



## 8th Syros International Film Festival (SIFF)

Newsletter # 1

# OFF SEASON

#siff2020 #offseason

**This year, the Syros International Film Festival realigns and expands its activities throughout the year into an “Off-Season” edition.**

Taking into account the special conditions that prevail over the world due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 8th edition of the Syros International Film Festival, which begins in July 2020 and culminates at the end of the year, explores the theme of “Off Season”

The events comprising this year’s festival will begin in early July in Athens and will travel to Syros in August, with more actions to be announced gradually over time.

SIFF is held with the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF).

### **SIFF in Athens | 8–9 July 2020 | Goethe-Institut Athen (Atrium):**

The start of the 8th Syros International Film Festival’s slate of summer activities is signaled by a collaboration with the Cimatheque – Alternative Film Centre in Cairo and with the support of Goethe-Institut Athen, involving a two-day screening program on 8 & 9 July at the atrium of the Goethe-Institut Athen (Omirou 14–16).

Specifically, on Wednesday, July 8, the SIFF team in collaboration with Goethe-Institut Athen, presents the work of two leading German directors: Harun Farocki’s short film *Filmbücher* (1986) and Wim Wenders’ medium-length *Room 666* (1982). In the midst of the Cannes Film Festival, Wenders invites some of his colleagues to his room at the Croisette, including Werner Herzog, Chantal Akerman, Jean-Luc Godard, and other giants of cinema to discuss the future of seventh art; today, these two documentaries – made at a turning point in the history of cinema, in which the whole industry was anxious about the future of the medium – come to recall the value of cinema as a collective viewing experience.



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The following day, On Thursday, July 9, a tribute selected by the Cinematheque will be shown at the same venue, dedicated to the work of Atteyat Al Abnoudy (1939–2018), an iconic Egyptian journalist and filmmaker, and one of the first women to shoot films in the Arab world. The program will include the following documentaries: *Horse of Mud* (1971), *The Sandwich* (1975) and *Seas of Thirst* (1981), three rare films that reveal aspects of the Mediterranean landscape and lifestyle, as if that they seem to be in a permanent “Off Season.”

The films in the program will be screened with English subtitles.

Address: Atrium of the Goethe-Institut Athen (Omirou 14-16, 100 33 Athens)

Start time: 21:00

Admission is free upon reservation on a first come first served basis.

Reservations can be made by sending your details to: [iris.asimakopoulou@goethe.de](mailto:iris.asimakopoulou@goethe.de)

## Cinema of Attractions | August 2020 | Syros:

The following month, SIFF travels to its home turf, Syros, for the first event of a series of actions which will unfold on its favorite island. Specifically, on August 1st, a screening will be held including a selection of films filmed with Edison’s kinetoscope. According to historical sources (ELIA, the Hellenic Literary and Historical Archive Society), Hermoupolis hosted the second film screening ever within the territory of the Greek state in 1900 – two years after the first screening in Athens. With the tools of digital technology and with the aim of activating a landmark moment in Greek cinematic heritage, SIFF has prepared a mapping and creative reproduction of a portion of this screening program of Edison’s kinetoscope.

The action will be scheduled for the evening of August 1, 2020, on the 120-year anniversary of that historic screening; the films will also be available online on the Festival’s website and YouTube channel for the whole of August.



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### “Off Season” | A few words about the theme:

The development of the “Off Season” theme for 2020 began immediately after the end of the seventh edition of SIFF. However, the current situation has given new dimensions to the theme: how to interpret the phrase “Off Season” when the prospect of restarting touristic activity seems distant and uncertain? What is “outside” and what is “within” an era in a period that has disturbed our perception of time itself, forced as we are to focus on the urgent circumstances of the present, on the imperative “here-and-now”? Through this particular theme, SIFF wishes to examine the imprint left on society by an event that is clearly defined in time, but also the relationship between the timeliness and the timelessness of moving images.

The 8th Syros International Film Festival is organized and funded under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports.

Gradually, the various other separate events and actions of this edition of SIFF will be announced, as well as the screening program of the Festival’s main event.

You can stay informed about all the details and subsequent announcements of the #siff2020 program through SIFF’s official website ([syrosfilmfestival.org](http://syrosfilmfestival.org)) as well as its official social media channels:

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[@syrosfilmfest](https://twitter.com/syrosfilmfest)

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#### To journalists:

For more information and visual material, please contact Katerina Trichia at:  
E: [press@syrosfilmfestival.org](mailto:press@syrosfilmfestival.org) & [ablaze.meursault@gmail.com](mailto:ablaze.meursault@gmail.com) | M: +30 6938300975

