



fish

A Family Affair
(Greece/Australia 2014)

DIRECTOR : Angeliki Aristomenopoulou
RUNNING TIME : 87mins
RATING : G

Synopsis:

This documentary presents an intimate and intoxicating portrait of the renowned Xylouris family, who have been maintaining the musical traditions of their native Crete throughout their lives. Following three generations of the family and moving between Greece and Melbourne where the children now live, study and play. The film is a portrait of family life, influence and legacy, as well as a thrilling examination of the way an age-old and vibrant musical tradition has been passed across generations and transcends national boundaries.

Review: Maja Jovic

Playing music in the Xylouris family was never an expectation; it was simply hoped that the Xylouris children would follow in the footsteps of their predecessors. It began with Nikos Xylouris, - a symbol of resistance against the Greek dictatorship - and his brother, Psarantonis, the living legend who reinvented Cretan music. Psarantonis now heads three generations of musicians, with the same love and passion for Crete and its traditional rhythms.

The award winning Athenian director, Angeliki Aristomenopoulou first met the Xylouris family three years ago, while filming a documentary. She was filming in a shepherd's stone hut on a mountain near Anogia, where Psarogiorgis and his sons were playing around the fire. Surprised by the energy of the family, the strong ties connecting the generations and the respect they showed for each other - Angeliki thought their family would make a great story. 'Gradually, the Xylouris clan accepted me into their world, and allowed me to observe the intimate moments of their lives. I have become fascinated by their unique bond to music, which connects them both to the land they come from and to each other,' the director says.

Making films in Greece is difficult at the moment as the director Aristomenopoulou explains – 'there is no money and we all need a positive story. This is a story about the past that looks towards the future and that's why I believe the film can resonate so powerfully to a modern, multi-ethnic audience and can help regenerate Greece'.

Source: <http://neoskosmos.com/news> Maja Jovic : Edited extracts / accessed 10/3/16

FILMS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS INC

10.00 am Sunday 21st August 2016

8.15 pm Tuesday 23rd August 2016

Some Thoughts On: *Rams*

I would like to offer my condolences for the recent passing of the inaugural FISH President, Chris Topp. I am sure he would have felt very proud of FISH right now. Opening this season with the unprecedented news that the membership books are now closed is incredible. As an ex-president I am most excited about this landmark achievement, and thank the Committee for their excellent programming and communication which has seen full membership already for the year. Well done one and all!

I came to *RAMS* with great interest not only as had it won a major award at Cannes but also as FISH had not had a film from Iceland before. I also had a very practical interest. We are currently nursing a lost ram back to health and seeking a suitable home for it, and as I have never owned a sheep before I thought the film may be in some way educational. I certainly was not disappointed! This film portrayed a new world for me full of the most remarkable humour and resilience, pathos and tragedy. I was completely engrossed in this bleak story, with characters and location so extreme. Despite feeling I was also freezing and lost in the snow storm at the end, I found great solace in the last scene and can only hope the much loved ram, the flock, and the brothers survived. In this film even the sheep were credited as actors. Our rescue ram will certainly not go to the knackery now as had been discussed, but he will most definitely go to a good home! Thanks for a great season opener FISH. **Annette Ameneiro**

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Let's begin at the end. Beyond the fourth wall, the audience response was palpable. I sensed there was a mixture of deep satisfaction, an ambivalent incredulity and perhaps a hint of disappointment. Are we not a broad canvas.

As the brothers lay naked in each others arms, all barriers removed, all hostilities and grudges no longer of any meaning, they simply clung to life, together. Which brings me to the commencement of the film. Our first encounter with the younger sibling Gummi, has him mending a fence, a visceral and visual metaphor for the division that has existed between the brothers for at least 40 years. Leaving aside the larger symbolism of a 'divided house', what followed was an intimate narrative of two brothers and their mutual love and devotion to their family's flock of sheep. Their attempts to cling to the only 'children' they will ever sire was ultimately the catalyst for the epiphany that their heritage, even their legacy, was at stake.

And back to the end again... Would the two brothers survive? What of the surviving sheep and their 'stud'? And what was the fate of that gorgeous, scene-stealing border collie? A Hollywood film would have provided the answer with a rousing finale of rising strings, happy, smiley people and a montage of an even happier and smilier future. Instead, we got a darkened screen, like the closing of our eyelids.

So what are we left with? Maybe, none of them will survive. None of us do. But before the lights went out, there was real intimacy, a desire to live on and the chance of a new beginning. Sounds a little like the themes I spoke of last month, but that's part of the territory of great art. And that's what this film was. **Paul Williams**

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Notice of the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of
Films In The Southern Highlands Inc. (**FISH**)

to be held on **Sunday 18th September 2016 at 9:30am** (before film screening)

AGENDA

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2015
3. Business Arising
4. Treasurer's Report
5. President's Report
6. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2016 - 2017
7. General Business

**Nominations from any member wishing to join the committee must be received
by: 31/8/16**

The Committee meet monthly on a Wednesday morning, 10.15am – 12 noon

FILMS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS INC – NOMINATION FORM

I,, accept nomination for the position of
(Print Name)

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Member (circle position).

Signed Date

Nominated by

Seconded by

President's Annual Report on FISH, 2015/16.

Dear Members,

This past season has been arguably one of our best and most successful in terms of quality of films, membership numbers, financial stability and community assistance. We have been aided and supported in this by our long time sponsors Ace Internet Services, Highland Creative and the amazingly flexible and helpful Empire Cinema. Our sponsors have been so generous for such a long time ~ thank you, you are just appreciated so much.

This time last year I reported a record membership high of 362. We have built upon those numbers to a peak in this season at well over 400. If our numbers continue to grow, we must seriously consider setting an upper limit and re-establishing a waiting list, which was needed many, many years ago when FISH only had a single screening each month. This potential plan has come about after concerns raised by the Empire itself. If introduced, it would also keep FISH at a more manageable level for our committee.

The superb value of eleven films for \$60 continues for the next season as our Treasurer, James Saville, delivers yet another surplus that would be the envy of any self-respecting Federal Government. After committee running costs and film screening payments, we were still able to support our local community in a film related way. In October last year we supported the wonderful local charity, CanAssist, by paying for the screening costs of their Premiere Film Night Fundraiser ~*The Dressmaker*. These hard working local volunteers raise funds to assist cancer patients in our shire.

I thought our films this season were extraordinary. We topped and tailed it with two powerful French films, opening with *Diplomatie* and concluding with the wonderful, *Far From Men*. Our season also included: our very first film from Mexico along with others from Spain, Italy, Israel, India, Argentina and the U.S. My top three were: *Wild Tales*, *Far From Men* and *Twenty Feet From Stardom*. It was also a great joy to present two pre-film featurettes: the Empire's 100th birthday compilation of cinema through the ages, and, the insightful documentary presented to us by the Friends of The Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby. All in all, some very special moments to look back on. Thank you to all those people who provided feedback to us after each film, especially those who took the time to put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard. Much appreciated.

At the end of last season, FISH lost a very special member. Life Member, co-founder, first president and long term committee member, Chris Topp, died in June from the ravaging effects of Melanoma. We thank Chris for all he did for FISH and remember him fondly for being the fine man he was. FISH is forever grateful to him.

In conclusion, I would like to once again acknowledge the friendly, efficient and hard working group of volunteers known as 'the committee'. Sandra Gillespie, Virginia Romney, James Saville, Christine Ferguson, Liz Stevenson, Neill Ustick, Caro Kenewell and David Cowie. What a group. Our meetings are so friendly, productive and always conducted with good humour. Special mention though, must be made of membership secretary, David Cowie, who has revolutionised our procedures enabling huge time savings in our monthly meetings and annual 'renewal' day. I look forward to working with all of our committee again in 16/17.

By the time you read this we will already have seen *Rams*. Thank you for joining us in another diverse trip down the quirky FISH road. Enjoy the ride.

Ross Armfield.

**ACCOUNTS OF FILMS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30 2016**

	2016	2015
INCOME		
Opening balance	29498	29337
Subscriptions	25620	21360
Interest earned	530	618
Donations	<u>0</u>	<u>30</u>
	55648	51345
EXPENSES		
Film hire and screenings	17424	17446
Printing	721	958
Postage	1677	1754
Donations	1950	0
Stationery	153	244
Computer costs	40	149
Domain name registration	0	0
Committee expenses	482	398
PO box	121	115
Fair Trading fee	54	53
Miscellaneous	0	79
21st birthday event	<u>0</u>	<u>651</u>
	22622	21847
Surplus	33026	29498

All moneys are held in BDCU accounts

Notes:

1. Our closing balance at June 30 2016 of \$33,026 includes subscriptions for 2016/7 of \$21,030. Therefore, effective surplus brought forward is \$11,996.
2. A further \$1620 in subscriptions were received between July 1 and 11 2016.
3. There are no outstanding debts at June 30 2016.

Questions about these accounts can be addressed to the treasurer at saville@acenet.com.au.

James Saville
Treasurer

Message from the President

What a great start to our new season. *Rams* was such a beautiful film both cinematically and for the incredibly focussed exploration of the brother's relationship in that isolated and extreme landscape. Thank you to our two in-house reviewers for their insights and for taking the time to present them.

We've seen it coming and flagged it for some time, but we hadn't anticipated the speed with which we reached our full complement of members for this season. Normally starting a season with a membership in the high 200's or low 300's and then building towards a peak further down the track, this season's record numbers were reached even before our first screening!! We have established a waiting list in order of application and will keep monitoring the numbers on a regular basis. This situation has arisen because of advice from the Empire and to ensure we do not subject members to overcrowding difficulties at our screenings.

Our Annual General Meeting shall take place at 9.30am on Sunday 18th September immediately before our regular screening at 10.00am. If you would like to attend the AGM, please try to arrive in plenty of time so that we can commence promptly and not impact on the screening getting underway on time. The enclosed Treasurer's and President's reports will be spoken to and of course the election of office bearers will take place.

So now it's off to Greece for *A Family Affair*. Thank you everyone for the wonderful support in getting us to record membership numbers now and last season too. Undoubtedly, the quality and diversity of our films have brought this situation about. Long may they reign.

Yours in film
Ross Armfield

COMING UP:

September	<i>The Crow's Egg</i> (India)	Sunday 18 th & Tuesday 20 th
October	<i>Tanna</i> (Australia)	Sunday 23 rd & Tuesday 25 th
November	<i>Tehran Taxi</i> (Iran)	Sunday 20 th & Tuesday 22 nd
December	<i>Alex & Eve</i> (Australia)	Sunday 11 th & Tuesday 13 th
February '17	<i>The Nightingale</i> (China)	Sunday 12 th & Tuesday 14 th



FILMS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS INC

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ACE INTERNET SERVICES **HIGHLAND CREATIVE**