

**LAGFF welcomes the Athens International Culinary Film Festival (AICFF) and Gastronomy Days in the heart of Hollywood.**

**On its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Los Angeles Greek Film Festival (LAGFF) offers a special thematic tribute to culinary Greek cinema at the Egyptian Theatre on June 1-5, 2016**

“Reason to”, the company for “Gastronomy Days” and the AICFF, in collaboration with LAGFF, and with the support of the Greek National Tourist Organization (EOT), will be presenting to the American public, the Greek-American community of Southern California and to US media representatives a selective program of culinary events.

To launch this inaugural collaboration, we are offering a cinematic three-course meal:

- We begin with hors d'oeuvres on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm, screening seven animation and experimental shorts:
- For our main course, we will be screening Tassos' Boulmetis acclaimed feature *Touch of Spice* on Saturday, June 4th at noon.
- For our dessert, we are offering Angelos Abatzoglou, Mustafa's Sweet Dreams on Sunday, June 5th at noon.

The screening program is complemented by a live cooking show and tastings on Saturday, June 4th, 7:00-8:00pm, and a gastronomy panel discussion on Sunday June 5th at 1:30pm.

In Spring 2016, 16 students of Loyola Marymount University interned with the Los Angeles Greek Film festival as part of a course taught by Dr. Zacharia, LMU Professor of Classics and LAGFF Director of Education and Culture. The course activities included research projects on Greek cinema, gastronomy and culture.

According to “Reason to” President John Gourtzelas, and AICFF/Gastronomy Days Artistic Director at the 2016 LAGFF Takis Panagiotopoulos, “this initiative, which has already received the enthusiastic support by the public and culinary experts, is the first step for a more systematic presence and promotion of contemporary Greek gastronomy on the west coast of the United States”. This step was made possible with the support of the Greek National Tourist Organization and the LAGFF board, and especially its President Dinos Andrianos, the LAGFF Co-founder Ersi Danou, the LAGFF Artistic Director Aris Katopodis, and the LAGFF Director of Education and Culture, Prof. Katerina Zacharia. The LAGFF organizing committee has embraced and supported this effort from the very beginning and notes that “this year’s events are an appetizing sample for all the forthcoming events which are being planned with other Greek organizations for 2017 at the center of international cinema, within the context of the institutional collaboration between AICFF-Gastronomy Days, and LAGFF, a most important organization which promotes contemporary Greek filmmaking.”

**Thursday, June 2, 4:00 pm**  
**SPIELBERG/EGYPTIAN THEATER**

**Presented by Athens International Culinary Film Festival**

**THE BELLIES (Les Ventres) -France, 2009, 17 min, LA premiere**



**Director/Writer:** Philippe Grammaticopoulos

**Producer:** Jean-Jacques Benhamou

In a very industrialized world, where humans only eat transgenic food, some plates make for surprising dishes...

*\*2009 The Hyde Tube Festival : Mr.Hyde Best Short Film Prize ;\**

*\*2009 Animatu – International Digital Animation Festival : RTP2 – Onda Curta Award*

*\*2009 Villeurbanne Short Film Festival : Best 2D/3D Creation Prize “128 Meg@ d’Art”*

*\*2009 Cinanima – Espinho International Animated Film Festival : RTP2 – Onda Curta Award*

*\*2009 Vendôme Film Festival : Young People Prize*

*\*2010 Brooklyn International Film Festival : Audience Award*

*\*2010 CICDAF– China International Animation and Digital Arts Festival : Jury Special Prize*

*\*2010 AnimAnima International Animation Festival : Festival Grand Prix*

*\*2010 RICA – Rencontres Internationales du Cinéma d’Animation : Best Scenario Prize*

*\*2011 La Fila Short Film Festival : Best Animation Prize*

*\*2012 The World Festival of Animated Film : Varna Award*

*\*2014 Le Dédé fait son ciné : Special Mention « Coup de Coeur »*

**PROSOPON: A FACE TOWARDS A FACE (Prosopon)**

Greece, 2015, 5 min, LA Premiere



**Director/Writer:** Thomas Thoma

**Producer:** Juiting Fan

**Cast:** Effie & Elaine Karatassos, Tommy Sarioglou

A riot policeman encounters a demented old woman who attempts to spoon-feed him from an empty pot.

*\* 38th Drama Short Film Festival – Best Student Film Award*

*\* 2015 Atlanta Film Festival Mostly Independent – Best Cinematography Award*

*\* 2015 Misfit Film Festival*

*\* 2015 NYC Independent Film Fest*

*\* 2015 The Soul 4 Reel Film Festival*

## BUTLER'S CHOICE

Greece, 2014, 5 min, North American Premiere



**Director/Animator:** Padelis Paradisis

Two hungry customers find themselves at a restaurant. The meal served there as well as the following events will go far beyond their expectations

*\*2014 Animasyros, Syros*

*\*2014 Festimation, Montana*

*\*2014 Istanbul Animation Festival*

*\*2014 Libélula Animation Festival, Barcelona*

*\*2015 Artfool, International cinematography festival, Larissa*

*\*2015 Athens Anifest*

*\*2015 Balkan Food and Film Festival – Best Animation*

## DUST

Greece, 2013, 8 min , North American Premiere



**Director/Writer:** Thanasis Tsimpinis

**Produced:** George Chorevas, Despoina Sifniadou, FeelMe Productions

**Cast:** Nancy Boukli, Michele Valley, Thanos Tsakalidis

A girl, locked in a room, creates a magical portal to escape reality using her imagination, a stuffed rabbit and a diamond. Back to reality, her domineering mother makes a birthday cake for her.

*\* Athens International Film Festival – Honorable Mention*

*\* France Video Art Festival Strangoscope*

*\* Brazil Videoforma Film Festival*

*\* Russia Aesthetica Short Film Festival*

*\* UK Shnit International Short Film Festival*

*\* Switzerland European Short Film Festival*

*\* FILME, Greece Festival miden – Best Video Art, Best Cinematography, Best Production Design*

*\* Greece VIS Vienna Independent Shorts*

*\* Austria Athens International Film Festival*

*\* Gastronomy Days*

**FARMING ON CRISIS? (Georgia Stin Krisi;)**

**Greece, 2013, 20 min**



**Director:** Haris Donias

**Writer:** Pavlos Georgiadis

**Producers:** Pavlos Georgiadis

**Cast:** Pavlos Georgiadis

The untold story; of the Greek countryside. A journey across the crisis-stricken country of the European south, uncovering the stories of young farmers and the prospects for revamping the economy through sustainable rural development

*\* 2012 ArcLight Film Festival – Best Short Doc*

*\* 2013 Corte e Fieno*

*\* 2013 Rural Film Festival – Selected Audience Award*

**BUTTER BUNNY AND HIS GRAPE MUST COOKIES (Ta Moustokouloura tou Agisilaou)**

Greece, 2014, 23 min, North American Premiere



**Director:** Giorgos Nikopoulos

**Writer:** Dimitris Baslam

**Producer:** Dimitris Baslam, Ktima Gerovasiliou

Mr Butter Bunny was a famous chef. The most famous one in the hole forest. One day he decides to cook his girlfriend's favorite, grape must cookies! He goes into his kitchen and collects the ingredients ... Water, cinnamon, sugar, olive oil, flour, must ... Must .... Must?

\* 2015 AnimaSyros

\* 2015 BeThere! Corfu Animation Festival

**Saturday, June 4, 12:00 pm**  
**RIGLER/EGYPTIAN THEATER**

**Presented by Athens International Culinary Film Festival**

**A TOUCH OF SPICE (Politiki Kouzina)**

**Greece, 2003, 108 min**



**Director:** Tassos Boulmetis

**Writer:** Tassos Boulmetis

**Producer:** Tassos Boulmetis

**Cast:** Georges Corraface, Ieroklis Michaelidis, Renia Louizidou, Themis Panou

“A Touch of Spice” is a story about a young Greek boy (Fanis) growing up in Istanbul, whose grandfather, a culinary philosopher and mentor, teaches him that both food and life require a little salt to give them flavor; they both require... A Touch of Spice.

*\* 2003 Thessaloniki International Film Festival – Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Music, Best Cinematography, Best Editing, Best Set Design, Best Sound*



**Sunday, June 5, 12:00 pm**  
**RIGLER/EGYPTIAN THEATER**

**Presented by Athens International Culinary Film Festival**

**MUSTAFA'S SWEET DREAMS (Ta Glyka Oneira Tou Moustafa)**

**Greece/UK, 2012, 83 min**



**Director:** Angelos Abazoglou

**Writer:** Angelos Abazoglou

**Producer:** Olga Abazoglou

**Cast:** Mustafa Karkoyun, Basri Altin, Yagmur Deniz Kisa

In the small Turkish town of Gaziantep, 16-year-old Mustafa wants to become a master in the art of making baklava. Amidst the strict training regime, Mustafa dreams of a life beyond the confines of the expectations of his friends and family in a documentary that is both moving and innovative.

*\*2012 Berlinale Film Festival*

*\*2012 Thessaloniki Documentary International Film Festival*

*\*2012 SX Global – SXSW, Austin*

*\*2012 Stockholm International Film Festival*

*\*2012 Beijing International Film Festival*

*\*2012 Sarajevo International Film Festival*

*\*2012 Tiburon International Film Festival – Best Documentary*

**A HUNGER ARTIST SOLO**

**Greece, 2014, 3 min, North American Premiere**



**Director/Writer/Producer:** Olga Tzimou

Inspired by Franz Kafka's "A Hunger Artist", the film explores the agony of existence, the space we live, the dissatisfaction of the individual and the vain search for perfection which leads to the rejection of the self.

*\* 2014 Athens International Culinary Film Festival*

*\* 2016 Hellas Film Box Festival Berlin*

## KONTOGIANNIS FAMILY

Greece, 2014, 6 min, North American Premiere



**Director:** Elpida Kontogianni

**Writer:** Elpida Kontogianni

**Producer:** Elpida Kontogianni

The Corinthian land, blessed by nature, has given to us its seeds full of life and bliss. Through this short film are shown the steps of cultivation, love and care that Kontogiannis Family applies for its products. Family and tradition are the values that stand in front of natural habitat. The details of nature along with the details of human being, are the secret of all the creative process that is needed to fulfill the values of creating in nature.

*\* 2014 Gastronomy Days*