

THE CENTER FOR HELLENIC STUDIES

Journeys of Displaced Heroes from Myth to Cinema

October 8th, 2026 at 4:00PM | Humanities Institute 1008



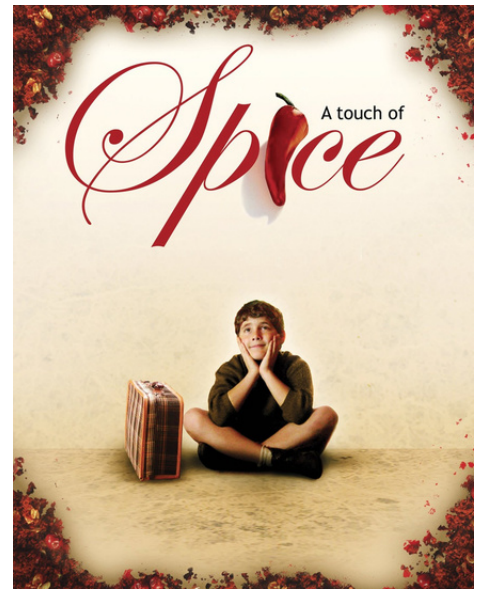
In this lecture **Visiting Director Tassos Boulmetis** will explore how one of the oldest patterns of storytelling, the journey of a person forced away from home, continues to shape the stories we tell today and exists as hidden structure in popular film genres. Beginning with ancient Greek drama and its exiled, wandering, and displaced heroes, the presentation follows these themes into modern cinema. Across centuries, the journey remains more than displacement from one geographical coordinate to another: It becomes a path of loss, transformation, and self-discovery, connecting ancient stories of displacement with the experiences of refugees, migrants, and people searching for a place they can call home.

Film Screening: A Touch of Spice

October 9th, 2026 | Wang Center Theater
Reception | 5:30PM

Screening and Q&A with the Director | 6:00PM

A Touch of Spice (Πολίτικη Κουζίνα) tells the story of Fanis, a boy forced to leave Istanbul (Constantinople) with his family and build a new life in Athens, carrying his lost homeland through memories, food, and spices. His story belongs to the mythical tradition of the displaced hero: someone who leaves home and discovers that returning is never simply a matter of geography. Like the Odyssey, the journey home gradually becomes a journey toward identity and self-knowledge. The film explores what "home" means when the place we long to return to survives mainly within memory, and whether returning can ever restore what was lost.



Tassos Boulmetis

is an acclaimed filmmaker, screenwriter, and producer from Greece. His film *A Touch of Spice*, inspired by his own experiences, became a landmark of contemporary Greek cinema and one of the highest-grossing Greek films of all time, attracting more than 1.6 million admissions in Greece. Distributed in 45 countries, it was also Greece's submission for the 2005 Academy Awards. His other films include *Mythopathy (Notias)* and *1968*, a docufiction blending personal and collective history. A former president of the Hellenic Film Academy and member of the European Film Academy, Boulmetis studied filmmaking at UCLA and has taught and lectured on filmmaking, ancient myth, and cinema at UCLA and other universities internationally.

Presented by the Center for Hellenic Studies

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RSVP

