

Hellenic Film Society USA Commemorates the Jewish Community of Greece And Holocaust Remembrance With Two Greek Films Streaming Worldwide Throughout January

Astoria, NY — January 2, 2021 — Hellenic Film Society USA (HFS) has announced that it will stream two Jewish-themed Greek films throughout the month of January to mark Holocaust Remembrance. The drama, *Cloudy Sunday*, and documentary, *My Sweet Canary*, began streaming worldwide on Sunday, January 3 through Saturday, February 6.

Cloudy Sunday (Ouzeri Tsitsanis), directed by Manoussos Manousakis, is a drama set in the Nazi-occupied Greek city of Thessaloniki in 1943, when during an alarming escalation of Jewish persecution, a young Christian resistance fighter falls in love with a Jewish woman. Traditional Sephardic music and the melodies of Vasilis Tsitsanis add to the poignancy of this enthralling drama about love and the horrors of war. *The Forward* calls it “a powerful, melancholy text that has important implications for contemporary struggles.”

My Sweet Canary, a Greek/Israeli co-production written and directed by Roy Sher, is a rousing documentary about the life of legendary Greek singer Roza Eskenazy, a Sephardic Jew who is widely credited with popularizing the musical genre of rebetika, considered a form of Greek blues, during a 50-year career that began in the 1920s. Both films will be shown with English subtitles.

“The Hellenic Film Society is proud to recognize, during Holocaust Remembrance, Jewish contributions to Greek culture, and to pay tribute to the tens of thousands lost in concentration camps,” says Jimmy DeMetro, president of the Hellenic Film Society. “The moving films we’ve selected capture the joys as well as the horrors of that time and will resonate with today’s audiences.” Nearly 60,000 Greek Jews died in the Holocaust during the Nazi occupation of Greece during World War II.

January’s programming is made possible by a generous donation from the Koslosky Family Foundation. For further information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.hellenicfilmusa.org.

The two films are presented as part of the Hellenic Film Society’s Always on Sunday on Demand film series, an outgrowth of the Always on Sunday film series which began at the prestigious Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria, NY in 2018. The monthly online series follows the successful virtual Greek film festival that HFS presented in July after the pandemic forced movie theaters to close indefinitely, precluding the presentation of the New York Greek Film Expo, the Society’s annual spring film festival in theaters around the New York metropolitan area.

About the Hellenic Film Society USA

The Hellenic Film Society USA (HFS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization rooted in the belief that Greek cinema can and should be part of the American cultural landscape. The organization promotes feature films, documentaries, and film shorts made by Greek filmmakers and those of Greek descent, as well as films that promote the cultures of Greece and Cyprus.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation is the lead supporter of the Hellenic Film Society USA. Additional support is provided by Onassis Foundation USA, the Kallinikeion Foundation, Queens Council on the Arts, and the New York City Council through the office of Council Member Costa Constantinides. For additional information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.hellenicfilmusa.org or call 646-844-1488.

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Hellenic Film Society USA presents ALWAYS ON SUNDAY ON DEMAND, monthly streaming Greek film series

Two new films streaming Sunday, January 3, 2021—Saturday, February 6, 2021



Cloudy Sunday, directed by Manoussos Manoussakis, is a wartime romance set in Thessaloniki against the backdrop of Nazi occupation. When a Jewish woman and a young Christian resistance fighter fall in love, they are forced to make painful decisions during the darkest days of World War II.



In ***My Sweet Canary***, three young musicians from Greece, Turkey, and Israel tell the story of Roza Eskenazi, a Sephardic Jew who took the Greek music scene by storm in the 1920s and '30s, as the Diva of Rebetiko. The documentary, directed by Roy Sher, traces her career and delves into why her music, thought of as Greek blues, is still relevant today.