

Strand Releasing presents

SUNTAN

A FILM BY ARGYRIS PAPADIMITROPOULOS

*Starring Makis Papadimitriou, Elli Tringou,
Milou Van Groessen and Dimi Hart*

PRELIMINARY PRESS NOTES

*Official Selection:
International Film Festival Rotterdam
South by Southwest Film Festival*

Country of Origin: Greek | Germany
Format: DCP/2.66/Color
Sound Format: D-Cinema 48kHz 5.1
Running Time: 104 minutes
Genre: Comedy/Drama/Romance
Not Rated
In Greek and English with English Subtitles

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Please download photos from our website:
<http://www.strandreleasing.com/films/suntan/>

SYNOPSIS

For middle-aged Kostis, life has passed him by. As the newly appointed doctor of a tiny island, Kostis spends a dreary winter alone. By the time summer arrives, though, the island has turned into a thriving, wild vacation spot with nude beaches and crazy parties. When Kostis meets the beautiful and flirty Anna, he falls hard for her and goes out of his way to conquer and impress her. Before long, Kostis is spending nearly all of his time getting drunk, partying hard, and even making out with Anna. What starts as a rediscovery with his lost-long youth, though, slowly turns into an obsession as Kostis is willing to do whatever it takes to keep his Anna.

Suntan celebrates the beauty and strength of the youthful body, while simultaneously embracing its inevitable decay.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Getting a **Suntan** is beautiful, dangerous and it fades away quickly - just like youth.

My most personal film to date, *Suntan* was shot during the summertime on the tiny island of Antiparos, when the place was packed with non-stop party-goers. Shooting a film during the busiest time of the season on a Greek island might sound like an impossible mission, but for me, it was an obvious choice. I've been going to Antiparos since I was 15 years old, like any hormonal teenager, and I still continue to do so – although I'm dangerously close to the age of my main character, Kostis.

In his early forties, Kostis is an atypical specimen of the adult world. He has no family of his own, unlike most men of his age. Just like them, however, he is a prisoner of his own body, forced to stand by and watch it wither away, unable to resist the merciless passage of time.

He is faced with five prime examples of youth - and youth is a time of life that has long passed Kostis by, probably never lived to the fullest. It is a time of frolicking, leisure, and, most importantly, of physical carelessness where the body is king. It's the age when one most lusts for exhilaration, playing, dancing, falling in love and pursuing the passions of the flesh.

The eternal Greek Summer provided the perfect background for this extravagance of craving and everything that goes with it: flirting, casual sex, drugs, alcohol and pushing the boundaries to see how far your body can go.

In the exploration of my hero's boundaries and his journey to the unknown land of physicality, I came across a terra incognita of my own – somewhat ironically, I ended up discovering a genre: the coming of middle age film.

Argyris Papadimitropoulos

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Argyris Papadimitropoulos was born the year the Ramones released their legendary debut album, and this might somewhat explain his punk temperament.

After directing two multi-awarded films (*Pendulum*, 2003 and *Tender*, 2004) and receiving a Berlinale Talent Campus stamp on his film passport, Argyris went on to become the youngest Greek filmmaker to direct a box-office feature hit. *Bank Bang*, which came out in 2008, went on to become a major commercial and critical hit, with 500.000 BO admissions and rave reviews. The film also won the First Time Director Award from the Hellenic Film Academy.

His follow-up, 2011's *Wasted Youth*, opened the 40th Rotterdam International Film Festival and has since traveled to more than 40 festivals around the world, such as Toronto, BAFICI, Karlovy Vary, Munich among others.

Argyris is constantly making films and doing whatever he can to shoot projects. Up to this day, Argyris has directed more than 200 commercials, rising to become one of Europe's top ad directors.

He often puts on his producer hat with his own Oxymoron Films, presenting the world with award-winning features such as Berlinale's sensation *At Home* (2014).

Last but not least, Argyris has no hobbies whatsoever.

MARNI FILMS

Marni Films is an independent company, based in Athens that produces short films, feature films and creative documentaries by young filmmakers with an edgy authorial signature. The company started out in 2011, co-producing Yorgos Lanthimos' multi-awarded *Alps*. After producing its first feature documentary, *Directing Hell* (2011), Marni Films co-produced a number of films, such as *A Blast* (2014) by Syllas Tzoumerkas, *Wednesday 04:45* (2015) by Alexis Alexiou and *Stage Fright* (2015) by Yorgos Zois. **Suntan** is Marni's latest feature film production. The company's goal is to keep Greek cinema's New Wave alive by delivering innovative productions for cinema, TV and internet platforms while establishing young filmmakers and discovering new talent. Marni Films' projects aspire to carry a personal vision and are intended for international audiences.

FALIRO HOUSE PRODUCTIONS

Established in 2008, Faliro House Productions is a frontrunner in the reemergence of Greek cinema, while also operating an international division for co-productions worldwide. Some of its recent titles include Yorgos Lanthimos' "The Lobster", Jeff Nichols' "Midnight Special", Jim Jarmusch's "Only Lovers Left Alive" and Richard Linklater's "Before Midnight", among many others.

OXYMORON FILMS

Oxymoron Films was founded in Athens, in 2003, by Argyris Papadimitropoulos. The company started out as a co-production vehicle for Argyris' films (the awarded shorts *Pendulum* and *Tender* and the feature films *Bank Bang* and *Wasted Youth*), but it has gradually become a vital force in Greek cinema. Since its establishment, Oxymoron has supported some of the most important local films of the recent years, such as *Boy Eating the Bird's Food* by Ektoras Lygizos and many of the short projects of the most upcoming contemporary Greek directors, like Elina Psykou, Panayotis Fafoutis and Bujar Alimani. The company has also line-produced the German feature *Elli Makra*, *Wupertal* with Una Films and ZDF, and the English documentary *Hostage* with Channel 4. Oxymoron's latest production is Athanasios Karanikolas' feature film *At Home* that won the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury at the 2014 Berlin Film Festival.

CAST

Makis Papadimitriou	Kostis
Elli Tringou	Anna
Milou Van Groesen	Mila
Dimi Hart	Jason
Hara Kotsali	Alin
Marcus Collen	Morten
Yannis Tsortekis	Takis
Pavlos Orkopoulos	Mayor
Maria Kallimani	Tzina
Marisha Triantafyllidou	Tourist Mother
Syllas Tzoumerkas	Orestis
Achilleas Kyriakidis	Tourist Doctor
Kostas Gouzelis	Mini Market Owner
Konstantinos Melitas	Argyris
Yannis Economides	Camping Owner

CREW

Directed by	Argyris Papadimitropoulos
Written by	Argyris Papadimitropoulos, Syllas Tzoumerkas
Cinematography	Christos Karamanis
Edited by	Napoleon Stratogiannakis
Production Design	Aliki Kouvaka
Costume Design	Marli Aliferi
Co-producers	Ernst Fassbender, Theodora Valenti, Konstantina Stavrianou, Petros Pappas, Stelios Kotionis and Lasse Scharpen
Executive producer	Christos V. Konstantakopoulos
Produced by	Phaedra Vokali, Argyris Papadimitropoulos