

FEMALE PRESS KIT



Logline

FEMALE reimagines the life of Aliki Vougiouklaki (the “Marilyn Monroe of Greece”) through a daring narrative collage that fractures her myth and reveals the woman behind the legend.



Synopsis

FEMALE reframes the myth and legacy of Aliki Vougiouklaki, the most iconic actress in modern Greek history. Adored by millions and often compared to Marilyn Monroe, Aliki embodied empowerment while remaining confined by the conservative culture that both idolized and controlled her.

The film adopts a bold narrative approach: three performers portray Aliki, each portraying a different aspect of her identity and myth. Among them is an actress discovered at Athens' leading drag stage, where her uncanny performance of Aliki had already captivated audiences. Through this interplay of bodies and perspectives, the film exposes Aliki's contradictions: glamorous yet vulnerable, liberated yet constrained, beloved yet profoundly alone.

Set against the shifting backdrop of post-war Greece and resonating into the present, FEMALE is both intimate character study and cultural excavation; a cinematic meditation on celebrity, female identity, and the timeless tension between self and persona.

Director's statement

I made *FEMALE* out of a deep desire to look at Alikì Vougiouklaki anew — to peel away the layers of myth, nostalgia, and performance that have long defined her. Growing up in Greece, Alikì was everywhere — an image of joy, light, and femininity that shaped entire generations. But behind that image, I always sensed another woman: complex, vulnerable, intelligent, and perhaps misunderstood. This film became my way of reaching her — of revisiting her not as a distant idol, but as a living presence who still has something urgent to say to us today.

Female was conceived as a cinematic experiment — a blend of truth and invention, of documentary and dream. I wanted to create a space where Alikì's multiple selves could coexist and speak to each other. Using a collage of film, video, and sound, we built a world made of fragments: "fake" home videos, rehearsals, interviews, answering machine messages, and staged photographs. These elements blur the line between the real and the imagined, allowing the audience to experience Alikì's inner world rather than simply watch her from afar.

Editing became the emotional core of the film. It's where her contradictions came alive — the tension between the woman she was and the star she created. Every cut, every shift in rhythm, was meant to evoke her constant oscillation between intimacy and spectacle, between truth and image. To express her multifaceted nature, three actresses portray Alikì, each revealing a different dimension of her — the innocent, the fighter, and the icon. Each is filmed by a different cinematographer, giving the film a visual diversity that mirrors the complexity of her identity.

Throughout the film, I was guided by the question of how we, as a society, construct and consume female icons. Alikì's story is not just about celebrity; it's about survival, self-definition, and resilience in a world that often reduces women to symbols. By revisiting her, I wanted to reclaim her depth — to reveal her true essence and value beyond the glittering surface.

Female is not a nostalgic portrait; it is a conversation across time. It is my attempt to listen to Alikì's silences, to feel her contradictions, and to see her not as an untouchable legend but as a woman who dared to live and perform her truth in a world that demanded perfection. Through this film, I hope audiences will meet her again — and perhaps, finally, see her clearly.

Director's biography and selected filmography

Konstantinos Menelaou is a Greek director and producer with a strong artistic background in experimental and documentary cinema. He holds an MA in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins and has collaborated with artists and creatives on video artworks, short films, and fashion projects. Passionate about documentaries, he explores queer narratives and social themes through a deeply personal lens. He is the founder of The Queer Archive Films, his production company dedicated to creating films that highlight LGBTQ+ stories, blending intimate storytelling with a visually striking cinematic approach.

2018 / Make/Believe / Feature Film

Screenings:

- Thessaloniki Documentary Festival – Greece
- A Shaded View on Fashion Film Festival – France
- Istanbul Fashion Film Festival – Turkey

2018 / He Loves Me / Feature Film

Screenings:

- GFest – USA – Best Cinematography Award
- Reeling Film Festival – USA
- Luststreifen Film Festival – Switzerland

2015 / Lonely / Short Film

Screenings:

- Toronto Queer Film Festival – Canada
- Outview Film Festival – Greece
- MIX Copenhagen – Denmark

2013 / Sebastien's Night Out / Short Film

Screenings:

- BFI Flare London – UK
- TLVFest Tel Aviv – Israel
- MIX NYC – USA

2012 / Matthew / Short Film

Screenings:

- Queer Lisboa – Portugal
- MIX Milano – Italy
- BFI Flare London – UK

Cast bios

VICKY PAPADOPOULOU

ALIKI

Vicky Papadopoulou is a Greek actress known for her powerful performances across film, theater, and television. A graduate of the National Theatre of Greece Drama School, she has appeared in acclaimed films such as *Ap' to Homa Ftiagma* by Syllas Tzoumerkas and *Eftyhia* by Angelos Frantzis. On stage, she has collaborated with the National Theatre of Greece and major directors like Nikos Karathanos and Dimitris Karantzas

ALKISTI POULOPOULOU

ALIKI

Alkisti Pouloupoulou is a Greek actress acclaimed for her dynamic performances in cinema, theater, and television. A graduate of the National Theatre of Greece Drama School, she has starred in films such as *Still River* by Angelos Frantzis and *Thread* by Alexander Voulgaris. On stage, she has collaborated with the National Theatre of Greece and directors like Yannis Houvardas and Dimitris Karantzas

TANIA KELLY

ALIKI

Tania Kellh is a Greek trans performer and actress, best known for her appearances at the iconic Athens nightclub "Koukles." Highly talented in impersonations, she is especially celebrated for her captivating performances as Alik Vougouklaki

Cast and Crew bios

MARIOS KLEFTAKIS

EDITOR

Marios Kleftakis is a Greek editor, writer, director and sound designer working frequently in documentary and short film. Some of his editing credits include *Quiet Life* by Tasos Giapoutzis (2018), the short film *Walls* (2023), and the documentary *Unclickable* by Babis Makridis (2024)

ILIA

MUSIC COMPOSER

is a Greek singer-songwriter, record producer.. Her sound blends pop, experimental electronic, R&B, choral, and traditional Greek influences, exploring themes of identity, post-humanism and mythology.

ISAVELLA ALOPOUDI

CO-PRODUCER

Isavella Alopoudi is a Greek film producer, screenwriter, and director, who studied in the Film Department of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She is part of Neda Film since 2016 and works across short films, documentaries, features and TV series. Her credits include producing the short *Zodiac* (2011), the fiction short *Arizones* (2022), and co-directing/producing the documentary *Where Dead People Used to Live* (2021).

ALEXANDRA RIBA

DOP

Alexandra Riba is a Greek cinematographer and photographer born in 1997 in Thessaloniki. She graduated from the School of Film Studies at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and studied contemporary photography at Stereosis School of Photography. Riba's cinematography credits include the short film *The Chaos She Left Behind* (2023), which was featured at the Cannes Film Festival's La Cinef section. She also directed and photographed the short film *My Mother Is a Saint* (2022), which has been showcased at various film festivals.

PANAGIOTIS EVANGELIDIS

CO-WRITER

Panos (Panagiotis) Evangelidis is a Greek screenwriter, director, and author known for his bold explorations of identity, sexuality, and human relationships. He co-wrote the acclaimed feature films *Strella* (2009) and *Xenia* (2014) with Panos H. Koutras, both celebrated for their queer narratives and emotional depth. As a documentary filmmaker, his works such as *Tilos Weddings* (2022) and *They Glow in the Dark* (2013) focus on real stories of love, marginalization, and resilience, establishing him as a vital voice in contemporary Greek cinema.

TOP CREDITS



DIRECTOR

KONSTANTINOS MENELAOU

SCREENPLAY

KONSTANTINOS MENELAOU
PANAGIOTIS EVANGELIDIS

PRODUCERS

KONSTANTINOS MENELAOU
ISAVELLA ALOPOUDI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

THALIA MAVROS
ANGELOS IOANNIDIS
ALEXANDROS PAPAGIANAKIS

CINEMATOGRAPHY

ALEXANDRA RIBA
BABIS PETRIDIS
HOPE DI KAPPA

EDITING

MARIOS KLEFTAKIS

SOUND

LEANDROS NTOUNIS

PRODUCTION DESIGN

PINELOPI VALTI

COSTUME DESIGN

MARLI ALIFERI

CASTING

MARIA TSIOLI

MUSIC

ILIA

STARRING

VICKY PAPADOPOULOU
ALKISTI POULOPOULOU
TANIA KELLY

PRODUCTION COMPANY

THE QUEER ARCHIVE

TECHNICAL DETAILS



TITLE

FEMALE

RUN TIME

81 MINUTES

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION

GREECE

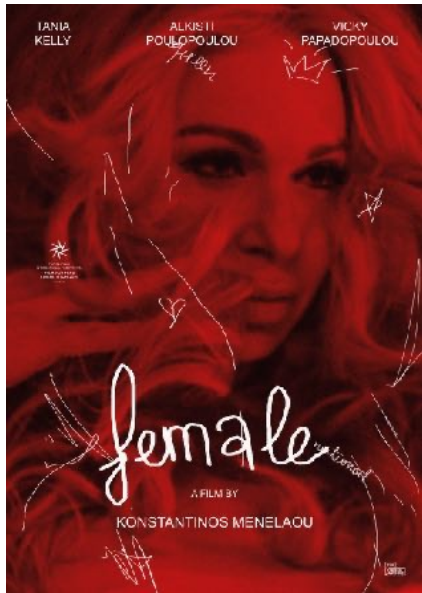
YEAR OF PRODUCTION

2025

LANGUAGE

GREEK

ASSETS



DOWNLOAD ASSETS

CONTACT

PRODUCTION COMPANY
THE QUEER ARCHIVE

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