

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE HOSTS OPENING WEEK OF FIFTH ANNUAL NEW YORK CITY GREEK FILM FESTIVAL IN ASTORIA**

**October 20–23, 2011 at Moving Image, continuing at SVA Theatre in Manhattan (October 27–30)**

Despite an economic crisis that makes the financing of motion pictures particularly difficult, the Greek film industry is experiencing an exciting renaissance. Last year's startling and provocative family drama *Dogtooth* earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Film. From October 20 through 23, 2011, Museum of the Moving Image will host the opening week of the fifth annual New York City Greek Film Festival. The festival, showcasing eight new feature films from Greece, offers New Yorkers the opportunity to discover some important emerging filmmakers.

Among the screenings at Moving Image are the North American premiere of *Tungsten*, Giorgios Georgopoulos's feature debut, which tells three stories of Athenians living close to the edge (director Georgopoulos and star Vangelis Mourikis will appear in person at the October 21 screening); Athina Rachel Tsangari's *Attenberg*, Greece's Academy Award entry this year; and Yannis Economides's gritty film noir *Knifer*, which won seven Hellenic Film Academy Awards, including Best Picture. Other films include *My Sweet Canary*, a documentary about Sephardic Jewish Greek *rebetika* singer Roza Eskenazi; the family drama *Gold Dust (Chrysoskoni)*; the gentle comedy *Charisma (Harisma)*; *Strella*, a hit from last year's festival; and *Nobody*, a Romeo and Juliet tale set in the migrant community in contemporary Athens.

"This is a very vibrant time for Greek films, and the New York City Greek Film Festival is the premiere showcase for new Greek cinema," said David Schwartz, Chief Curator at the Museum of the Moving Image. "There has been a resurgence in the Greek film industry over the past few years, and many excellent independent films are coming out of Greece. We are happy for the opportunity to introduce a sampling of these films not only to the Greeks in our community but to all New Yorkers."

The New York City Greek Film Festival continues in Manhattan from October 27 through 30 at the SVA Theatre. For more information, visit [nycgreekfilmfestival.com](http://nycgreekfilmfestival.com). The Festival is programmed by James Demetro and is supported by the Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce, the Hellenic-American Cultural Foundation, and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

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**SCHEDULE FOR 'NEW YORK CITY GREEK FILM FESTIVAL,'  
OPENING WEEK,' OCTOBER 20–23, 2011**

Screening take place at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street), in Astoria. **Tickets are \$12 per film / \$8 Museum members** / Free for Silver Screen members and above. Advance tickets may be purchased online at [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us) or by calling 718 777 6800.

***Gold Dust***

Thursday, October 20, 7:00 p.m.

Dir. Margarita Manda. 2009, 85 mins. With Mania Papadimitriou, Anna Mascha, Argyris Xafis. The story of three siblings facing the prospect of selling their family home in Athens becomes a personal portrait of a city that is being transformed daily, eradicating all traces of its past.

**Tickets: \$12 public/\$8 Museum members**/Free for Silver Screen members and above.

***Charisma (To Harisma)***

Friday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.

Dir. Christina Ioakeimidi. 2010, 83 mins. With Vasso Kavalieratou, Efthymis Papadimitriou. A young teacher involved in a damaging affair is pursued by an unsophisticated, aggressive, yet passionate bus driver. This comedy takes on the time-honored theme of opposites attracting while trying to understand the elusive nature of charisma.

**Tickets: \$12 public/\$8 Museum members**/Free for Silver Screen members and above.

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE:

***Tungsten***

Friday, October 21, 9:15 p.m.

Sunday, October 23, 8:00 p.m.

**Giorgos Georgopoulos and Vangelis Mourikis in person (October 21)**

Dir. Giorgos Georgopoulos. 2010, 100 mins. With Vangelis Mourikis, Tasos Nousias, Omiros Poulakis, Promitheas Aliferopoulos. *Tungsten* is the metal with the highest melting point. This film tells three stories of Athenians living close to the edge; a tram conductor struggling to support his family; a job recruiter with anger control issues; and two idle teenagers with a gun. Played against a menacing urban landscape, the stories come together in a totally unexpected way in this impressive feature debut.

**Tickets: \$12 public/\$8 Museum members**/Free for Silver Screen members and above.

***Nobody***

Saturday, October 22, 5:00 p.m.

Dir. Christos Nikoleris. 2011, 97 mins. With Georgina Lioffi, Antinoos Albanis, Giorgos Papageorgiou. Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is updated to a contemporary Athenian migrant setting, picking up shades of Homer along the way. Goran, a young Russian, falls in love

with Julia, the daughter of Muslim immigrants from Albania. Trapped in a cycle of ethnic violence and racial tensions, the two young people struggle to find a way for their love to triumph.

**Tickets: \$12 public/\$8 Museum members/Free for Silver Screen members and above.**

### ***Strella: A Woman's Way***

Saturday, October 22, 7:00 p.m.

Dir. Panos Koutras. 2010, 111 mins. With Mina Orfanou. While the audacity of its plot and its bold colors will remind viewers of Almodovar, this is an entirely original film that has become a favorite on the festival circuit. Relentless in its realistic depiction of the gay world in today's Athens, *Strella* is also a heartbreaking story about the accommodations people make in the name of love. (Part of the *New York City Greek Film Festival*)

**Tickets: \$12 public/\$8 Museum members/Free for Silver Screen members and above.**

### ***Attenberg***

Saturday, October 22, 9:15 p.m.

Dir. Athina Rachel Tsangari. 2010, 95 mins. With Ariane Labeled, Giorgos Lanthimos, Vangelis Mourikis, Evangelia Randou. A young woman attempts to come to terms with her sexuality as she also faces the imminent death of her father. This unconventional, anarchic film interweaves life and death in a totally original fashion. The film is Greece's Academy Award entry this year.

**Tickets: \$12 public/\$8 Museum members/Free for Silver Screen members and above.**

### ***My Sweet Canary***

Sunday, October 23, 4:00 p.m.

Dir. Roy Sher. 2011, 89 mins. Three young musicians—an Israeli, a Turk, and a British-born Greek Cypriot—embark on a mission to tell the story and explore the music of legendary and much-loved Sephardic Jewish Greek singer Rosa Eskenazi, who rose to fame in the late 1920s and became the most recorded singer of *rebetika*.

**Tickets: \$12 public/\$8 Museum members/Free for Silver Screen members and above.**

### ***Knifer***

Sunday, October 23, 6:00 p.m.

Dir. Yannis Economides. 2010, 108 mins. Following the death of his father, Nikos leaves the provinces to go to Athens and work at guarding his brutish uncle's purebred dogs. Stuck in the bleak outskirts of the city, Nikos finds the dynamic of his relationship with his uncle changing when his uncle's wife draws closer to him. This relentlessly gritty film noir won seven Hellenic Film Academy awards this year, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Cinematography.

**Tickets: \$12 public/\$8 Museum members/Free for Silver Screen members and above.**

## **MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Holiday hours:** The Museum will be open on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Columbus Day (October 10), and on December 26 and January 2. On Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) and New Year's Eve (Dec. 31), the galleries will close at 5:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving (Nov. 24) and Christmas Day (Dec. 25).

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-18. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for special screenings and events may be purchased in advance by phone at 718 777 6800 or online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).