, although they are both bearers of entertaining stories. This project revolves around such a conflict, which we can also call "generation clash." The film treats both the traditional Diyarbakir within the ramparts, embodied by the father, and the new Diyarbakir expanding outside of the ramparts, embodied by the son. Of course, we cannot take side in this conflict because any manifestation of culture is valuable. In this project, the music will be central to the narrative. Traditional dengbej music and hip-hop music will be juxtaposed and the film will end with a synthesis of both.

Mesopotamia Cinema & Yapim 13

Company Profile

Established in 1995 by a group of young filmmakers, Mesopotamia Cinema Collective & Yapim 13 has produced about twenty long, short, fiction, and documentary films among which, a number gained international recognition. Mesopotamia Cinema Collective is also a cinema platform that is active in the film distribution as well as cinema trainings and education.

Along with Kazım Öz's, Özkan Küçük's, and Ahmet Soner's documentary and fiction films, Mesopotamia Cinema Collective's filmography includes shorts and documentaries produced within the Diyarbakır Cinema Workshop.

Mesopotamia Cinema Collective latest productions are the fiction film, "The Storm," directed by Kazım Öz (156 min, 35mm, 2008) and the long feature documentary, "The Last Season: Shawaks," directed also by Kazım Öz (91 min, HD, 2009).

Producer's Profile

After graduating from Bogazici University in 2003, she went to the United States of America to study anthropology. She completed her MA in 2005 and now is about to finish her PhD in Anthropology and Communication. Since 2006, she has worked with Mesopotamia Cinema & Yapim 13 as international representative and producer. In 2009 she produced with Kazım Öz "The Last Season: Shawaks", a creative documentary directed by Kazım Öz. She also teaches film and social theory courses in universities since 2006.



Suncem Koçer

Producer

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Filmography

The Last Season: Shawaks (doc), 2009



Anca Damian
Director

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Selected Filmography

Crossing Dates, 2008
To Be or Not to Be (doc), 2007
Liberty Exercise (doc), 2003
Porto Franco 2000 (doc), 2001
Ion Nicodim – The Earth Passer By
(doc), 1998

A Very Unsettled Summer

Credits

Produced by: Aparte Film
Director: Anca Damian
Scriptwriter: Philip O Ceallaigh, Anca Damian
Co-Producers: Zanzibar Film (Ireland)

Budget: 952.067 Euros
Secured Financing: 20%

Synopsis

The gathering storms of summer are the background to this unsettling urban story. Daniel receives a story from Maria, his ex-girlfriend. Maria's story describes the moment when Daniel previously dumped her, but with a fantasy switch. Maria offers to play the prostitute, to have sex one last time, for money. Lured into Maria's game, Daniel becomes her lover once again. He hides his parallel life from Irina, his present girlfriend and the real love of his life. Daniel's ensnarement in Maria's story is recounted, this time as a screenplay by Alex, a writer, friend and confidante to both Daniel and Maria. Daniel begins to unravel when he discovers he possesses, at best, only a partial knowledge of his past with Maria. He convinces himself that if he can only author a happy ending to his own story, he can regain control of his life. But life is not a story...

Director's Statement

What makes this script special is its profound perspective on the link between life and fiction, whereby one feeds and fashions the other. The characters, in the style of Pirandello, become aware of being characters; the script in the film becomes the film itself, and the story an absorbing meditation on the power of storytelling. Through Maria and Alex's stories about Daniel, the film observes how lived experience is fashioned into a narrative, which in turn affects real life. This gives the film its depth and unique perspective. But as Maria and Alex's stories entangle and develop, Daniel begins to psychologically unravel. Ultimately, A Very Unsettled Summer's wry take on the way we live, love and lie, gives way to tragedy as Daniel plays a fictional game.

aparte film

Company Profile

aparte film was created as an art-film company.

The first projects were art-documentaries, scripts and books for children but also image concepts for special events such as Pierre Alain Hubert's Palace of Parliament on Europe Day 2004.

The same art concept defines the company's approach to developing feature films. The projects created and nurtured by this company have as their main purpose to open the heart through art.

Producer's Profile

Grant Keir is an experienced creative producer and writer whose short film, 'Relativity' won the UIP Prix Berlinale in 2002.

Grant develops and produces film, TV drama, documentary and cross platform projects with a range of national and international partners. Projects include "A Very Unsettled Summer", for aparte film with Zanzibar Films, the TV series "Manic" with Red Productions and the highly innovative "My Dangerous Loverboy" cross platform initiative, backed by the National Film Board of Canada and Northern Film and Media, with partners Screen Siren Pictures Inc (Vancouver) and new media specialists, Quba New Media.

Grant attends all the major film markets and festivals and has an extensive network of national and international contacts. Grant has produced films and TV programmes on four continents for broadcasters and financiers including BBC, C4, ARTE, ABC (Australia), UKFC, National Film Board of Canada, Screen Yorkshire, EM Media and NFM.



Grant Keir
Producer

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Selected Filmography

My Dangerous Loverboy (short), 2008
Arctic Monkeys: Live at the Apollo, 2008 -
Associate Producer
Hush, 2007 Associate Producer
Point Annihilation (TV), 2003
Relativity (short), 2001

Agora in association with the Balkan Survey are presenting this year's Works in Progress



Tilt

Direction: Viktor Chouchkov Jr., **Bulgaria-Germany**



Periferic [Outskirts]

Direction: Bogdan George Apetri, **Romania**



Travelator

Direction: Dusan Milic, **Serbia**



Aurora

Direction: Cristi Puiu, **Romania**



Suma summarum [Forest Creatures]

Direction: Ivan-Goran Vitez, **Croatia**

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