

The Hellenic Society of Prometheus Newsletter 2. July 2001

Melina Mercouri Film Series at the National Gallery, Washington, DC

September 22 though October 7, 2001

The National Gallery in cooperation with the Embassy of Greece, the Melina Mercouri Foundation, Jules Dassin and Film Forum, New York present a series of movies by Melina Mercouri.

[Stella](#): Sept 22, 3:00 pm

(Newly struck print of the rarely seen) [He Who Must Die](#): Sept 23, 4:00 pm

[Phaedra](#) and [Lord Elgin and Some Stones of No Value](#): : Sept 29, 2:30 pm

[A Dream of Passion](#): Sept 30, 4:00 pm

[Never on Sunday](#), followed by discussion with Jules Dassin: Oct 7

More details follow

Stella

22 September at 3:00

Melina Mercouri's debut film--a drama of operatic scale set in a shadowy neorealist milieu and adapted from a play by Iakovos Kambanellis--was an early work of famed director Michael Cacoyannis. Mercouri plays the archetypal fiery femme fatale, a free spirit in revolt against the values of a patriarchal society, with tragic results. (Michael Cacoyannis, 1955, 100 minutes)

He Who Must Die

23 September at 4:00

A new restoration of one of Jules Dassin's most ambitious films, *He Who Must Die (Celui qui doit mourir)*, adapted from a novel by Nikos Kazantzakis, is set in a Greek village in the 1920s, a time of Turkish domination. When refugees arrive, the only villagers prepared to help are the players in the local passion play, including Melina Mercouri as Mary Magdalene. (Jules Dassin, 1957, 120 minutes)

Phaedra

29 September at 2:30

Grand, doomed passion unfolds among the jet set when shipping magnate Raf Vallone sends his second wife (Mercouri) to bring back his estranged son (Anthony Perkins) from exile in Paris. Euripides' *Hippolytus* was here updated to modern times by avant-garde writer Margarita Liberaki. (Jules Dassin, 115 minutes, 1961)

Also

Lord Elgin and Some Stones of No Value

One of Mercouri's most heartfelt crusades was promoting the return of the Parthenon marbles to Greece. In this English television drama, a crew and cast is reviewing their new film about Britain's nineteenth-century acquisition of the sculptures. A young Hugh Grant, before he was propelled to stardom, plays an actor performing the role of Lord Elgin's secretary. (Channel Four TV, London, 1985, 58 minutes)

A Dream of Passion

30 September at 4:00

In her last film, playing an actress preparing for the role of Medea, Mercouri becomes intrigued by an American woman (Ellen Burstyn) responsible for the murder of her children. For the actress, art and life come together. (Jules Dassin, 1978, 110 minutes)

Never on Sunday

7 October at 4:30

Arriving at the port of Piraeus on a tourist boat, a pedantic American writer named Homer (Jules Dassin) finds Ilya (Melina Mercouri), the port's most beloved prostitute, and falls for her even as he tries to educate and transform her. But her exuberant hedonism wins the day in this light-hearted fable, the theme music for which ultimately brought the *bouzouki* into homes around the world. (Jules Dassin, 1960, 90 minutes) *Jules Dassin will be present for the screening.*

Agamemnon and his daughters at the Arena Stage in DC Aug 31st-Oct 7th

The Arena Stage (110 6th Str. SW, Washington DC 20024) will play "Agamemnon and his daughters" from August 31st to October 7th. It is adapted by Kenneth Cavander and directed by Molly Smith. For tickets or information call 202-484-6279 or 202-488-4377

Prof. G.Pilitsis appointed Director of the Archdiocese Department of Greek Education

Archbishop Demetrios has named Prof. George Pilitsis as Director of the Department of Greek Education. Dr. Pilitsis is an associate professor at Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology where he has been teaching since 1988. Prior to Hellenic College he taught at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where he established and directed programs in Modern Greek Studies. Also he taught at Princeton University. Prof. Pilitsis' scholarly interests and areas of research are: social and cultural history of Greece, and literary accomplishments of modern Greece. His publications include articles on classical mythology, modern Greek folklore and critical studies in modern Greek poetry.

New Greek web sites

You can find the summer program of the Festival of Athens and the Theater of Epidavros in the new web site (<http://www.greekfestival.gr/festival/home.htm>)

For news on the 2004 Olympics in Athens see <http://athens.olympic.org>