13/09/2024

Greek Entry in 2025 Academy Awards Premieres in the U.S. at the Maliotis Cultural Center



On Wednesday, September 11, the award-winning film The Murderess was screened at the Maliotis Cultural Center in Boston. Inspired by the renowned novella by Alexandros Papadiamantis, the film was directed by the acclaimed Eva Nathena and starred Karyofyllia Karabeti, one of Greece's most esteemed actresses. The Murderess, which broke box office records in Greece, was officially selected by the Greek Ministry of Culture on the same day to represent the country at the upcoming Academy Awards (Oscars).

Despite being held midweek, the event drew a large audience to the Maliotis amphitheater. Notable attendees included the Consul General of Greece, Mr. Symeon Tegos, and a group of forty students from Boston University's Department of Cinema and Media Studies, accompanied by their professor, Kelly Polychroniou. Many members of the Greek-American community, philhellenes, art enthusiasts, academics, and students from Hellenic College were also present.

Before the screening, Chrysoula Kourkounti, director of the Maliotis Cultural Center, introduced Eva Nathena and Karyofyllia Karabeti, who addressed the audience to a warm round of applause. The screening was profoundly moving, captivating the audience with Karabeti's powerful performance and the film's meticulous artistic execution. The breathtaking landscapes of mountainous Mani, where the movie was filmed, Nathena's superb direction, set design, costume work, and her inspired adaptation of Papadiamantis' novella led viewers to a cathartic experience.

Despite the late hour after the screening, the audience stayed for a lively discussion with Ms. Nathena and Ms. Karabeti. Questions centered around the theme of femicide, an issue central to Papadiamantis' novella and one that remains painfully relevant worldwide. Nathena offered an insightful analysis of Papadiamantis' thought process, explaining how she studied his work for over a decade and filtered it through her own experiences to bring it to life on screen. Karabeti, in turn, spoke about her efforts to understand and embody the complex inner world of the film's heroine, a challenge she met masterfully. She also

reflected on the challenging and demanding production conditions and the broader social responsibility to address and eliminate femicide.

The evening concluded with a reception at the Center, where guests had the opportunity to interact with the film’s creators and discuss this remarkable cinematic achievement further. Much to the audience’s delight, both Nathena and Karabeti promised to return to the Maliotis Cultural Center for a future presentation of their work.

Photo: Maliotis Cultural Center.

goarch.org