



Olympia

A FILM BY
HARRY MAVROMICHALIS

A DEAD FAMOUS | STUNNING CUTS | A LITTLE DIFFERENT PRODUCTION
FEATURING OLYMPIA DUKAKIS LAURA LINNEY WHOOP! GOLDBERG LOUIS ZORICH LAINIE KAZAN
DIANE LADD ED ASNER ARMISTEAD MAUPIN AUSTIN PENDLETON LYNN COHEN
MUSIC BY PAUL CANTELON ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY ALEXIA VASSILIOU EDITED BY SAM EGGERS ANDREW FORD
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN RYAN JOHNSON FEDERICO CESCA ASSOCIATE PRODUCER PAMELA SPYRS
CO-PRODUCER LYNN WEBB EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SID GANIS ANTHOULA KATSIMATIDES
PRODUCED BY MURIEL MORAES HARRY MAVROMICHALIS KEREN SEOL ANDREW FORD
WRITTEN BY HARRY MAVROMICHALIS SAM EGGERS DIRECTED BY HARRY MAVROMICHALIS





Olympia the film takes us on a poetic journey in search of one's place in the world. We follow Academy Award® winning actress Olympia Dukakis as she takes on the roles of actor, teacher, wife, mother, and social activist. Determined not to be defined solely as a woman in a male-dominated society she struggles to find a sense of belonging due to her ethnic roots and the dichotomy she has always felt between her American values and the values of her immigrant parents. After making the decision that she would never take no for an answer and would never let anyone define her, her mantra became:

“Always move forward, no matter what.”

SYNOPSIS

This revealing and unfiltered documentary follows the life and career of Academy Award® winning actress, Olympia Dukakis. Starting on the day she turns eighty and continuing for three years, this film deals with the struggles and pains surrounding identity and the roles placed on us by society. Its cinema-verité style allows the audience to constantly move along side Olympia as she navigates between rehearsals, workshops, family life, and finally the journey



to her ancestral home in Greece. Exhibiting both candor and vulnerability, we see her deal with age, grief, and sex while opening up about her past struggles with depression, suicide, and drug addiction.

Intricately weaving between visceral impromptu personal moments with Olympia, together with footage of her performances both on and off screen, we experience the presence of an unrelenting female energy. Not only does her story add to the perpetual ‘herstory’ of women withstanding and overcoming their obstacles and oppressors through the passage of time, it also gives us insight into how she overcame the impediments that affected her life as the daughter of immigrants and as a woman in a male-dominated society. We are granted the raw, unfiltered attitude of Olympia without a script to guide her.

Her fierceness is seen to persist throughout her daily life beyond the stage or film. Years of oppression, subordination and self-doubt have thickened her skin and sharpened her mind, and her energy is contagious. Despite her age and the innumerable experiences in her life, her determination to continue, to move forward and overcome the hurdles that life places before us all, is an inspiration.

Through her brutal honesty and sincerity, Olympia compels us to confront our own shortcomings and differences by letting go, and moving forward with defiant conviction, which leaves us with a cathartic feeling that we too can be an “octogenarian motherfucker.”

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Personifying the American Dream; one's inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, Olympia Dukakis, an Oscar-winning pro-LGBT mother of three and daughter of Greek immigrants becomes the focal point of this documentary. Filmed primarily under President Obama's administration, the themes of immigration, women's empowerment and alienation didn't pack the same punch of relevance as they do now under Trump.

The theme of what it means to be a child of immigrants, the struggles for assimilation, and the constant internal feeling of not belonging are the main themes of the film. Packed together with issues of self doubt and feelings of being "less than" the men in society, makes the film relevant and inspirational.

Working with Olympia has offered me countless lessons and realizations about the strength of vulnerability. As Brené Brown once said, "Vulnerability sounds like truth and feels like courage. Truth and courage aren't always comfortable but they are never weakness". Her most captivating quality is how she consistently allows herself to be vulnerable both in her work and personal life. When one is vulnerable, one assumes they do not have all of the answers, rendering them optimally receptive and investigative. As a subject, Olympia exhibits this timeless fascination and thirst for new knowledge, whilst remaining humble, attentive, and funny. Her enthralling nature cannot help but inspire one, not through instruction, but observation.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Harry Mavromichalis received his MFA (Masters in Fine Arts) in Film Directing from New York University. He is trained in all aspects of filmmaking, from directing to camera-operating, and from writing to producing. He has written and directed movies in New York and Spain and is currently working on his second feature-length documentary called Yankee Restraint. He is also working on his first feature length narrative with established Italian writer/actor Rinaldo Rocco (Hannibal)





QUOTES

“Olympia” delivers an uncommonly personal, cinema verite-style portrait of its fascinating, iconoclastic subject. It emerges as a compelling profile of a woman who's defiantly marched to the beat of her own drum.

- Frank Scheck, Hollywood Reporter

Olympia Dukakis finally gets the biographical documentary she deserves. In terms of its frankness, it's only matched by the crown jewel of this subgenre, Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work. - **Rich Juzwiak, Jezebel**

Olympia Dukakis may be in her 80s, but she is more passionate, real and progressive than a million woke millennials screaming on the internet. This, folks, is why we respect our elders. Watch Olympia and find out why Tales of the City author Armistead Maupin calls her “an octogenarian motherfucker.”

- Chuck Foster, Film Threat

Truly outstanding. A brilliant tribute to living authentically. Harry captured Olympia — an icon, an inspiratizon, a supernova (!) — with such sensitivity, respect and artistry. Definitely one of my top favourite films of 2018.

- Pamela Segger, ED of Lunenburg Doc Fest

CAST



WHOOPI GOLDBERG
ACTRESS & TELEVISION HOST



LAURA LINNEY
ACTRESS



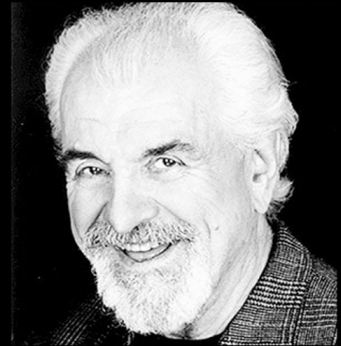
DIANE LADD
ACTRESS



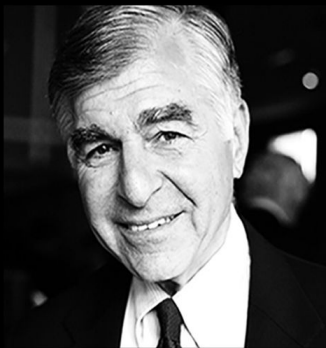
LAINIE KAZAN
ACTRESS & SINGER



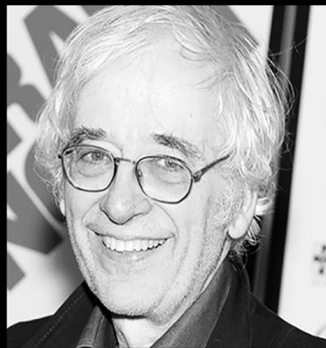
ED ASNER
ACTOR



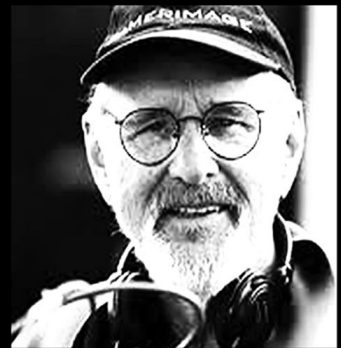
LOUIS ZORICH
ACTOR



MICHAEL DUKAKIS
FORMER GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS



AUSTIN PENDLETON
DIRECTOR & ACTOR



NORMAN JEWISON
DIRECTOR



LYNN COHEN
ACTRESS



KARY ANTHOLIS
PRESIDENT, HBO MINISERIES AND
CINEMAX PROGRAMMING



JIM GIANOPULOS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF
PARAMOUNT PICTURES

CREDITS

Directed by: Harry Mavromichalis

Written by: Harry Mavromichalis, Sam Eggers

Produced by: Muriel Moraes, Keren Seol, Andrew Ford, Harry Mavromichalis

Companies: Ella Bean Productions, A Little Different Productions, Stunning Cuts

Executive Producers: Sid Ganis, Anthoula Katsimatides

Co Produced by: Lynn Webb

Associate Producer: Pamela Spyrts

Cinematographers: Ryan Johnson, Federico Cesca

Editor: Sam Eggers, Andrew Ford (The Seventh Fire, A Walk to Beautiful)

Music By: Paul Cantelon (The Diving Bell and the Butterfly, The Other Boleyn Girl)

Additional Music By: Alexia Vassiliou

Sound: Iason Theofanou, Harry Mavromichalis

Additional Sound: Harry Cepka, Jonathan Lau

Additional Editing: Laura Van Schendel

Assistant Editor: Morgan Wajda-Levie, Josephine Wheelwright, Nina Verneret,
German Yanez, Alex Ferrigno, Kara Wayman

Production Assistants: Luiz Schiel, Ben Leong, Josh Cabrido, Ali Nadeem

Post Production Supervisor: Andrew Ford

Music Coordinator: Ella Sahlman

Sound Mixing: Gene Park (Toneburst Audio)

Color Correction: Brian Boyd

DI Facility: Nice Dissolve - Pierce Varous

Motion Graphics: Todd Sines, Krystall Schott

Production Manager: Joanne Bowker

Conform Editor: Susannah Kalb

Poster Design: Midnight Marauder

Publicist: Adam Segal

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