

**The Center for Hellenic Studies
in collaboration with the Hellenic Film Society USA
presents**

HELLENIC FILM FESTIVAL 2021

**COMMEMORATING 200 YEARS OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE,
WE PRESENT SEVEN FILMS THAT HONOR GREEK HISTORY
MARCH 19-28, 2021**

<https://hellenicfilmusa.org/events>

AMERICA AMERICA

Available for streaming March 19-21 only

Written and directed by *Elia Kazan*

In English

1963 / 174 min

Cast: Stathis Giallelis (Stavros Topouzoglou), Frank Wolff (Vartan), Harry Davis (Isaac Topouzoglou), Elena Karam (Vaso Topouzoglou), Estelle Hemsley (Grandmother Topouzoglou), Gregory Rozakis (Hohannes), Lou Antonio (Osman), Salem Ludwig (Odysseus Topouzoglou), Johanna Frank (Vartuhi)

In the late 1890s, a young man leaves his impoverished village in Turkish Anatolia for Constantinople and eventually fulfills his dream of coming to America, but not before he faces cruelties and betrayals along the way. Based loosely on the life of his uncle, this was Kazan's favorite among his 19 feature films. Featuring an unforgettable score by Manos Hadjidakis, this Oscar-winning film is one of the most stunningly poetic and powerful immigration sagas ever filmed.

Elia Kazan gives a penetrating, thorough and profoundly affecting account of the hardships endured and surmounted at the turn of the century by a young Greek lad in attempting to fulfill his cherished dream—getting to America from the old country.” --Variety

BENEATH THE OLIVE TREE

Directed by Stavroula Toska

In Greek and English, with English subtitles

2020/76 min

This award-winning documentary unearths the story behind secret diaries found buried on the Greek island of Trikeri. Written by female political exiles during the Greek Civil War in the late 1940s, the journals reveal inspirational stories of thousands of women imprisoned in Greek concentration camps. Director Stavroula Toska journeys from New York to Greece to examine a largely unknown part of women's history and, in the process, discovers an earth-shattering family secret. Narrated by Oscar winner Olympia Dukakis.

Awards include Best Documentary, Santa Fe Film Festival

**The Center for Hellenic Studies
in collaboration with the Hellenic Film Society USA
presents**

HELLENIC FILM FESTIVAL 2021

CLIFFS OF FREEDOM

free

Directed by Van Ling

In English

2019/137 minutes

Cast: Tania Raymonde (Anna Christina), Jan Uddin (Tariq), Raza Jaffrey (Sunai), Patti LuPone (YiaYia), Christopher Plummer (Thanasi), Billy Zane (Christo), Costas Mandylor (Constantine), Simon Kassianides (Gregory)

This is the story of an ill-fated romance between a young Greek village girl and a conflicted Turkish officer during the dawn of the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire in 1821. The drama blends ageless themes of hope, love and sacrifice with a timely narrative about one woman's struggle to overcome oppression and shape her own destiny.

Cliffs of Freedom is made available courtesy of the National Hellenic Society.

GOD LOVES CAVIAR - Ο Θεός αγαπάει το χαβιάρι

Directed by Yannis Smaragdis

This film is in English and Greek, with English subtitles

2012 / 101 min

Cast: Sebastian Koch (Varvakis), Evgenly Stychkin (Ivan), Juan Diego Botto (Lefentarios), Catherine Deneuve (Catherine the Great), John Cleese (McCormick), Lakis Lazopoulos (Fisherman of God), Marisha Triantafylidou (Maria), Christopher Papakaliatis (Counselor)

The epic story of Greek patriot Ioannis Varvakis (1745-1825) is brought to vivid life by an international cast in this visually striking film. Varvakis rose from humble beginnings to become a confidante of Catherine the Great, who granted him trading rights to Russian caviar. Enterprising and tirelessly inventive, Varvakis headed one of the largest mercantile empires in Europe and became an early benefactor of the new Greek nation.

THE ROAD TO SPARTA

Directed by Roddy Gibson and Barney Spender

In English

2016/60 minutes

Award-winning documentary about four runners, including ultramarathon runner Dean Karnazes, competing in the Spartathlon, the grueling 153-mile foot race between the Greek cities of Athens and Sparta. The course, similar to the route run by Pheidippides in 490 BC during the Persian Wars, is long and brutal under the blazing Greek sun, but grit and determination keep the runners going in this inspirational testament to the human spirit.

**The Center for Hellenic Studies
in collaboration with the Hellenic Film Society USA
presents**

HELLENIC FILM FESTIVAL 2021

"Enlivening and deeply touching. Combining Greek history, music, and poetry the film extends beyond pure athleticism to culminate in a viewing experience that is both immersive and highly gratifying." ~ Documentary Drive

SEARCHING FOR ANDREAS: Political Leadership in Times of Crisis

Directed by Harris Mylonas
2018/95 minutes

In Greek with English subtitles

This documentary explores the life of one of Europe's most controversial political leaders of the 20th century. The legacy of Greek Prime Minister Andreas G. Papandreou is still felt 24 years after his death. Was he a socialist reformer or a populist manipulator? The film is not just about Papandreou's life and legacy but rather a cautionary tale about the danger of overreliance on charismatic leaders and the challenges that democracies face in replacing them.

300

Available for streaming March 26-28 only

Directed by Zack Snyder
2006/117 min/Rated R

In English

Cast: Gerard Butler (King Leonidas), Lena Headey (Queen Gorgo), Dominic West (Theron), David Wehham (Dilios), Vincent Regan (Captain), Michael Fassbender (Stelios)

In 480 BC, Persian King Xerxes sends his army of 100,000 to conquer Greece. At the Battle of Thermopylae, Leonidas, king of the Greek city state of Sparta, leads his 300 warriors against the massive Persian army. Though certain death awaits the 300 Spartans, their sacrifice inspires all of Greece to unite against their common enemy. Award-winning Hollywood spectacle with intense battle scenes and a cast of thousands.

Tickets will be available soon through the website below:

<https://hellenicfilmusa.org/events>