



Athens International Children's Film Festival Announces Screenwriters' Competition

In December 2018, Athens saw its very first international fest showcasing high quality fiction and documentary films for children. Today they have announced a national screenwriting competition for children's content to support and develop Greek filmmaking.

The competition is open to Greek screenwriters, directors, authors and cinema lovers, and it invites them to write a 10 minute short film script for the target group 3-10-years-old.

The Need For Children's Content

"Very little content is developed for the young audiences in Greece today, and one of the festival's primary objectives is to support filmmaking for and media literacy among children with a long-term goal in mind", says President of the Festival, Amanda Livanou.

The screenplays will be reviewed by a jury comprised of Greek professionals: *Panos Gkenas* (Editor-in-chief cinemazine.gr), *Ilias Karellas* (children & youth theatre director), *Jacqueline Lentzou* (writer/director), *Filippos Mandilaras* (children and youth books author), and *Paola Staraki* (translator, Head of Shorts at the Greek Film Centre 1998-2012).

The winner will receive a 1.500 EUR prize from the official partner, Greek Film Centre, with a final deadline for submissions on March 12, 2019. More info on how to apply here www.athicff.com

Festival Aims to Inspire

The First ATHICFF opened with success when French director Michel Ocelot introduced his 'Dilili In Paris' to a full house in the festival venue Megaron – Athens Concert Hall. The official festival weekend on December 7-9 attracted 4.500 audiences, and in the two weeks prior, an additional 2.200 school children attended the specially curated programmes in age categories 6-8, 9-11, and 12+.

"Besides entertaining, we aim to inspire a dialogue on issues such as children's rights, diversity, tolerance, respect, girl power, social and cultural differences and distinctiveness, the meaning of family", says Festival Director Calliope Charalambous-Krief.

The 2018 programme included awarded features such as 'Mirai', 'Tito and the Birds', 'Los Bando' and 'The Incredible Story of the Giant Pear' (Winner Best Feature) – on top of a short film programme. Altogether 75 films from 30 countries in 22 languages. 48,44% of these were made by female directors.

Year-round activities are a clear aim at ATHICFF, and have already resulted in partnerships with Athens Intl. Film Festival, Thessaloniki Intl. Film Festival, Athens Democracy Forum, and an upcoming event at the French Institute in Greece. The 2nd edition unspools in the Autumn/Winter 2019.

The 2018 festival edition was a co-production between Athens International Children's Film Festival, Neda Film and The Athens Concert Hall.

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