



The Athens Open Air Film Festival & the Athens International Film Festival - Opening Nights join forces with the Movement of Artists with Disabilities for Accessible Cinema.

Aiming at unhindered access for every film lover/filmmaker across the board, this new alliance will implement a series of measures to ensure maximum accessibility in venues and attendance.

5th Athens Open Air Film Festival

The organizers of the 5th Athens Open Air Film Festival are working with Traffic Police in order to ensure:

- up to three (3) parking spots for people with disabilities
- that no car with a special disabilities badge receives a parking ticket during the screenings
- that all cars that have taken up assigned disability parking spots are removed

The venues where the above measures will be implemented include the following:

- The Greek Film Archive
- The Kolonos Open-air Theater
- The Railway Carriage Theater
- The National Archaeological Museum of Athens
- The Byzantine and Christian Museum
- The Numismatic Museum Athens
- Avdi Square
- Kotzia Square
- Akadimia Platonos (Plato's Academy)
- Dionysiou Areopagitou Pedestrian Area

In each screening, 10 front-row seats will be reserved for people with disabilities.

Moreover, provisions have been made for accessible WC's.

The festival program is already available in Braille, while it has also been printed in large-font print for people with visual disabilities. Printouts are available in all screenings.

«Revanche» by Nikos Vergitsis (2/09) will be screened with captions for the deaf and hard-of-hearing (SDH), while the festival's remaining three Greek films, «Hard Goodbyes: My Father» by Penny Panayotopoulou (22/07), «ROM» by Menelaos Karamaghiolis (25/08) and «The Spring Gathering» by Dimos Avdeliodis (31/8), will be available with simultaneous Sign Language Interpreting by professional interpreter Theodora Tsapoti.

21st Athens International Film Festival – Opening Nights

Following «The Unknown Land of Disability: Universal Access to the Art of Filmmaking» workshop last year, the festival joins forces with the Movement of Artists with Disabilities once again.

The 21st Athens International Film Festival – Opening Nights is making a conscious effort to screen as many Greek films as possible with captions for the deaf and hard-of-hearing (SDH), while consecutive interpreting into Sign Language will be available during the Opening and Closing Nights, as well as in all master classes.

Moreover, the festival has already scheduled the screening of Pantelis Voulgaris' «Little England» with captions for the deaf and hard-of-hearing (SDH) and audio description (AD) for people with visual disabilities, which is going to be the first screening of its kind in Greece.

The daily schedule of the festival will be printed in Braille, as well as in large-font print for people with visual disabilities, and it will also be available on the official website (www.aiff.gr) in .pdf and HTML5 for ease of access by screen readers.

Last but not least, entrance to the festival screenings for people with disabilities will be free of charge, while guide dogs will be welcome.

The Movement of Artists with Disabilities and the true meaning of Disability

The Movement of Artists with Disabilities is a collectivity aiming to ensure the participation of people with disabilities in local cultural events, both as spectators/listeners and creative content providers. Artists with disabilities have produced a rich and varied body of work that incorporates the collective experience of disability and contributes to the cultural landscape of the country. Through art and activism, they promote the struggle for civil and social rights of people with disabilities.

The term 'people with disabilities' is used to refer to individuals with physical impairments, sensory, cognitive or intellectual impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation to society on an equal basis with other people. According to the social model of disability, people with impairments are social, cultural and educational outcasts, due to systemic barriers, practices, ideologies and policies implemented by the society and the State, which (following "normality" standards)

do not consider disability a part of human diversity, thus excluding people with disabilities from the right to full involvement in social-cultural events.

Starting in 2011, the Movement of Artists with Disabilities has taken action on several cultural fronts, using artistic activities to familiarize local communities with the day-to-day reality of disability as part of the human condition, as they consider art and self-expression to be the cornerstones of democracy, building open-minded societies with no dividing lines.