

# 15<sup>th</sup> AEGEAN FILM FESTIVAL



16—24.7

PATMOS

## PROGRAMME ANNOUNCEMENT

The **15th Aegean Film Festival** returns to **Patmos from 16 to 24 July 2026**, celebrating fifteen years of presence with an anniversary programme featuring Greek, European and world premieres of award-winning films from leading international festivals, landmark environmental documentaries, and tributes to major figures of European cinema.

This year, we have the great honour of welcoming **Ada Solomon**, President of the European Film Academy, and **Christian Jeune**, Director of the Film Department and Deputy General Delegate of Cannes, as members of the jury for the competition programme. The third jury member will be announced at the start of the Festival.

### **Greek premieres of award-winning films and documentaries from around the world**

In the Festival's Fiction programme, among the 11 films, highlights include: the Greek premiere of ***Rosebush Pruning***, directed by Karim Ainouz and written by Efthimis Filippou.

***Vanilla***, the first feature film by Mexican filmmaker Mayra Hermsillo, which received major awards for screenwriting and directing, including the *Feature Fiction Award* at the Adelaide Film Festival and the *Audience Award* at the Morelia International Film Festival.

The film ***HEN (Kota)*** by Hungarian director **György Pálfi**, a **Greece-Germany co-production** shot entirely in Greece with Greek actors, which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

In the documentaries section, highlights include the gem from China, ***Whispers in May*** by Dongnan Chen, which won the top prize (DOX:AWARD) at CPH:DOX in Copenhagen, as well as the portrait of director **Roberto Rossellini**, ***Living Without A Script***.

Out of the 800 films submitted to the festival platform, 14 premiere short films were selected, including ***For the Opponents***, which won this year's Palme d'Or at Cannes. It should be noted that its Argentine director, Federico Luis, left Patmos two years ago with the Seahorse, the Festival Award for Best Aegean Short Film.

## **ECHOES: The independent environmental programme**

With **free admission for the public** and co-organized with the **Green Fund**, the environmental programme **ECHOES** presents important international documentaries: **Yanuni**, by Austrian director Richard Ladkani, which has received glowing reviews. Produced by Leonardo DiCaprio, the film follows Indigenous activist Juma Xipaia in her fight to protect the Amazon. Also standing out is the impressive **Super Nature**, directed by Ed Sayers. The film is a collective "love letter" to the natural world, documenting wildlife, plants, water and geology. Shot entirely on Super 8 film, it impresses with its classic, nostalgic "texture", with remarkable footage gathered by volunteers in 25 different countries.

This year, three feature documentaries and nine short films take part in the **ECHOES** competition programme, competing for the Sustainability Award. The programme is completed by two themed discussion panels: *Marine Conservation*, on protecting the marine environment, and *Rewilding Patmos*, on the reforestation of Patmos.

As **Sir David Attenborough** turns 100, the independent **ECHOES** programme honours the award winning wildlife filmmaker who has brought nature into our homes for over 70 years, combining scientific knowledge with cinematic magic. ECHOES will present the documentary **Wild London**, produced by Passion Planet and globally distributed by BBC Studios. After a lifetime traveling around the world, Sir David Attenborough returns to the British capital, the city where he lives, to reveal how a bustling metropolis can become a vital habitat for wildlife.

### **Parallel events**

The Festival begins with the established pre-opening event **PopUp Shorts** at the Andreas Kalatzis Gallery in Chora, presenting a selection of exceptional short films chosen from hundreds of international submissions.

The Official Opening Ceremony on Friday 17 July, at 8 p.m. at Marianna Cinema, will welcome the audience with the Italian film **Tennis Maestro (Il Maestro)**, directed by Andrea Di Stefano, followed by the Opening Party at Arion Bar in Skala.

Throughout the festival, Patmion Cultural Centre will host two parallel visual-art exhibitions: **Something of Their Own** by Maria Pavlaki, which explores the power of human presence through portraits and moments of everyday life, and **Wordless Stories** by Antonio Milana, presenting works on paper created from recycled and reused materials.

The celebratory events conclude with the established AegeanFF Closing Party, bringing guests and audiences together for one last evening under the Aegean sky.

## **Summary of the programmes of the 15th Aegean Film Festival:**

### **• AEGEAN FEATURE FICTION FILMS**

10 feature fiction films and special screenings.

### **• AEGEAN FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES**

5 feature documentaries.

### **• ECHOES**

3 feature documentaries and 9 environmental short films compose the specially curated Echoes environmental programme. The short films in the programme are nominees for the Sustainability Award.

### **• AEGEAN SHORTS**

14 short films from around the world take part in the International Short Film Competition Programme, all in Greek premiere. The films compete for the Best Aegean Short Film Award.

### **• GREEK SHORTS**

6 short films shot in Greece and/or by Greek creators compete for the Best Greek Short Film Award, presented by ERT.

### **• POPUP SHORTS**

9 short films, often experimental in character, offer audiences a distinctive cinematic experience, highlighting powerful stories and original narratives.

### **• IMMERSIVE PROGRAMME**

6 VR S immersive experiences are presented in the competition programme, accompanied by 3 selected works in the spotlight programme as out-of-competition entries.

### **• EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS**

3 visual-art exhibitions and 2 parallel celebratory events complete this year's festival programme.

## The 15th Aegean Film Festival in numbers:

- 9 days
- 27 screenings
- 12 fiction films
- 8 documentaries
- 39 short films
- 9 immersive / VR works
- 7 awards
- 12 screening / event venues
- 3 visual-art exhibitions
- 2 environmental panels
- 4,000 visitors (in 2025)

Celebrating 15 years of presence in the cultural landscape of the Aegean, the Aegean Film Festival continues to bring important cinematic voices from around the world to Patmos, creating a unique meeting place for cinema, the environment and contemporary culture.

The Festival is held under the auspices and with the support of: Ministry of Culture, Municipality of Patmos, ERT, Deftero Programma, Kosmos FM, Nova, Patmos Times, Blue Star Ferries, Babel, Campari, Bob Studio, ART06870, Avitron, Branding Humanity, SugarHigh, Arion Bar, Skala Hotel, Billy Bikes, Geiomas Restaurants, Benetos and Tarsanas.

The environmental festival **Echoes** is held under the auspices of and co-organized with the Green Fund.

For festival passes, visit: <https://aegeanff.com/passes>

For the full programme, visit: [www.aegeanff.com/films](http://www.aegeanff.com/films)

For the Echoes programme, visit: [aegeanff.com/echoes-program](http://aegeanff.com/echoes-program)

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