



- 46th Thessaloniki International Film Festival.
- November 18-27 2005.



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Masterclasses set off

MASTERCLASSES SET OFF

Sunday, November 21st:

VITTORIO STORARO, CATHLEEN LESLIE

The 46th Thessaloniki International Film Festival masterclasses set off today with the tour of the exhibition "Vittorio Storaro: Writing with light" and the presentation of the three-time academy award winner's work in the films Apocalypse now (1980), The Reds (1982) and The last emperor (1988). By setting his exhibits in a chronological order, the famous cinematographer set off to analyze his work of 30 years, which he described as "research work".

Storaro spoke about the deep influence that painting has had on him, starting with Caravaggio and explained the way that his art evolved. "In the beginning of my career I had thorough technical knowledge but lacked in philosophy", he said. The first part of his research involved light, dark, and chiaroscuro in painting as well as in the work of Plato and Aristotle. Storaro went on to explain the relationship between photography and cinema: "A photograph is like a painting. It conveys its meaning through an image, whereas in cinema you need rhythm. I experimented greatly with printing photographs on top of each other, something that began literally by chance, from a mistake I had made. This evolved to the point where I printed up to ten photographs on top of each other on a single print, without any digital processing. This is my way of adding a cinematic quality to static images", he said.

Storaro's lively account of his experience of working with Coppola and Marlon Brandon was extremely interesting. Particularly, the way that Marlon Brandon's character in Apocalypse now was accentuated to something beyond man, into a symbol, through his cinematography in the film. Storaro also spoke about the way he dealt with the clash of cultures, of people and of good and evil through his imagery of light and darkness; a confrontation which led to the exposure of the "truth" in the film.

CATHLEEN LESLIE: FROM ACTORS STUDIO TO THE THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Today's opening of the Festival's masterclasses also included Cathleen Leslie, actor's coach from the renowned Actor's Studio. The American actress and director and this year's judge for anyone wishing to join Actor's Studio, was welcomed by the President of the Festival, Georges Corraface - their acquaintance goes back to when they collaborated with Peter Brook. The audience was mainly composed of students from the Department of Theatre and Cinema of the School of Fine arts of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki as well as students from the School of Theatre from the State Theatre of Northern Greece.

Cathleen Leslie began by speaking about the history of Actors Studio and took the audience on a tour to 19th century Russia with Stanislavski's theatre. Stanislavski brought his company to New York in the 20s' where the Theatre Group was born, Lee Strasburg's fabrication, which changed the course of acting in America. It then moved from the East to the West coast, from theatre to cinema with Elia Kazan its heart and soul and from Stanislavski's system to the famous "Method".

The historical flashback essentially included the course of speculation by the people in theatre and cinema when they created "constants" in the way actors "play", through studies and methods that derive from medicine and psychology, without these methods becoming a sort of psychotherapy or psychoanalysis for the actors.

In the second part of the masterclass, Cathleen Leslie invited younger as well as more experienced actors to the stage to try the Actors Studio method of relaxation. Among them were Katia Gerou and Athina Maximou, who mentally held on to "their favorite cup of coffee", for as long as Leslie indicated the exercise. In the end they shared their experience with the audience: one of them actually "smelled" their favorite hot chocolate, another felt the warmth of the cup in his hands and another the relief on the surface of the cup.

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Tomorrow, November 21st:

10:30 Warehouse C (ATTENTION: TIME CHANGE)

The merging of books and cinema in the international market

Event held by the National Book Centre (NBC).

Spokesmen: Dimitris Nollas (president NBC), Carlo Fuscagni (president Cinecitta), Claire Brevart (president, Forum International Cinema et Littérature of Monte-Carlo), Marié-Pierre Valle, (artistic director of Studio Canal Canal+)

11:00 "John Cassavetes"

Masterclass: Guillermo Arriaga & Carlos Cuaron

Guillermo Arriaga, producer, screenwriter (Amores Perros, 21 grams, The three Burials of Melquiades Estrada) and author, and Carlos Cuaron, screenwriter (Y tu mama tabien), short film director and author, speak about the challenges in writing a screenplay.

Following will be the presentation of Guillermo Arriaga's book, A sweet sense of death Athens: 2005, Kedros.

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