

15th AEGEAN FILM FESTIVAL



16–24.7

PATMOS

15TH AEGEAN FILM FESTIVAL | Patmos, July 16–24, 2026

Patmos island is seeking out the big screen and once again welcomes **the Aegean Film Festival**, which returns from July 16 to 24, 2026 for its **15th edition**.

Since 2010, the Aegean Film Festival has succeeded in creating an international institution for the celebration of cinema. 10 feature fiction film premieres, 5 documentaries focusing on critical issues, 3 environmental documentaries, 33 short films in an international and a Greek competition section, 9 virtual reality films, and special screenings.

The 2026 program will present premieres that won awards at international festivals, emerging directors whom the programming team “discovers” from the more than 800 films submitted to the **AegeanFF** platform, as well as creators who have left their mark on international cinema. The screenings will illuminate the specially designed cinemas that the festival team constructs each year, as well as unexpected corners of Patmos through pop-up screenings.

Awards and Jury

The core mission of the festival remains the support of cinema’s new voices by seeking works with personality, risk, and substance. For this reason, every year it presents 7 international and Greek awards, specifically:

the Aegean Short Film Award, the Greek Short Film Award, the Sustainability Short Film Award, the Audience Awards for Documentary and Fiction Film, the VR & Immersive Jury Award, as well as the Jury Special Mention.

The **jury** each year reflects the international reach of the festival. In 2025, **Bruno Munoz**, head of the short film department of the Cannes Film Festival, **Mathilde Henrot**, curator of the Berlinale and formerly of LocarnoFF and SarajevoFF, **Arnaud Colinart**, award-winning VR producer, and in previous years the acclaimed French director **Claire Denis**, Vienna festival director Eva Sangiorgi, and Oscar-winning producer Diane Becker are among the contributors who were invited to award the short films and meet their creators on the islands of the Aegean. The **2026 jury** will be announced together with the full program on June 12.

Parallel Activities

The Aegean Film Festival experience is not limited to film screenings. Every year, the festival is accompanied by parallel activities that transform the island into an open cultural landscape. Art and photography exhibitions, music concerts, discussions, dinners, parties, and unexpected encounters create a program of open dialogue between the arts and the place itself. This year's edition will host the photography exhibition by **Maria Pavlaki** titled "**Something of Their Own,**" accompanied by additional exhibitions to be announced soon.

Echoes Programme & Location Greece: Sustainability Standard

The Aegean Film Festival remains committed to environmental responsibility through the institution's ecological program Echoes, which has continued dynamically for 9 years.

Since 2017, **Echoes** has included screenings of environmentally focused films, discussions with experts, workshops, Posidonia protection activities, as well as collaborations with local groups. At the same time, through reforestation and tree-planting initiatives, the festival demonstrated that even a cultural event can have a measurable positive impact on the place hosting it.

Of particular importance last year was the think tank **Location Greece: Sustainability Standard**. This is an initiative launched in 2022 in collaboration with **EKKOMED**, aiming to bring the Greek and international film industries closer together around Greece as a filming destination. The Location Greece conference undertook the creation of the first Greek environmental responsibility and sustainability standard for audiovisual productions, while also contributing to the gathering of expertise and the drafting of a relevant guide. In 2024 and 2025, the first workshops took place, bringing together film professionals, sustainability experts, and production representatives. The goal of this year's edition is the third and final stage: the completion of the standard and its delivery to **EKKOMED** so that it may adapt and proceed with its implementation.

VR & Immersive Programme

The 14th Aegean Film Festival marked the launch of the **VR & Immersive Programme** as an official competition section, which, as an integral part of the festival, will continue in 2026 with six immersive virtual reality works, interactive narratives, and new technologies that transform the viewer from observer into participant. Three additional works will also be presented out of competition as a tribute to new forms of storytelling and the new forms that art can take.

As an international institution the Aegean Film Festival remains committed in supporting filmmakers and serving as a point of reference for those who believe that cinema can still change the way we see the world. **The summer of 2026 we renew our rendezvous for July 16-24 under the starry nights and turquoise waters of Patmos island.**

To purchase your passes and for more information, visit www.aegeanff.com and actively contribute to supporting the vision of the Aegean Film Festival.

The press conference presenting the official program of the 15th Aegean Film Festival will take place in Athens on June 12, 2026, at a venue to be announced soon. Please express your interest in participating through the Festival Press Office at: press@aegeanff.com

For the film program, visit the page after June 12: www.aegeanff.com/films

For more information about the Location Greece: Sustainability Greece conference, visit:
www.aegeanff.com/location-greece

For more information about the Echoes program, visit:
<https://aegeanff.com/echoes-program/>

media@aegeanff.com | www.aegeanff.com



media@aegeanff.com | www.aegeanff.com