

PAUSE

A FILM BY TONIA MISHIALI

International Federation of
Film Critics Award

*f*IPRESCI



written and directed by
TONIA MISHIALI

produced by
ANDROS ACHILLEOS
STELANA KLIRIS
TONIA MISHIALI

co-produced by
IOANNA SOULTANI

main cast
STELA FYROGENI
ANDREAS VASSILIOU
POPI AVRAAM

running time * 96 MIN.
aspect ratio * 2.39:1
screening format * COLOUR 2D DCP 2K
sound * 5.1
language * GREEK
subtitles * ENGLISH | SPANISH
countries of production * CYPRUS | GREECE
year of release * 2018

MARKET SCREENING



WORLD PREMIERE



Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival
East of the West – Competition

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2018
Bergen International Film Festival 2018
Leeds International Film Festival 2018
Thessaloniki International Film Festival 2018
Stockholm International Film Festival 2018
Cairo International Film Festival 2018
Bratislava International Film Festival 2018
Athens Panorama of European Cinema 2018
Dhaka Film Festival 2019
Hellas FilmBox 2019
Santa Barbara International Film Festival 2019
Brussels Independent Film Festival 2019
Bengaluru Film Festival 2019
Glasgow Film Festival 2019
Sofia Film Festival 2019
Beirut International Women's Film Festival 2019
Femcine - Festival Cine de Mujeres 2019
Mediterranean Film Festival of Tetouan 2019
FEMA - International Womens film festival Malmo 2019

Carnegie Mellon CMU Film Festival 2019
Cleveland Film Festival 2019
Atlanta Film Festival 2019
Cyprus Film Days International Festival 2019
Hellenic Film Academy Iris Awards 2019
International Festival of Independent Cinema Off Camera 2019
Transilvania Film Festival 2019
Seattle film festival 2019
Sydney Film Festival 2019 (Voices of women in film)
Los Angeles Greek Film Festival 2019
Flying Broom Women's International Film Festival 2019

AWARDS

FIPRESCI Award for best film (Thessaloniki IFF 2018)
ERT National Television Award (Thessaloniki IFF 2018)
Union of Greek Film Critics Best Film Award (Athens Panorama 2018)
Emerging Greeks Competition Best Film Award (Hellas FilmBox 2019)
Best Fiction Feature Award (Beirut Women's IFF 2019)
Nomination BEST FIRST-TIME DIRECTOR (Hellenic Film Academy 2019)
Nomination BEST ACTRESS (Hellenic Film Academy 2019)

PAUSE

A FILM BY TONIA MISHIALI



logline

Tapped in the misery of an oppressive marriage, Elpida finds refuge in a fantasy world of vindictive violence. Soon, reality and fantasy start to blur.

synopsis

Elpida, a middle-aged housewife, is trapped in the misery of an oppressive marriage, with a man who has no consideration for her feelings and needs. Her monotonous life is disrupted when a young painter is employed to paint the building she lives in. Her imagination then starts to flourish as she is confronted with her unquenchable desires, her body and the husband she has no love for. When things get out of hand she finds refuge in a fantasy world of vindictive violence. Soon, her perception of reality is questioned when she has no recollection of events that actually happened. Can a pause mark a new beginning?

director statement

PAUSE is my debut feature film and kind of a personal one. I was inspired by images that were imprinted in my mind and events that I experienced growing up in Cyprus in a patriarchal society, watching the women in my family and all other women around me living on the sidelines, with the main purpose of their lives serving their spouse and children. My feelings towards this social and family context and the stories that surround it are very strong because, unfortunately, even today thousands of women in Cyprus, Greece and many other countries around the world still live in similar situations, unable to find their own voice and fight for their rights. I have always been sensitive to women's issues and equality, while I have been particularly interested in exploring the decadent relationships in marriage. I wanted to make a film that is viewed through the prism of the complex and fascinating female nature against the loss of one's voice, the longing for love and all unquenchable desires. In approaching the film's style, I wanted to make the viewer sink into the protagonist's 'reality', so I decided that the focus will never shift from the main character. At a time when women in film are mis-represented, I also wanted this film to depict a female character that is very much real! In terms of production, we worked with a talented local crew, featuring a significant female participation in many of the key positions.



Tonia Mishiali | director | scriptwriter

Tonia is a Cypriot director, screenwriter and producer who loves making films that deal with social and women's issues. She is a member of the European Film Academy and the European Women's Audiovisual Network, Berlinale Talents alumna and co-artistic director of Cyprus Film Days International Festival, having also served as vice president of the Board of the Directors Guild of Cyprus. Her short films DEAD END and LULLABY OF THE BUTTERFLY competed in more than 60 International Film Festivals together, including Locarno, Palm Springs, Cork, Dresden, Sarajevo, Encounters, Drama, also winning several awards for Best Director and Best Film. It's represented by SND Films (Amsterdam) and has been sold to Japan, China, USA, Belgium, Russia, France, Greece and Cyprus. Her directorial feature debut PAUSE (2018), a Cyprus/Greece co-production, represented by Film Republic (UK), participated in Connecting Cottbus and Mannheim Meeting Place co-production markets, as well as Karlovy Vary Works-in-Progress. It had its world premiere at the 53rd Karlovy Vary International Festival and has been officially selected in more than 30 international film festivals, including Cairo, Leeds, Stockholm, Thessaloniki, Santa Barbara, Cleveland, Seattle, Glasgow, Sofia, Transilvania, also winning 5 awards including the FIPRESCI award for Best film by the International Federation of Film Critics. It was also nominated for Best First-time Director and Best Actress at the Hellenic Film Academy Awards 2019. It will be released theatrically in the US, Greece and Cyprus in 2019. Tonia is now developing her second and third feature films NALA AND STELLA and MOONSTRUCK, the latter of which won a special mention at the Scriptwriters Guild of Greece 2018 awards and was developed through Sources2 scriptwriting workshop with funding from the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture.

filmography

- “Nala and Stella” | feature | drama | (in development)
- “Moonstruck” | feature | drama/fantasy | (in development)
- “Pause” (2018) | 96min | Cyprus/Greece | drama
- “Lullaby of the Butterfly” (2014) | 20min | Cyprus | drama
- “Dead End” (2013) | 15min | Cyprus | drama



Andros Achilleos | producer

Andros Achilleos is a film producer and owner of the film production company A.B. Seahorse Film Productions, offering equipment rentals and full production services in Cyprus. He established the company in 1998 and since then he has produced and co-produced hundreds of short and feature films, music videos, TV commercials, reality TV shows and documentaries. His company is now one of the leading production houses on the island. He offers his services to clients varying from local talent to internationally acclaimed production companies, covering projects of any scale and budget. He supports many projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus and he produces or co-produces films being shot locally or abroad.

Stelana Kliris | producer

Stelana Kliris is a South African Cypriot Producer/Director with a background in production on international film and commercial productions in Greece and Cyprus. She has produced and directed two short documentaries and two short films, one of which was awarded at the Drama International Short Film Festival in Greece. In 2013 she wrote, directed and produced her first feature film entitled 'Committed', which was distributed internationally and optioned for a Hollywood remake. She then produced award-winning director Tonia Mishiali's debut feature film 'Pause' and is currently developing several new projects under her production company Meraki Films. She is a member of the European Women's Audiovisual Network and a participant in the 2018 EAVE Producers Workshops.



Ioanna Soultani | co-producer

Ioanna is a film producer and owner of Soul productions, a business partner and finance director of Authorwave post-production company, both based in Greece. She is currently in pre-production of a feature length film by Ifigeneia Kotsoni, in co-production of the feature film 'Pause' by Tonia Mishiali and the development of five short films which are scheduled to be filmed in 2018. She has produced the short films 'Goldfish' (2017) by Giorgos Aggelopoulos, 'Twist' (2016) by Michalis Papantonopoulos (Best Film Award by the Greek Federation of Film Societies and Special Mention at the 2nd Hellas FilmBox Berlin), '2½' by Christos Ntampakakis, 'April Fool's Day' (2016) by Apostolis Iliopoulos, 'Daybreak' (2015) by Nancy Spetsioti and 'The Seed' (2015) by Ifigeneia Kotsoni (winner of numerous awards in national and international festivals).

A.B. SEAHORSE FILM PRODUCTIONS | production company

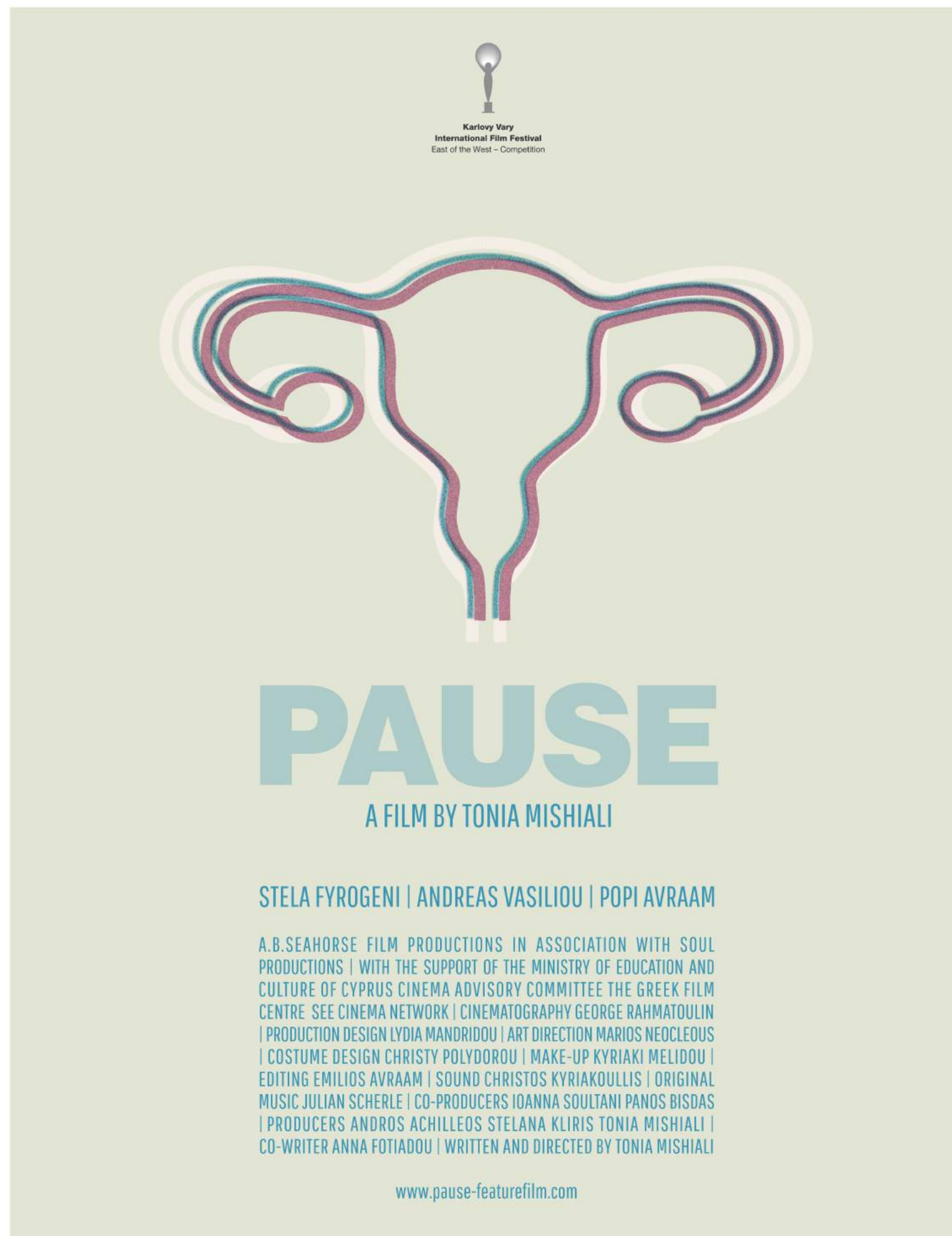
A.B. Seahorse Film Productions was established in 1998 by producer Andros Achilleos and is now one of the leading production houses on the island. The company has been involved in the production of hundreds of short and feature-length films, music videos, TV commercials, reality TV shows and documentaries, offering its services to clients varying from local talent to internationally acclaimed production companies. Apart from equipment rentals and full production services that cover projects of any scale and budget, the company supports numerous projects funded by the Cinema Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus and collaborates with foreign production companies such as Cinitivi (France), Les Films du Carri (Belgium) and Sabbah Group (Dubai-Lebanon-Egypt). Most of the productions in which the company was involved have been officially selected and awarded at major international film festivals.

Filmography (Feature Films)

“Moonstruck” / Producer / (dir. Tonia Mishiali) *Special mention for best script at Screenwriters of Greece Awards 2018
“Pause” / Producer / (dir. Tonia Mishiali, Cyprus/Greece 2018) *official selection Karlovy Vary IFF * Fipresci Award
“Chinatown” / Co-producer / (dir. Aliko Knoutzen, Cyprus 2018) * Best Cinematography Award
“Five Shillings Naylor” / Co-producer / (dir. Christos Shiopahas, Cyprus 2015)
“Palace Beach Hotel” / Co-producer / (dir. Philippe Venault, France 2014) *awarded
“To Pouli tis Kyprou” / Co-producer / (dir. Nicolas Koumides, Cyprus 2014) *blockbuster in CY
“Family Member” / Co-producer / (dir. Marinos Kartikkis, Cyprus 2014) *awarded
“Plot 12” / Co-producer / (dir. Kyriakos Tofarides, Cyprus 2013) *nominated for EFA
“Committed” / Co-producer / (dir. Stelana Kliris, Cyprus 2013) *optioned for Hollywood remake
“Guild” / Producer / (dir. Vasilis Mazomenos, Cyprus 2009) *awarded
“By Miracle” / Co-producer / (dir. Marinos Kartikkis, Cyprus 2009) *awarded
“The Mentors” / Producer / (dir. Kostas Andriotis, Cyprus 2008)
“Gorillas” / Producer / (dir. Marios Kyprianou, Cyprus 2007)
“Honey and Milk” / Producer / (dir. Marinos Kartikkis, Cyprus 2006) *awarded
“Love at Sixteen” / Producer / (dir. Costas Charalambous, Greece 2003)
“East of Wild Goat Rocks” / Producer / (dir. Andros Achilleos, Cyprus 1999)

Filmography (Short films)

“The Immortalizer” / Co-producer / (dir. Piperides Marios, Cyprus 2014) *awarded
“Lullaby of the Butterfly” / Co-producer / (dir. Tonia Mishiali, Cyprus 2014) *awarded *official selection Sarajevo IFF
“The Palace” / Co-producer / (dir. Antony Maras, Cyprus-Australia 2011) *awarded * official selection Melbourne IFF
“11:50” / Co-producer / (dir. Stelios Constantinou, Cyprus 2011) *awarded *official selection Raindance
“Stagona” / Producer / (dir. Zinon Hadjipavlou, Cyprus, 2012)
“Shadowboxing” / Co-producer / (dir. Dinos Gregoriou, Cyprus 2012) *awarded *official selection Palms Springs Shortfest
“Hope” / Co-producer / (dir. Stelana Kliris, Cyprus 2011)
“The Fiddler” / Co-producer / (dir. Stelana Kliris, Cyprus 2010) *awarded
“For which truth” / Co-producer / (dir. George Georgiou, Cyprus 2009)
“Oedipus” / Co-producer / (dir. Ioakim Mylonas, Cyprus 2009) *awarded
“Absent” / Producer / dir. Simon Farmakas, Cyprus 2009) *awarded
“Don’t Make a Sound” / Producer / (dir. Al Davidian, Cyprus 2008)
“A Clocks Dream” / Co-producer / (dir. Costas Chrysanthou, Cyprus 2008)
“Pharmakon” / Co-producer / (dir. Ioakim Mylonas, Cyprus 2007) *official selection Venice IFF
“Koupepe” / Producer / (dir. Despina Savvidou, 16mm, Cyprus 2006)
“Aphrodite Cabaret” / Producer / (dir. Demetris Tokaris, Super 16mm, Cyprus 2005)
“Nous” / Producer / (dir. Spiros Platis, Super 16mm, Cyprus 2004)
“Mousakas” / Producer / (dir. Antonis Ioannides, Super 16mm, 2004)
“First Time” / Producer / (dir. Eric Averkiou, Cyprus 2003)
“The Circle of Life” / Producer / (dir. Stavros Papageorgiou, Cyprus 2003)
“Berryphobia” / Producer / (dir. Costas Hadjistavrou, Cyprus 2001)
“Souvlakia Shieftalia” / Producer / (dir. Pashalis Papapetrou, 16mm, Cyprus 2001)
“The Other Artemis” / Producer / (dir. Kyriakos Tofarides, 16mm, Cyprus 2001) *awarded
“Fisherboy” / Producer / (dir. Andros Achilleos, 16mm, Cyprus 2000)



main cast



Stela Fyrogeni | as Elpida

Stela was born in Germany and grew up in Greece. She graduated from the Drama School of the National Theatre of Greece with excellency. She has studied improvisation, expressive movement and vocals. She works in theatre and cinema as an actress and singer and has been awarded for her performances. She does not wear fur and does not eat meat. She believes in kindness and respect for nature, ourselves and others

Filmography

The man with the answers (2019) / feature / dir. Stelios Kamitsis (CY/GR/IT)

Pause (2018) / feature / dir. Tonia MishiAli (CY/GR)

5 ways 2 die (2014) / short / dir. Daina Papadaki (CY)

The two faces of January (2014) / feature / dir. Hossein Amini (UK/FR/USA)

Oedipus (2010) / short / dir. Ioakim Mylonas (CY)

Guilt (2009) / feature / dir. Vasilis Mazomenos (GR/CY)

Bar (2001) / feature / dir. Alikì Danezi-Knutsen (GR/CY/UY)

Under the stars (2001) / feature / dir. Christos Georgiou (GR/CY/UK)

O entomosyllektis (1997) / short / dir. Stavros Papageorgiou (CY)

Paihni Zois (1997) / short / dir. Marinos Kartikkis (CY)

Roads and oranges (1996) / feature / dir. Alikì Danezi-Knutsen (CY)

Isihes meres tou Avgoustou (1991) / feature / dir. Pantelis Voulgaris (GR)





Andreas Vassiliou | as Costas

Andreas Vassiliou was born in Cyprus. He graduated from the Veaki Drama School in Greece and has been working as an actor in Theatre, Television and Film in Cyprus since 1983. He has collaborated with Theatro Ena, ETHAL, THOC (National Theatre) and other theatrical groups and has participated in more than 150 theatrical plays in main and supporting roles. He has collaborated with various television channels in several TV series and TV films on SigmaTV, CYBC (National Broadcaster) and ANT1. He has played major roles in short and feature films and has been awarded the Best Actor Award at the International Short Film Festival of Cyprus for his role in the film 'Blues for Nedi Ryan', and the Best Performance by an Actor Award at the 2014 Cyprus National Theatre Awards for his role in the 'Stallerhof', directed by Maria Kyriakou.

Filmography

Pause (2018) / feature / dir. Tonia Mishiali (CY/GR)
Rosemarie (2017) / feature / dir. Adonis Floridis (CY)
Dinner with my sisters (2011) / feature / dir. Michalis Hapeshis (CY/UK)
Blues for Nedi Ryan (2007) / short / dir. Hristoforos Roditis (CY)
I alli Artemis (2002) / short / dir. Kyriakos Tofaridis (CY)
To Tama (2001) / feature / dir. Andreas Pantzis (CY/GR/BG)
Bar (2001) / feature / dir. Aliko Danezi-Knutsen (GR/CY/UY)
Slaughter of the cock (1996) / feature / dir. Andrea Pantzis / (CY/IT/DE/SY/GR/BG/SE)



Popi Avraam | as Eleftheria

Popi studied in Athens where she worked in theatre for six years. In Cyprus, she has been a key executive at Satiriko Theatre group for 25 years. She has also collaborated with most theatre groups in Cyprus. She has participated in more than 20 short and feature films, in main and supporting roles. She also teaches acting and speech training at Vladimiros Kafkarides Drama School in Cyprus.

Filmography

Small White envelopes (2019) / feature / dir. Sotiris Christou (CY)
Pause (2018) / feature / dir. Tonia Mishiali (CY/GR)
Rosemarie (2017) / feature / dir. Adonis Floridis (CY)
Dinner with my sisters (2011) / feature / dir. Michalis Hapeshis (CY/UK)
Shadows and faces (2010) / feature / dir. Dervis Zaim (TU)
Absent (2009) / short / dir. Simon Farmakas (CY)
The last homecoming (2008) / feature / dir. Korinna Avraamidou (CY)
Akamas (2006) / feature / dir. Panikos Chrysanthou (CY/TU/HU/GR)
Kalabush (2002) / feature / dir. Adonis Floridis, Theodoros Nikolaidis (CY/GR)
To Tama (2001) / feature / dir. Andreas Pantzis (CY/GR/BG)
Espresso (1998) / short / dir. Adonis Floridis, Theodoros Nikolaidis (CY)
Slaughter of the cock (1996) / feature / dir. Andreas Pantzis (CY/IT/DE/SY/GR/BG/SE)

main crew

CO-WRITER	Anna Fotiadou
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	Yorgos Rahmatoulin
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY	Julian Scherle
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	Lydia Mandridou
ART DIRECTOR	Marios Neocleous
COSTUME DESIGNER	Christy Polydoru
MAKE-UP ARTIST	Kyriaki Melidou
HAIR DEPARTMENT HEAD	Marios Neofytou
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Marinos Charalambous
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Alexia Roider
EDITOR	Emilios Avraam
COLORIST	Alexis Kapidakis
SOUND POST PRODUCTION	Christos Kyriakoullis
SOUND MIX	Costas Varibopiotis
POSTER PHOTOGRAPHY	Panagiotis Mina
POSTER DESIGN	Nasia Demetriou



WATCH THE TRAILER ON VIMEO at <https://vimeo.com/toniamishiali/pauserailer>

WATCH THE TEASER ON VIMEO at <https://vimeo.com/toniamishiali/pauseteaser>



Anna Fotiadou | co-writer

Anna Fotiadou is a graphic designer, illustrator, video artist, performance director and writer. She has focused on contemporary written drama and dramaturgy, developing theatrical plays. Anna has presented her artwork in festivals and exhibitions in various countries and was selected to participate at the 12th Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and Mediterranean. In 2007 she received the Cyprus National Award for Illustration. She is the co-author and co-illustrator for Current, Cyprus' first comic book anthology. She writes and directs performances for venues in Cyprus and Germany. She also writes poetry and screenplays. She is now developing the story of a graphic novel entitled Backstory. She works in collective art projects and collaborates with artists of different disciplines.

Yorgos Rahmatoulin | director of photography

Yorgos Rahmatoulin was born in Nicosia, Cyprus in 1972 and lived in Moscow during the first years of his life. In his teenage years, he became interested in photography and cinema. His love for the art of photography let him to discontinue his studies in mechanical engineering and go to London where he completed a course on camera lighting and camera techniques. He continued his studies at the Stavrakos Film School in Athens, where he also began to work in the field of cinema and advertising. Since 2009, he works exclusively as a director of photography on commercials, short and feature films, for which he also won several Best Cinematography Awards. The sun, the shadows, the colours, the reflections are always his companion even not at work. Street photographers, as Alex Webb and David Alan Harvey are his constant inspiration for showing how simple light can be so striking. His latest feature film is 'Pause' the debut feature of Tonia Mishiali and their second collaboration, the first being 'Lullaby of the butterfly' for which he was awarded Best Cinematography.



Julian Scherle | composer

Julian Scherle is a German-raised, Los Angeles-based composer, music producer, multi-instrumentalist, and performer. With over eight years in the film industry, he has had the great fortune to work with talented artists on over 40 projects. More recently, Julian's music has been featured on the Golden Globe Winning show 'Mr. Robot', and critically acclaimed shows such as 'The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story', 'Scream Queens' and 'American Horror Story'. His solo work in 2015 includes a variety of noteworthy projects from a feature length movie 'Let's be Evil', to numerous short films, to games such as 'HyperCharge'. For Julian's commercial projects, visit the music agency Scissors and his IMDb page for full list of credits.



Lydia Mandridou | production designer

Lydia Mandridou graduated from the University of Brighton in 2007, where she studied Interior Architecture. Since then, her multidisciplinary approach to design has engaged her in various projects and collaborations in Architecture, Fashion, Theatre, and recently Film. As a production designer, her work includes Myrsini Aristidou's short film 'Semele' (TIFF Official selection 2015, Berlinale Generation 2016) that won the Special Jury Award for Best Short Film at the Berlinale Generation Kplus in 2016 and Tonia Mishiali's debut feature film 'Pause' (now in post-production).

Marios Neocleous | art director



Marios Neocleous is a Cyprus-based freelance art director. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art and Media from Florida Atlantic University, USA. He started as a commercial art designer and creative director in advertising and publications. He has been working in the film industry for the last 11 years, as an art director, set designer and supervising art director to production designer. His credits to date include four feature films, six short films and many tv commercials.



Christy Polydoru | costume designer

Christy was born in Nicosia, Cyprus. She has studied Drama in London UK and then continued her studies at Central Saint Martins from where she graduated with a BA and an MA in Scenography and Costume Design. Since she graduated she has been working with the National theatre and Independent theatre productions. She is also working as a freelance Production and Costume designer for commercials, television, and Film production. She is also a member of the European Film Academy.



Kyriaki Melidou | make-up artist

Kyriaki Melidou was born in Greece and has been working as a make-up artist on film productions since 2003. She specializes in special effects make-up and has worked on more than 25 short and feature films produced nationally and internationally. Some of her credits include Richard Linklater's 'Before Midnight', Yorgos Lanthimos' 'Alps', Pantelis Voulgaris' 'Psihi Vathia' and Sofia Exarchou's 'Park'.

Emilios Avraam | editor

From an early age, films and videos grabbed most of his attention. Consequently, visual storytelling became a passion of his. His work includes editing, compositing, motion graphics for TV commercials and films and directing music videos. His writing and directing debut in narrative filmmaking 'Bad Habits' has screened in over 25 festivals around the world and won 8 awards. He is currently in post production for his second short film 'Rearrangement'. He is now developing his debut feature film.



Alexia Roider | assistant director

Alexia Roider was born in Germany in 1975 and was raised in Cyprus. In 1993 she attended the Visual Communication Design course at Kassel University in Germany and in 1994 continued her education in the UK at the University of the Arts London where she graduated in 1997 with a BA (Hons) Degree in Film & Video from the London College of Printing. Alexia has been working in the film industry in Cyprus since 1998 directing films, commercials, corporate videos, documentaries and special events, collaborating with local and international production companies. She has worked as an Assistant Director on eight feature films and directed three short films. In 2015 she completed her first feature film, 'Conveyor Belt'. She is currently working on her second feature film. She was the president of the Directors Guild of Cyprus from 2014 until 2017. Alexia is a member of the European Film Academy and the Artistic Director of the International Short Film Festival of Cyprus (ISFFC) since 2010.

In the press

Hollywood Reporter Review by Boyd van Hoeij - 10th July 2018

“Cypriot director Tonia Mishiali casts Frances McDormand look-alike Stela Fyrogeni in her feature debut about a housewife in an unhealthy marriage who starts daydreaming about revenge.

A Cypriot hausfrau hitting menopause finds that she’s had enough of the macho ways of her boorish husband in Pause (Pafsi), the striking directorial debut from writer-director Tonia Mishiali. Though the subject is a largely familiar one, this is a work of considerable tonal complexity, as it stirs moments of pitch-black humor and short and violent reveries into an otherwise austere tale of spousal strife that wants to smash the patriarchy with feats of cinematic derring-do. An East of the West title at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival, this well-performed domestic drama should travel to other showcases, including — but clearly not limited to — festivals interested in debuting filmmakers and female talent...”

Cineuropa Review by Vassilis Economou - 5th July 2018

“Cypriot writer-director Tonia Mishiali focuses on the position of women in a conservative and patriarchal society with an emotional and realistic debut...”

For all compete press cuttings visit

<https://www.pause-featurefilm.com/press>

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

VARIETY

SCREENDAILY

FLIX

FILMSTAGE

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PARATHYRO

PHILENEWS



Tonia Mishiali • Director • INTERVIEW by Vassilis Economou CINEUROPA

'It's a film that is viewed through the prism of the complex and fascinating female nature '

11/07/2018 - KARLOVY VARY 2018: We talked to director Tonia Mishiali about the importance of the story she tells in *Pause*, and the impact it could have on society in Cyprus and abroad

Cypriot director-scriptwriter-producer Tonia Mishiali already has an impressive and long-running festival track record thanks to her short films. Her debut feature, *Pause* tells the story of a middle-aged housewife, Elpida, who is trapped in a turbulent and loveless marriage. The film participated in the East of the West competition at the 53rd Karlovy Vary International Festival. We talked to Mishiali about the importance of her story, and the impact it could have on society in Cyprus and abroad.

Why did you choose Elpida's story for your debut film?

I have always been sensitive to women's issues and equality, and I have been particularly interested in exploring decaying marital relationships. Therefore, dealing with this subject in my debut seemed right because it was also very personal. I was inspired by images that had been imprinted on my mind and events that I experienced growing up in Cyprus, a patriarchal society, watching the women in my family and the women around me living on the sidelines. Consequently, I wanted to make a film that is viewed through the prism of the complex and fascinating female nature. *Pause* is a film about the loss of one's voice, the longing for love and unquenchable desires. Since women in cinema are traditionally misrepresented, I wanted the film to depict a female character that is very much real. Therefore, Elpida's life is important to me.

Do you feel that *Pause* will have an effect on the audience in Cyprus? Will they also see fragments of their own lives?

I sure hope so. *Pause* is a cautionary tale about a woman at the end of her tether but without the courage to save herself. This is so true today. Thousands of women around the world still live in similar situations to Elpida's, unable to find their own voice and fight for their rights. I therefore hope that the movie will speak to them, make them sink into Elpida's "reality", and experience her inner world and her deep emotional state. And by empathising with her and watching her journey, I hope they will gain the courage to rebel – unlike Elpida.

Do you think *Pause* will mainly affect predominantly patriarchal societies, or could it have a wider impact?

Before the film's world premiere, I was not sure how it would be perceived and to what extent any group or society would be affected. I know that *Pause* is a film that not everyone is ready to accept. But I was confident that this was the story I wanted to tell, and it was a risk I had to take. Audiences are so used to watching films from a male perspective that I was expecting some kind of objection from both male and female viewers. Yet, after our screenings at Karlovy Vary, I was happy to see that the movie had a wide impact on both genders, and my main objective had been accomplished: Elpida managed to get under the audience's skin.

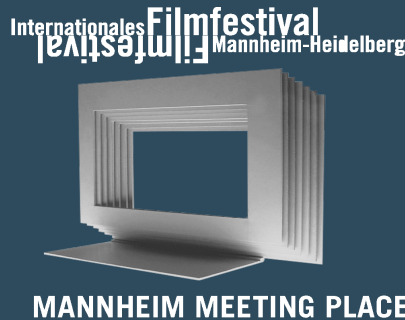
How difficult was it to shoot and produce such a film in Cyprus? Did people generally accept and approve of it?

The film got funding from the Cyprus Ministry of Culture, the Greek Film Centre and the SEE Cinema Network without too much difficulty. However, the budget was really low, so I don't know if we would have been funded with a higher amount had the film dealt with a different subject. Producing the film in Cyprus was not difficult in that sense. This new generation of people is not so traditional, plus the film crew comprised a significant number of female professionals.

How important is it to release a film like this in the midst of the discussions on the topic of gender equality in the audiovisual sector – and other areas? Do you think this affects the audience's perspective of the film?

The important thing is that this female-centric story, told from a completely female-centric point of view, is out there now. And it deals with a theme that is rarely seen in film, as it addresses issues of patriarchy from a woman's perspective (both in front of and behind the camera). Is it the right timing? That's not for me to say. I told the story I needed to tell when it felt right for me.

the film was presented during its development at



sponsored by



funded by



co-production company



production company



www.pause-featurefilm.com



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#pausefeaturefilm



contact

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