

Marsia Tzivara
Filmmaker

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Short Bio

Marsia Tzivara is a filmmaker and video- activist from Athens-Greece, currently based in Berlin. She is a founding member of the Greek-German culture association, member of the video collective AK-KRAAK, and one of the founders of HELLAS FILMBOX BERLIN, the biggest festival of Greek film in Europe, with a political theme.

She studied media at the University of Sunderland in England, and continued with a master in Film Studies. She has completed intensive courses on scriptwriting for film and TV, and has participated to the BBC workshop on scriptwriting for documentaries. She also holds a college degree on Humanities studies and during her professional career; she has participated in numerous masterclasses on film direction, casting direction and production, by awarded professionals, such us Ulrich Seidl, James Chreesanthis and Joshua Oppenheimer.

Marsia has been working professionally in the film and TV industry since 2001. She has worked as assistant director and casting director in more than 30 TV series and films, with the latest success being '*Xenia*' which was awarded in Cannes, while was the Greek nomination for the Oscars. During the last years, she has focused more on documentaries. '*Children of the riots*', in which she was associate director, was produced by Al Jazeera and was one of the 10 features which were financed as internal productions for 'Witness'. The dramatized documentary '*Recycling Media*' – in which she was casting director and assistant director, was awarded from the 'cinema from piece foundation' as 'most valuable documentary 2014'. She has recently released her debut feature documentary '*Burning from the inside*' which was awarded in San Francisco and Jakarta at the annual film awards. At the moment she is on development for her forthcoming project 'Day mare', to be released in 2017.

AVAILABLE TEACHING WORKSHOPS

- **Documentary workshop: Techniques of representing and capturing actuality.**

Total Sessions: 4

Total Teaching hours: 24

Description

The aim of this workshop is to present a combination of theoretical and practical techniques for the development and production of cinematic documentaries. Focusing in detail in all stages of the production process, the participants will have the opportunity of practicing their skills on project presentation and script writing, shooting organization, filming techniques and narrative structure, character casting and subject approach. The workshop will function on two parallel levels: On the first half of each session, we will focus on the art of making documentaries, while during the second half of the sessions the participants will actually develop and produce one. The participants will be divided in pairs, and each one will be asked to create a 5- minute mini documentary film, placing their partner as the 'protagonist'. This way, the directors will also become 'subjects' and thus will experience the psychology of the production process on another level. The projects will be screened at the last day of the workshop, together with the presentation of a concrete production file.

Aims & Objectives

By the completion of the workshop, the participants are expected to develop an advance understanding of the whole process of documentary making (from concept development to film distribution) as well as the ability to communicate their creativity to the targeted audience.

Prerequisites

This workshop addresses to people who have at least an intermediate background level on Filmmaking and a genuine interest in documentaries.

- **The director's department: Assistant directors, script supervisor & Casting directors**

Total Sessions: 4

Total Teaching hours: 24

Description

This workshop addresses to documentary and fiction film students with at least some experience in film shootings. The aim is to define and analyze the role of each member in the director's department throughout the three stages of the production process. We will be focusing on the allocation of roles within the team and the authority of the first assistant director, on the structure of the film developing process and the shooting organization, as well as the art of casting characters and character development. At the end of this workshop, the participants will have a very good awareness on how a film project is structured, developed and filmed, as well as the dimensions and techniques of casting.

Aims & Objectives

By completion of the workshop, the participants will know how to analyze a script and prepare it for production. They will know to create breakdowns, programs and call sheets, as well as tips for a successful appearance on set. They will be introduced to advanced casting techniques, and learn how to research, shoot and select actors, extras and performers for a film.

Prerequisites

This workshop addresses to people who have at least an intermediate background level on Filmmaking and a genuine interest in Film direction and/or production. It addresses to all who plan in shooting a film or work in professional film and TV productions.

• Script writing for film: From the idea to the finished script

Total Sessions: 4

Total Teaching hours: 24

Description

The aim of this workshop is to introduce the participants to the art of screen writing, using theoretical and practical techniques. Each participant is invited to join the workshop with an initial idea, which will be progressively developed to a concrete short film script, up to 20 minutes.

We will focus on how to build, structure and develop a story. How to construct and develop a character and how to create the filmic space, time and rhythm. We will present structural and narrative techniques and we will analyze all the ingredients that contribute to a good and concrete script.

Parallel to the classes, the participants will work on their own initial idea, which they will have the opportunity to present and improve within the group. They will be trained in writing synopsis and treatments for their film and how to present it to potential producers or funding institutions.

Aims & Objectives

By completion of the workshop, the participants will have developed their original idea to a full film script, which could be submitted to all relative funding and production sources or be ready for production.

Prerequisites

The workshop addresses to film students who would like to improve or develop their script writing skills. It is also suitable for people who plan to shoot a specific film and would like to improve their script.

- **Casting techniques for fiction and documentaries**

Total Sessions: 1-2

Total Teaching hours: 6-12

Description

This workshop can be conducted in either one or two teaching sessions, depending on how deep the participants want to get into casting. We will focus on casting techniques, character analysis, character direction and development as well as the role of the casting director within the production team. The participants will learn how to conduct successful auditions, create professional casting videos, as well as casting research techniques for fiction and documentary films.

Aims & Objectives

By completion of this workshop, the participants will be ready to conduct professional castings for every script demand and on all principles: Protagonists, support, extras, stunts etc. as well as develop techniques with which they will be able to achieve the best performance of every actor.

Prerequisites

This workshop addresses to people with film direction background or perspectives and addresses to all levels of film students

- **Independent film production from A-Z**

Total Sessions: 1

Total Teaching hours: 6

Description

This workshop aims to underline and analyze all steps of an indie film production, from the idea conception to distribution. We will be discussing ways for producing your film efficiently, with practical tips and advice from the 'real world'. The participants will gain awareness on concept presentation and development, filmmaking tips to save time and money, as well as on funding possibilities and methods. We will be also discussing big festival entries, as well as successful pitching sessions.

Aims & Objectives

By completion of this session, the participants will have been introduced to the creative world of independent filmmaking and will have gained a strong awareness on effective and successful tips, to have their films not only produced, but also screened.

Prerequisites

This workshop addresses to potential producers and directors with a fictional and/or documentary background.

- **Feminist film theory: A reader**

Description

Total Sessions: 1

Total Teaching hours: 6

Introduction to contemporary feminist approaches on film, and their impact to the general development of dominant narratives in filmmaking. Focus on important feminist film traditions and filmmakers, and their impact on the development of film art. We will discuss approaches such as psychoanalysis, semiotics and post-structuralism, and we will be analyzing the representation of the 'female', within the dominant patriarchal cultures. This seminar could also expand to another practical session, upon request.

Aims & Objectives

By completion of this session, the participants will be introduced to the study of film, based on feminist approaches

Prerequisites

This session addresses to all people who have an interest in filmmaking, regardless professional background.