

FOCUS ON CYPRUS



Official Name: Republic of Cyprus
Official Language: Greek, Turkish, English
Currency: Euro (EUR)
Population: 838,897
Capital: Nicosia (population of 47,832)

A General Overview

The Cypriot cinema was born much later than the cinema of other European countries. Its short history begins with the creation of Cypriot television in 1957, when the first short-length films, mainly documentaries, began to be made. The pioneers of Cypriot cinema during the 1950s were, to mention a few, George Lanitis, Ninos Fenek Mikellides, Reno Wideson and Polys Georgakakis. Feature length films were produced only later, in the late 1960s and early 70s, when the production showed a richer crop of films.

However, in the last decades, along with Cyprus' EU integration processes, the first coordinated steps have been taken to create a distinct Cypriot cinematography. Cinematographic production in Cyprus received a boost in 1994 with the establishment of the **Cinema Advisory Committee**. It provides government grants for Cypriot productions. Cypriot co-productions are also eligible to funding from EURIMAGES and MEDIA Program. In the past years Cyprus have also been involved in several co-productions with Greece and Balkan countries.

Cyprus (born) most acclaimed international director is Michael Cacoyannis. His famous film *Zorba the Greek* (1964) was a huge success worldwide, winning six Oscar nominations and three Oscars. Among the recent Cypriot films, *Fish n' Chips* (2011) by Elias Demetriou and *'Small Crime'* (2008) by Christos Georgiou received particular attention.



ELIAS DEMETRIOU, *Fish n' Chips* (2011) – Cypriot-Greek-British co-production

Statistics

Cyprus usually makes two feature film productions per year, around 4-5 short films, 1-2 documentaries and 1-2 feature films developed (script writing).

Figures from 2010

- State funding: up to EUR 850,000 (50%) for production of a feature film
- Total Number of exhibition companies: 5
- Tickets sold per capita in Cyprus: 0.98
- National market share in Cyprus in 2010: 1.6%
- Admissions: 852,542 (819,193 for US films, 1,109 for European films and 32,240 for other films)
- Number of cinema theatres: 7 (31 screens)
- Number of theatres equipped with digital screens: 12
- Average ticket price: EUR 8 for Adults / EUR 6 for children under 11 (10 EUR for 3D Screenings)

Ministry of Education and Culture (Film Fund)

The Cinema Advisory Committee (CAC) is a body within the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus that gives recommendations about which projects should be supported.

The objectives of the Film Funding Programme is to promote the development of local and international cinematographic co-productions. Both domestic and foreign production companies can apply to this fund.

Ministry of Education and Culture (Film Fund)

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MEDIA Desk Cyprus

MEDIA is a programme of the European Union to strengthen the competitiveness of the European film, TV and new media industries and to increase international circulation of European audiovisual product.

On 13th of February 2003, the Republic of Cyprus became a member of the MEDIA Programme of the European Union. For Cypriot companies this date meant the opening of a long-awaited source of financing, especially for the development of new films, training and film festivals.

In this short time the Republic of Cyprus membership in the MEDIA Programme, Cypriot companies and Professionals have received over EUR 300,000 of support. Seven Cypriot films have received MEDIA support so far. In comparison to other European countries this figure might sound quite small, but for the Cyprus industry this has been a significant progress.

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Film Festivals

Cyprus Film Days (April)

The festival was created in 2003 with an aim to promote international and Cypriot cinema, supporting and featuring the work of independent filmmakers, showcasing new talent and becoming a meeting point for filmmakers from the three continents surrounding the island of Cyprus. The festival hosts an international competition section titled "Glocal Images" in which films from both around the globe and Cyprus are screened.

www.cyprusfilmdays.com

Countryside Animafest Cyprus (July)

The **Countryside Animafest Cyprus** (CAFCY) is an International Animated Film Festival organized by the NGO **Views of the World Festival** and **Hambis Printmaking Museum**. CAFCY is the only animation festival in Cyprus, organized with the official support of the Ministry of Education & Culture of the Republic of Cyprus and the admission to the festival and sidebar events is free.

The 11th edition of the festival will be held at the Prastio Avdimou village in the district of Limassol, **July 19-22, 2012**.

www.cafcy.org

Limassol International Documentary Film Festival (August)

The 'Lemesos International Documentary Film Festival' is dedicated to presenting contemporary creative documentaries in Cyprus. In addition, through the organization of workshops and lectures, it offers the possibility to local professional directors and producers to get acquainted with the latest trends and tendencies in the documentary genre and to get informed about the prospects of fund raising and promoting their own projects in the broader European spectrum.

www.filmfestival.com.cy

ISFFC-International Short Film Festival of Cyprus (October)

ISFFC has as its main objective the promotion of cinematographic art by presenting a diverse showcase of short films from around the globe. Fiction, documentaries, experimental and animation short films not exceeding 25 minutes in length are eligible for participation in the festival's competition.

www.isffc.com.cy