

The Hellenic Society Prometheas

Newsletter

September 2001

Mark your calendars/Prometheas' Kafenio on Sept 28th

Prometheas will kick off the new season with its traditional KAFENIO scheduled for September 28, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Clara Barton Community Center (MacArthur Blvd & 7 Locks Rd) in Bethesda. Come and enjoy delicious mezedes with ouzo and wine, play tavli, read the latest news from Greece, meet your friends and talk about summer experiences. All this with background music by the Apocalypse band featuring Georgos Barlas on bouzouki. Don't miss it! It will be an enjoyable evening. A flyer with more details will be mailed out to members in early September.

During Kafenio, you will have the opportunity to look and even borrow "Pericles' Funeral Oration" (Perikleous Epitafios) in both ancient Greek and English. It was published by the Greek Parliament (limited edition) and was carried out by the Athens School of Fine Arts. Regarding this publication, the Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament made the following comments: "...It is hoped that this publication will serve to remind people of the roots and the fine qualities of a political system that we should not only acknowledge and pay homage to, but also, day by day, on a personal and on a collective level, endeavor to maintain and transform into a constantly strengthening reality".

Prometheas plans to show more Greek movies in the fall; stay tuned!

Greek films to be shown later in the fall. Our next newsletter will include specific details about movie selection and dates.

George D. Behrakis endows Boston Museum Collection

The Museum of Fine Arts of Boston received an endowment from George D. and Margo Behrakis for its Greek and Roman art collection, and the first-ever curator, Christine Kontoleon, was appointed.

Mark your calendars:

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

September 22 through October 7, 2001

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

[Stella](#): Sept 22, 3:00 p.m.

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

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

[A Dream of Passion](#): Sept 30, 4:00 p.m.

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

More details on the above:

Stella

22 September at 3:00 p.m.

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. It ends with tragic results. (Michael Cacoyannis, 1955, 100 minutes)

He Who Must Die

23 September at 4:00 p.m.

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 of the local play of passion, including Melina Mercouri as Mary Magdelene. (Jules Dassin, 1957, 120 minutes)

Phaedra

29 September at 2:30 p.m.

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. Here, Euripides' *Hippolytus* was updated to modern times by avant-garde writer Margarita Liberaki. (Jules Dassin, 115 minutes, 1961)

and

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 p.m.

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 p.m.

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. Her exuberant hedonism wins the day in this light-hearted fable, and the theme music of this film ultimately brought the *bouzouki music* 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 31-Oct 7

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

Modern Greek Studies Association: Symposium Oct 25-27, 2001, at Georgetown University

A symposium by the Modern Greek Studies Association has been planned for Oct. 25-27, 2001, at Georgetown University. Subjects include: Social and Cultural Dimensions of the Occupations and the Civil War, Poets and Poetry, The Greek Civil War, The Changing Face of Anthropology in Greece, Cavafy, Language-Education-Discourse, and Greek Society and the State in the 20th Century. For more information about this event you may call James Alatis at 202-687-5659 or mgsa2001@georgetown.edu.

Seminars on Greek literature and civilization to continue at St. George, Bethesda

Dr. Maria Anastasopoulou will continue the monthly seminars under the auspices of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Bethesda, MD (Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m.).

Return to Origins

The next annual performance of the **Return to Origins** program will take place on **March 17, 2002**, at the Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College-Rockville Campus.