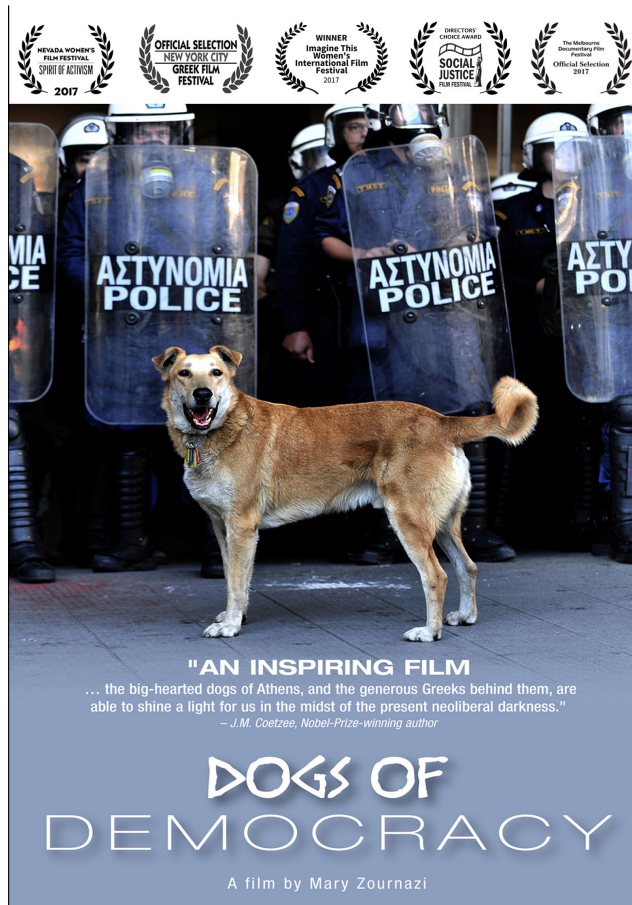


DOGS OF DEMOCRACY



A FILM BY

MARY ZOURNAZI

57 mins / Color / 2016 / English, Greek, English Subtitles / Australia



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AWARDS

Best Documentary – 2017 Imagine This Women’s International Film Festival, Brooklyn NY

Directors' Choice Award – 2017 Social Justice Film Festival

Spirit of Activism Award, Nevada Women’s Film Festival

Impact Documentary Award

Spotlight Documentary Award

Shortlisted Telling Tales International Film and Audio Festival

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Ethnografilm, Paris

Docutah Film Festival, US

Melbourne Documentary Film Festival

London Greek Film Festival

New York City Greek Film Festival

Nevada Women’s Festival, US

Female Eye Film Festival, Toronto

Gdansk Film Festival, Poland.

Iepetrea International Documentary Film Festival

New Hope Film Festival, US

Telling Tales International Film and Audio Festival, Manchester

Lady’s First International Film Festival, Ireland

Social Justice Film Festival, Seattle

Sydney Greek Film Festival

Melbourne Greek Film Festival

Brisbane Greek Film Festival

Canberra Greek Film Festival

Imagine This International Women’s Festival, Brooklyn

Dogs Film Festival, New York

Greek Film Festival Australia: Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane

Peloponnisos Documentary Film Festival

Oz Dox

Marrickville Library

Greek Film Archive, Athens

Hellenic Union of Southern California, Martin Luther King Jr Auditorium, Santa Monica

Global Cinema Film Festival of Boston

SYNOPSIS

Dogs of Democracy is a documentary about the stray dogs of Athens and the people who take care of them. Filmmaker Mary Zournazi explores life on the streets through the eyes of the dogs and peoples' experience. Shot on location in Athens, the birthplace of democracy, the documentary is about how Greece has become the 'stray dogs of Europe', and how the dogs have become a symbol of hope for the people and for the anti-austerity movement. A universal story about love and loyalty and what we might learn from animals.

"A powerful film narrative, the stray dogs of central Athens are transformed from mere symbols of a peculiar freedom to witnesses of a heart-wrenching human crisis."

- Yanis Varoufakis, Greek economist, Academic and Politician



DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

I made my film *Dogs of Democracy* almost by accident. I took my first ever trip to Athens in October, 2014. I had gone for a holiday and in search of my cultural roots. But I had arrived in the middle of the Greek economic crisis. I could feel the tension on the streets, but walking around the city, I also noticed something else, something unexpected and unique. All round the city there were stray dogs, they seemed to occupy the city like 'citizens' – they crossed the traffic lights, they socialized, they were part of the urban life and feel of the city. Immediately I fell in love with them, and I became curious about their 'lives'. In a very short time, I realized that the dogs were looked after by volunteers in Athens, who cared for and fed the stray dogs. I became fascinated by how in the middle of Greece's worst economic crisis people were willing to take care of the animals. I began to consider what this might say about our ideas of love, community and care. That's how the story began: a love of the animals, and the love of the city and its people

The film also took somewhat unexpected turns: I travelled to the island of Lesbos and documented not only the economic crisis but also aspects of the migrant crisis as it unfolded in Greece. The film is a story about the stray dogs of Athens, but it is equally a story about peoples' courage and dignity in times of crisis. The film is my love letter to Greece: to its people and to its stray animals.

Mary Zournazi



BIOGRAPHIES

MARY ZOURNAZI – DIRECTOR

Mary Zournazi is an Australian author, philosopher, and filmmaker. She wrote, directed and filmed *Dogs of Democracy* (2016), which is an essay style documentary about the stray dogs of Athens and the people who take care of them. She is the author of several books including *Hope - New Philosophies for Change* and *Inventing Peace* with the German filmmaker Wim Wenders. She teaches in the sociology program at the University of New South Wales, Australia.

TOM ZUBRYCKI – PRODUCER

Tom Zubrycki is an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose career has spanned 40 years. Tom has directed 17 documentaries of his own, and produced another 20 with mainly early-career directors, including *Dogs Of Democracy* (2017). As director Tom is well known for his distinctive observational story-telling style and his ability to get close to his subjects. His most notable films include *Kemira - Diary of Strike* (1984), *Homelands* (1993), *Billal* (1995), *The Diplomat*, *Molly & Mobarak* (2003), *The Hungry Tide* (2011), *Hope Road* (2017). Awards as producer include an International Emmy for *Exile in Sarajevo* (1996). In 2010 Tom received the Stanley Hawes Award “in recognition of outstanding contribution to documentary filmmaking in Australia”. Tom teaches master-classes in documentary at the Australian Film, TV and Radio School. He has served on international juries in the Dubai, Mumbai, Sydney film festivals.

www.tomzubrycki.com

K.BHTA – COMPOSER

Konstantinos Vita was born in Melbourne, Australia. He studied Painting and History of Arts in Melbourne. In 1992, he formed the electronic band Stereo Nova, with which he recorded five official albums. In 1996, Stereo Nova disbanded and he began to pursue a solo career. He has composed music for documentaries, movies and the theatre. He lives and works in Athens.

PETER CROMBIE - EDITOR

Peter Crombie is an Australian editor. Peter's feature film credits include the feature films "Ruben Guthrie" (Dir: Brendan Cowell) for Scarlett Pictures and "The Reef" (Dir: Andrew Traucki) for Prodigy Films. His documentary work includes the series "Borderland" for IN Films and Al Jazeera America, "The Secret Life of Pearls" (Nat Geo Wild/Northern Pictures) and *Dogs of Democracy*.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director: Mary Zournazi

Producer: Tom Zubrycki

Writer: Mary Zournazi

Camera: Mary Zournazi

Editor: Peter Crombie

Music: K. BHTA