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ACTORS ARRIVE IN GREECE FOR CONTINUED SHOOTING OF MAN OF GOD FILM ABOUT ST. NEKTARIOS



Actors are beginning to arrive in Greece for continued shooting of Yelena Popovic's film, *Man of God*, about the great 20th-century hierarch and wonderworker St. Nektarios of Aegina.

Filming initially began on [June 8](#).

Alexander Petrov arrived in Greece late in the evening on Saturday, September 5. The Russian actor will play a close assistant of St. Nektarios. The first scene, filmed yesterday, captured the moment when the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Alexandria expelled St. Nektarios, who is played by Greek actor Aris Servetalis, reports the [Orthodoxia News Agency](#).

Hollywood star Mickey Rourke is expected to arrive today to play a paralyzed man who was healed by St. Nektarios at the hospital where he died.

Concerning the choice of Servetalis in the role of the great saint, Yelena Popovic

explains: “When I saw him, the director inside me felt from his aura that he was the ideal one. This role has some requirements; the actor playing St. Nektarios must be able to touch you without even opening his mouth. This is exactly what Aris does.”

She says she was certain she made the right choice when the actor told her: “I would love to [play this role]. But are you sure I can do it?”

Popovic offered Mickey Rourke a role, having remembered his powerful performance in the 2001 film *The Pledge*. Rourke read the script and said he was very touched by the story and would love to participate.

The film focuses on the many persecutions the great saint suffered without ceasing his pastoral ministry, including slander and exile. Filming will take place at several sites connected with the life of St. Nektarios, including Holy Dormition Monastery in Penteli, Greece, and on the island of Aegina, at the hospital where he took his last breath.

Popovic has visited the monastery on Aegina many times. “In each of my visits I feel tremendous joy; I cannot explain it,” she said.

The film is sponsored by the Athonite Vatopedi Monastery and the Institute of St. Maximus the Greek and is currently scheduled to be released on December 3 this year.

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