

**STRAND
RELEASING**

presents

DIGGER

A FILM BY
GEORGIS GRIGORAKIS

PRESS NOTES

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Berlin International Film Festival
Busan International Film Festival

Country of Origin: Greece / France
Format: DCP/2.39/Color
Sound: 5.1 Surround
Running Time: 101 minutes
Genre: Drama
Not Rated
In Greek with English Subtitles

National Press Contact:

Carly Hildebrant
Strand Releasing
carly@strandreleasing.com

SYNOPSIS

A slow burning contemporary Western about a native farmer who lives and works alone in a farmhouse in the heart of a mountain forest in Northern Greece. For years now, he has been fighting with an expanding industrial Monster digging up the forest, disturbing the lush flora and threatening his property. Yet, the greatest threat comes with the sudden arrival of his young son, after a twenty-year separation. They turn into enemies under one roof. Father and son confront each other head on, with nature as their only observer, a showdown that ultimately yields an unexpected redemption for both.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Digger is an archetypal story about the eternal Father-Son conflict, with social and political undertones. Centered around fatherhood and adulthood, it also examines the primordial conflict between Man and Nature with its undercurrents of guilt, regret, and acceptance.

The common thread to both conflicts (Father-Son, Man-Nature) is the respect toward future generations. The relationship between parents and their offspring mirrors the relationship between humans and nature. The Father, a farmer, identifies with his horse and doggedly defends his kinship with his habitat. The Son, an unemployed motocross rider, guards a perfunctory relationship to the modern world.

Our heroes' adversary relationship becomes a reflection vehicle on contemporary Greek society and its machismo, torn apart by a profound identity crisis within capitalism's advance.

In contrast with traditional Westerns, the landscape is wet and cold. However, the inner landscape of our protagonists is boiling hot. Both dig deep into the mud to explore what is "Home" and where one belongs. The climax remains raw, with a twisted sense of redemption.

DIRECTOR BIO – GEORGIS GRIGORAKIS

Georgis was born and raised in Greece. He studied Social Psychology in the UK before he completed an MA in Directing Fiction at the National Film and Television School (NFTS) in 2012. Since 2007, he has been writing and directing short films, which have garnered critical acclaim, have been screened in more than 100 international festivals worldwide and won over 20 awards. His shorts have been distributed theatrically in France and Greece, as well in international TV channels and DVD magazines and VOD (<http://www.georgisgrigorakis.com/films/>).

Digger is his first feature. IT was developed through Nipkow, Cannes Cinefondation Residency, and the Sundance Screenwriters workshop. It is produced by fellow director and producer Athina Rachel Tsangari (Haos Film, GR), co-produced by Gabrielle. Dumon (Le Bureau, FR) and executive produced by Christos V. Konstantakopoulos (Faliro House, GR) and Michael Weber (Match Factor, DE), who also represents the film for international sales.

FILMOGRAPHY

2007: *And me for myself* (short)

2010: *Reverse* (short)

2012: *Revolving* (short)

2014: *45 Degrees* (short)

2019: *Digger*

MAIN CAST BIOS

VANGELIS MOURIKIS

Vangelis Mourikis is one of the most prominent Greek actors of his generation. He studied in Australia where he did his first works. In 1990s he returned to Greece and devoted himself to independent cinema. He has won five awards for both leading and supporting roles. He has collaborated with many notable directors of new Greek cinema such as Thodoros Maragos, Yannis Economides, Nikos Grammatikos, Pantelis Voulgaris, Athina Rachel Tsangari and others.

ARGYRIS PANADAZARAS

Argyris Panadazaras was born in Volos in 1988. He graduated from the National Theatre Drama School in 2010. In 2016, he was awarded with the “Dimitris Horn” Best Young Actor Award. He is the founder and artistic director of the production company “Momentum”. Argyris has worked with the Greek National Theatre, Piccolo Teatro di Milano, the Onassis Cultural Center, the Thessaloniki Concert Hall, the Athens and Epidaurus Festival, the Piraeus Municipal Theatre, “Nea Skini” Lefteris Vogiatzis Theatre, Porta and Vasilakou Theatre & Volos Municipal Theatre. He has performed in five plays at the Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus.

SOFIA KOKKALI

Sofia Kokkali was born in Greece and graduated from the Greek National Theatre in 2012. She shares her creative time both in cinema and in theater. She stars in numerous films including *Thread* (2017) by Alexander Voulgaris that was nominated for Best Director in Los Angeles Film Festival and won the Best Actress Award in Hellenic Film Festival, *Hector Malot: The Last Day of the Year* (2018) by Jacqueline Lentzou that won the Leica Cine Discovery Award in Festival de Cannes, Semaine de la Critique and among others the Best Actress Award in Redline International Film Festival, Basta Fest and Athens International Film Festival. Her latest work includes *Winona* (2019) that premiered at the 35th Warsaw Film Festival, *Pari* (2019) a coproduction of Greece, France, Netherlands and Bulgaria, *Digger* (2021) and *Selene, 66 Questions*, again by Jacqueline Lentzou that premiered in 2020. She has played in numerous theatrical plays on stages in Greece, Europe and New York.

MAIN CAST

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| Nikitas | Vangelis Mourikis |
| Johnny | Argyris Pandazaras |
| Mary | Sofia Kokkali |

MAIN CREW

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| Written and Directed by | Georgis Grigorakis |
| Story by | Georgis Grigorakis, Maria Votti, Vangelis Mourikis |
| Director of Photography | Giorgos Karvelas |
| Editing | Thodoris Armaos |
| Music | Michalis Moschoutis |
| Casting | Anna Nikolaou |
| Line Producer | Fenia Cossovitsa |
| Production Manager | Matthaios Voulgaris |
| Sound Designer | Leandros Ntounis |
| Production Sound | François Abdelnour |
| Sound Mix | Simon Apostolou |
| Production Design | Dafni Kalogianni |
| Costumes | Vassilia Rozana |
| Make Up | Ioanna Lygizou |
| Assistant Director | Arsenis Polymenopoulos |
| Produced by | Athina Rachel Tsangari, Maria Hatzakou, Chrysanthi Karfi Koi (Haos Film) |
| Co-Produced By | Gabrielle Dumon (Le Bureau) |
| Executive Producers | Christos V. Konstantakopoulos (Faliro House Productions) Michael Weber (Match Factor Productions) |
| Co-Producers | The Greek Film Center, ERT, Nikos Katsaounis (N-Coded Pictures) Ernst Fassbender (FassB Filmproduktion), Fenia Cossovitsa (Blonde) Anna Nikolaou |
| Supported by | Eurimages, Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée Aide aux Cinémas du monde, EKOME SA, Creative Europe Media |

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For more information, please contact Carly Hildebrant at carly@strandreleasing.com

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