



THE HELLENIC CENTRE

**“From the Courtyards to the Living Rooms” & “Work Like Crazy”
Free Documentary Screenings at the Hellenic Centre in London
15-16 February 2014**



What was Greek cinema like, before a “Weird Wave” had broken through the international scene... before the unique talent of Theo Angelopoulos emerged in prestigious A-list Film Festivals? Or even before Captain Corelli and his mandolin discovered love on the idyllic islands of the Ionian Sea?

Phenomenal filmmakers like Michael Cacoyiannis or Costa Gavras would create a worldwide impact with their oeuvre. But it wasn't just “Elektra”, “Stella” or “Zorba the Greek”. At the same time a whole new wave of popular cinema would run through the country from the '50s until the '70s, marking a true “Golden Era” in the Greek Film Industry. More than 60 films per year were produced during that period, mostly film noirs or comedies depicting through tragic or satirical situations the fundamental changes transforming local societies to metropolitan communities. These films are so intertwined to the modern, popular culture that they are considered to be all time classics.

The most distinctive sequences and excerpts as well as the circumstances that inspired the films become current once again through the documentaries “Work Like Crazy” and “From the Courtyards to the Living Rooms”, which are presented by the Hellenic Centre in London and film curator Eirini Nikopoulou. Based on the books of Dr. of Film Studies Aggeliki Milonaki, the films unravel the journey of post war Greece to modernisation.



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From The Courtyards To The Living Rooms (Από Τις Αυλές Στα Σαλόνια)

Dir: Dionysia Arvanitou, Panayiotis Koundouras | Script: Aggeliki Milonaki | Narration: Elias Panas | Production: University Studio Press | Runtime: 30 min | Year: 2012.

This documentary investigates the urban character of cinema in a period when Greek fiction films become the most popular mass medium in local society, as they contribute to creating symbolic images of the city and the home in postwar Greece of the 1950's and the 1960's. The camera moves away from the old city of Athens focusing on the modern apartment, "from the courtyards to the living rooms", from the chaotic city of postwar reconstruction to the modern yet confined home in apartment buildings.

Work Like Crazy (Δουλειές Με Φούντες)

Dir-Script: Aggeliki Milonaki | Narration: Stelios Loukas | Production: Northern Greece Entrepreneurs Cultural Society | Runtime: 30 min | Year: 2012.

Classic scenes and dialogues from popular Greek films on businessmen and their business; a vivid portrait of the most popular entrepreneurs of the cinema screen on a wide collection of professions, beginning with Thymios, the naive merchant of the grocery store in the film "Tis Kakomoiras", to the powerful ship-owner Fokas – a role played by **Lampros Konstantaras**. They are mostly penniless and smart con men from the lower and middle classes, but also respectable factory owners, ship owners and dedicated business executives involved in an endless game of economic domination, revealing stereotypes, images and transformations of entrepreneurship in Greek society of the 1950's and the 1960's.

Aggeliki Milonaki is a film historian and Dr. of Film Studies at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Since 2004 she has been teaching Greek film history and film theory as an Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Film Studies (2007-2011). She has published several journal articles on Greek cinema and she is the author of the books: "Douleies me fountes": A history of entrepreneurship in popular Greek cinema (1950-1970), published by the Northern Greece Entrepreneurs Cultural Society in 2008 and "From the courtyards to the living rooms: Images of urban space in Greek popular cinema (1950-1970), published by University Studio Press in 2012.

Eirini Nikopoulou is a film critic, curator in International Film Festivals and Cultural Institutions and Producer for Marketing & Distribution on films. She has also been collaborating with NISI MASA, a European Union NGO promoting film culture among young audiences.

Info:

Screenings: Saturday 15 February 2014 (13.15-14.30pm & 15.15-16.30pm) & Sunday 16 February 2014 (13.15-14.30pm & 15.15-16.30pm) at the Hellenic Centre Friends Room.

Address: 16-18 Paddington St, London W1U 5AS. **Language:** Greek with English subtitles.

Entrance is Free. *Due to high demand you are kindly requested to confirm attendance on 020 7563 9835 or at press@helleniccentre.org.