



PRESS RELEASE

Film O'Clock IFF #6 Brings New Screenings to Athens and Vrilissia

Bucharest/Athens, April 8, 2026

The **Film O'Clock International Festival** returns for its 6th edition (16–19 April 2026), continuing its unique format: a synchronised cinematic experience taking place simultaneously across twelve countries in Europe and Africa. In Greece, this year's edition expands across two venues, in Athens and Vrilissia, strengthening its local presence through new partnerships and audiences.

“Film O'Clock was conceived as a shared cinematic experience that transcends borders and time zones, bringing audiences together through a collective moment of reflection,” says Romanian festival director Mirona Radu. “It is about creating a sense of simultaneity and connection, where cinema becomes a space for dialogue across cultures.”

The festival opens on Thursday, 16 April 2026, at 18:45 local time, with a shared moment across all participating territories, followed by the screening of *Stuff and Dough (Marfa și banii)*, directed by Cristi Puiu. Marking 25 years since its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, the film stands as a seminal work in the emergence of the Romanian New Wave. With its raw realism and restrained tension, Puiu's debut redefined cinematic language in Eastern Europe, influencing a generation of filmmakers and opening new pathways for independent, author-driven cinema.

In Greece, the opening event will take place at **Eteron – Institute for Research and Social Change**, based in Athens. Eteron is a non-profit organization dedicated to producing knowledge, empowering citizens, and fostering collaboration across society. Its mission to promote a society where human needs and collective well-being are central to public dialogue resonates strongly with the values of the festival. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to critical thinking, cultural exchange, and social engagement through cinema.

International Short Film Competition

The International Short Film Competition, structured into three screening blocks, will be presented on Saturday, 18 April 2026, at **The Muses Hall of the Cultural Center of the Municipality of Vrilissia**. Shorts O'Clock I (16:00), Shorts O'Clock II (18:15), and Shorts O'Clock III (20:30), all at local time, will bring together 16 short films from Europe and Africa.

The selection includes fiction, animation, and documentary works by emerging and established filmmakers, several of which have been presented or awarded at major international festivals such as Cannes, Venice, and Clermont-Ferrand. Each screening will be followed by a live online Q&A session with filmmakers and curators, shared simultaneously across all festival venues.

Audiences will also be invited to vote for their favourite films, contributing to the Audience Awards presented across all 12 territories.

A Greek presence in this year's International Short Film Competition is *Land of Sotiria / Land of Salvation*, directed by Ifigenia Dimitriou (Greece, 2026). The film unfolds through archival materials—letters, documents, and newspaper clippings—tracing the history of the Sotiria sanatorium near Athens, from its foundation at the end of the 19th century to its transformation into a modern medical institution. Through a precise and carefully constructed visual language, the film bridges personal memory and collective history, moving across moments of war, political tension, and major medical breakthroughs such as the discovery of streptomycin. It offers a compelling reflection on care, resilience, and the evolving relationship between illness and hope, capturing the layered identity of a place shaped by both vulnerability and progress.

The screenings in Vrilissia are made possible with the support of the **Municipality of Vrilissia** and the **Vrilissia Film Club “Cine Drasi” (Κινηματογραφική Λέσχη Βριλησσιών “Cine Δράση”)**, whose long-standing dedication to film culture and community engagement plays a key role in bringing the festival closer to local audiences.

Greece Partners

The Greek edition of the festival is co-organized locally by **SCEDIA – Centre for Artistic and Pedagogical Training**, whose involvement strengthens the educational and cultural dimension of the project and supports its connection to local communities.

By expanding across Athens and Vrilissia, Film O'Clock International Festival continues to build bridges between cinema, education, and civic dialogue, creating a shared space for reflection across borders and cultures.

Credits

Film O'Clock International Festival #6 is produced by **Creatrix Fama (Romania)** with the support of **ABI-Fundație** and co-financed by the **Administration of the National Cultural Fund (AFCN)**. The project does not necessarily represent the official position of the Administration of the National Cultural Fund. AFCN shall not be held liable for the project's content or any use to which the project outcome might be put. These are the sole responsibility of the beneficiary of the funding.

Partners: National University of Theatre and Film “I.L. Caragiale” Bucharest (UNATC), Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts (AMTAP), Druck Film School, Vilnius Academy of Arts, Wits Film Department (South Africa), UCIN, DACIN SARA, UPFAR ARGOA, National Film Archive of Romania, Cinemateca Eforie, Documentary and Feature Film Studio (WFDiF) , Lithuanian Film Centre, Zhovten Cinema (Ukraine), Schedia – Centre for Artistic and Pedagogical Training (Greece), Otvoreni Univerzitet Subotica Doo (Serbia), Cinemaeuropa Subotica (Serbia), Cinema Pionier (Poland), Bioscope Cinema (South Africa), Jesuit Cinema Club (Egypt), Romanian Embassy in Cyprus, Kino & Bar in der Königstadt (Germany), ETERON, The Cultural Center of the Municipality of Vrilissia, Vrilissia Film Club “Cine Drasi” (Greece).

Media Partners: RFI Romania, AGERPRES, Radio România Cultural, LiterNet, IQads, PRwave, Munteanu Events, Leviathan Cultural Magazine, Film Magazine, MovieNews, Filme-Cărți, Verbs describe us, Romania Journal, România Pozitivă, Cinefilia, Cinefan, Zile și Nopti.

Time to Meet. It's Film O'Clock #6!

For more information or customized materials:

creatrixfama@gmail.com

www.FoC-IFF.com

<https://www.facebook.com/FilmOClockIFF>

<https://www.instagram.com/filmoclockiff/>