



Berlinale  
64<sup>th</sup> Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
Competition

A FILM BY  
YANNIS ECONOMIDES

# STRATOS

THE STORM INSIDE

## SYNOPSIS



At age 19, Stratos committed a crime of passion. He spent half his life in prison, where underground boss Leonidas took him under his wing. One day during a rival gang attack, Leonidas saved his life. Stratos never forgot this.

A free man now, Stratos works the night shift at a bakery workshop, a far cry from the killing contracts he executes by day. He gives away all his money to spring Leonidas out of prison, funding an escape plan managed by Leo's brother, Yorgos.

The fulfillment of his debt is the only thing that matters to Stratos, everything else is indifferent and he lives detached, surrounded by ghosts and fallacies. The day of the escape, the most important day of his life, is near...

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



In STRATOS, things are not always as they seem. In the world of crime and lawlessness, what appears to be one thing is often another. That is to say, friendship and solidarity might equally be the precise contrary.

Morality and personal boundaries in a dark and inhumane world. A world that revolves around money, in which everything can be bought, sold and prostituted. A world that's hard for the little people.

The film takes the form of a Mediterranean film noir, but in fact depicts characters, passions and common forms of behaviour; needless to say, the film is essentially nothing but Stratos's internal journey into his own soul and into a disintegrating society.

All the spaces in the film, be they 'enclosed,' as are Stratos' lifeless flat and Petropoulos' night clubs, or be they 'open,' like the playground and the Cypriot beach, serve as reflection and extension of the protagonists by externalizing their inner worlds.

The cinematographic colour scheme, with its high contrast and a backdrop that stays dark even when the frame is flooded with light, describes the drama in terms that are abstract but which exhibit a concrete faith in realism.

The camera stays focused on the protagonists' faces throughout; a reliable observer of their every expression and movement, the lens simultaneously bears witness to their inner desires whilst examining the human beasts close-up in a style owing much to wildlife documentaries.

Using tight editing to transform cinematic time into an existential psycho-cardiogram of speech and silence, the film seeks to transcend its social content and become something archetypal – like a fairy-tale, say, or perhaps even a myth – albeit one drawn from the pages of our morning papers.

The performances, from amateur as well as professional actors, make the most significant contribution of all in creating a microcosm that exists, lives and breathes, beneath the surface of the idealized world in which we 'think' we live – one of shiny happy television and gift wrapping that traduces social classes and people into a squeaky-clean complacent and illusory whole.

The minimalist electric guitar chords of the commissioned soundtrack feed into the atmosphere and lyricism of an earthy, ontological drama.

Yannis Economides

**DIRECTOR –**  
**YANNIS ECONOMIDES**



Yannis Economides was born in 1967 in Limassol, Cyprus. In 1987 he moved to Athens to study filmmaking. After several short films and documentaries, in 2003 he wrote and directed his first feature film, *MATCHBOX*.

His second feature *SOUL KICKING* premiered in Semaine De La Critique in 2006 and his third, *KNIFER* (2010) won seven awards from the Greek Film Academy, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay.

**SELECTED**  
**FILMOGRAPHY**

2010 *Knifer*  
2006 *Soul Kicking*  
2003 *Matchbox*



## STRATOS – VANGELIS MOURIKIS

He studied film, music, history of art and acting in UK and Australia and has participated in numerous feature films, documentaries and short films mainly in Greece and Australia. As one of the best actors in Greece he has won numerous important awards.

### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 2013 *The Winter* dir. Koutsoliotas K.
- 2011 *Tungsten* dir. Georgopoulos G.
- 2011 *Ap'ta kokala vgalmena* dir. Goritsas S.
- 2010 *Knifer* dir. Economides Y.
- 2010 *Attenberg* dir. Tsangari A.R.
- 2009 *Deep Soul* dir. Voulgaris P.
- 2005 *The Wake* dir. Grammatikos  
Ministry of Culture's Awards '05: Best Actor Award
- 2004 *Rakushka* dir. Siskopoulou F.  
Thessaloniki IFF 2004: Best Supporting Actor Award
- 2002 *The King* dir. Grammatikos  
Thessaloniki IFF 2002: Best Actor, Best Film Award  
Kairo IFF 2003: Golden Pyramid (best film award)
- 1996 *Truants* dir. Grammatikos  
Thessaloniki IFF 1996: Best Supporting Actor, Best Film Awards
- 1994 *The Garden of God* dir. Spiridakis  
Thessaloniki IFF 1994: Special acting award  
Ministry of Culture Awards 1995: Best Actor Award



## PAINTER – YANNIS ANASTASAKIS

Yannis was born in Thessaloniki in 1964. He studied classic literature at Ioannina University and Drama at the Drama School of NTNG. Founding member of the Theatre Fellowship of Ioannina University (1983) the Theatre Organization »MOMENT« (1995). Art Director of the Theatre Organization »MOMENT«. He teaches Direction in the Theatre Studies Department of Patras University (2008-2012).

In 1996 he was awarded with the »Best Actor Honorable Mention« at the 19th Drama Short Film Festival, for his performance in the film «Close your eyes and paint» by John Leontaris.

### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 2010 *The Kings Of Mykonos* dir. Peter Andrikidis
- 2010 *Knifer* dir. Y. Economides
- 2006 *Soul Kicking* dir. Y. Economides
- 2000 *Ephemeral Town* dir. G. Zaphiris



## VICKY – VICKY PAPADOPOULOU

Born on February 9, 1982. She became known through her leading role in Christopher Papakaliatis TV series »Two Days Only« (Mega TV Channel) in 2006. Within the same year she participated in the successful TV series of Panos Kokkinopoulos, 10th ORDER.

### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 2011 *Christmas Tango* dir. Nikos Koutelidakis
- 2010 *The 3rd Law* dir. Panos Kokkinopoulos (TV Series)
- 2008 *L.A.P.D.*, dir. Stefanos Blatsos (TV Series)
- 2008 *I Have a Secret...* dir. R. Eskenazy, Str. Markidis (TV Series)
- 2008 *I Saw You ...* dir. Str. Theodoratou (TV Series)
- 2009 *Small Crime* dir. Christos Georgiou
- 2007 *True Romances* dir. Panagiotis Fafoutis (TV Series)
- 2007 *Elli Lambeti: The Last Performance* dir. Reina Eskenazy (TV Series)
- 2006 *Dying in Athens* dir. N. Panayotopoulos



## YORGOS – YANNIS TSORTEKIS

Born in Athens in 1967. Graduated with honors from the National Theatre's School of Dramatic Art in 1995. Undergraduate student in the Department of Theatre Studies at the University of Patras. Studies in Russian language. Founding member of the Theatre Company "Rosemary at the top of the hills". Founding member of the Independent Arts Council I.A.R.C.

### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 2009 *J.A.C.E.* dir. M. Karamaggiolis
- Charisma* dir. Chr. Ioakimidou
- 2008 *Guilt* dir. V. Mazomenos
- 2001 *Save Me* dir. S. Tzitzis
- 1996 *Touch Me Not* dir. D. Giatzouzakis
- 1994 *Who Killed...* dir. S. Pavlidis



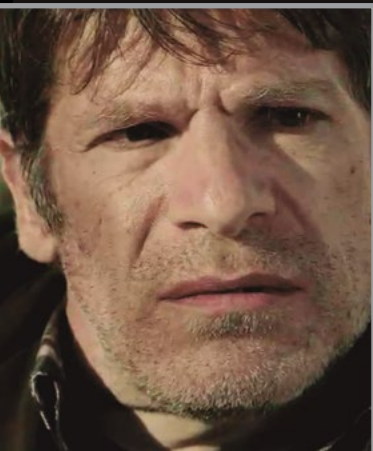
## MAKIS – PETROS ZERVOS

Born in 1958 in Athens. Greek comic creator and architect graduate of NTUA. Along with Architecture, he started sketching caricatures and occupied with comics.

In the 90s he stopped publishing his work and he was appearing in exhibitions, while working in advertising and animation. Since 2000, when he returned to print presence, he is cooperating with well-known newspapers and magazines.

His works have been exhibited in Athens, Thessaloniki, Volos, Ioannina, Italy and more. In September of 2006 he won the second award in the international cartoon exhibition QuoVadisTerra? In Rhodes.

Four books of his have been published. In parallel, he is amateur actor and he is taking part occasionally in feature films.



## PETROPOULOS – YORGOS YANNOPOULOS

He graduated from the Athens Dramatic School in 1989.

Since 1988 he has participated in many films, plays and TV series.

### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 2013 *The Final Payoff* dir. A. Leontaritis
- 2010 *Show Bitch* dir. N. Zervos
- 2010 *45 m2* dir. Str. Tzitzis
- 2010 *180 Moires* dir. N. Dimitropoulos
- 2008 *O Gios Tou Charlie* dir. K. Zonaras
- 2007 *Parees* dir. S. Goritsas
- 2004 *Rakushka* dir. F. Siskopoulou
- 2004 *Marathon* dir. A. Kokkinos
- 2001 *...Kai Aurio Mera Einai* dir. D. Masklavanou
- 2000 *Pamptohoi A.e.* dir. A. Kokkinos
- 1998 *My Brother And I* dir. A. Kokkinos
- 1993 *A Time to Kill* dir. N. Grammatikos

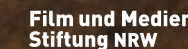


## CAST & CREW



**CAST** **Stratos** Vangelis Mourikis  
**Vicky** Vicky Papadopoulou  
**Makis** Petros Zervos  
**Giorgos** Yannis Tsortekis  
**Petropoulos** Giorgos Giannopoulos  
**Painter** Yannis Anastasakis  
**Katerina** Polina Dellatola  
**The Lookout** Yannis Voulgarakis  
**Jenny** Sonia Theodoridou  
**Leonidas** Alekos Pangalos  
**Lady at the cemetery** Maria Kallimani  
**Maria** Popi Tsapanidou  
**Lawyer** Omiros Poulakis

**CREW** **Director** Yannis Economides  
**Screenplay** Yannis Economides, Thanos Xiros, Vangelis Mourikis, Christos V. Konstantakopoulos, Harry Lagoussis  
**Director of Photography** Dimitris Katsaitis  
**Editor** Yannis Chalkiadakis  
**Original Music** Babis Papadopoulos  
**Production Manager** Dimitris Birbilis  
**First Assistant Director** Christos Houliaras  
**Casting Director** Sotiria Marini  
**Make Up Artist** Yannis Pamoukis  
**Costume Designer** Ioulia Stavrídou  
**Sound Recordists** Dinos Kittou, William Ed. Franck  
**Sound Design** Kostas Fylaktides  
**Producers** Christos V. Konstantakopoulos, Panos Papahadzis, Michael Weber  
**Executive Producer** Marina Konstantakopoulou  
**Co-Producers** Viola Fügen, Irini Souganidou  
**Production Companies** Faliro House Productions, Argonauts Productions S.A, Match Factory Productions, Y.E Films Ltd  
**Co-Production** Feelgood Entertainment S.A, PT-NERIT S.A, Cyprus Ministry of Culture  
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## TECHNICAL DETAILS

**Running Time:** 138 min / 24 fps  
**Shooting Format:** Digital Alexa  
**Screening Format:** DCP / 35 mm  
**Aspect Ratio:** 2.39:1  
**Sound Format:** 5.1 Dolby Digital  
**Original Version:** Greek  
**Subtitles:** English

## WORLD SALES

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