

Aria

a film by
Myrsini Aristidou



cinéfondation
LA RÉSIDENCE

Technical information

Working Title: Aria
Director: Myrsini Aristidou
Screenplay: Myrsini Aristidou
Nationality: Cyprus
Genre: Social Drama
Format: Digital
Length: 90 min
Shooting location: Cyprus
Production Companies: 1.61 Films

Director's main previous works

Semele (13min), 2015
Main awards:
Generation Kplus 2016 – *Special Jury Prize for Best Short Film*
Guanajuato International Film Festival 2016 – *Signis Award for Best Film*
Cayman Islands Film Festival 2016 – *Best Short Film Award*
ISFFC – *Best Short Film*
New Orleans Film Festival – *Special Jury Award*
Hayah Panama International Film Festival – *Best Short Film Award*
Alexandra Mediterranean Film Festival – *Special Jury Prize*

Aria (14 min), 2017
Script Labs:
Torino ScriptLab, Toronto Talent Lab

Myrsini Aristidou

E-mail: myrsini.aristidou@gmail.com
Mob.: +1 (718) 340 9362 (USA)
+357 99 79 00 30 (Cyprus)
www.myrsiniaristidou.com

Festival de Cannes

3, rue Amélie, F-75007 Paris
Tel. 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 20
Fax 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 24
E-mail:
residence@festival-cannes.fr
www.festival-cannes.org

Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

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With the support of HP. Printed on an HP Indigo Digital Press.



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Synopsis

Aria is a vivacious teenager growing up in Cyprus and eager to learn how to drive a car. Tied by the bonds of the island life, which appears to be evermore suffocating, she simply longs for a moment of freedom. A vindictive former employer, a leaky faucet, her best friend's chitchat and her father asking for just another favor, will incessantly tip her off her planned trajectory. Aria's volatile relationship with her father becomes the greatest challenge for her to overcome; until the moment she realizes that this could also be her prevalent opportunity, en route to her independence.

Statement of Intent

Smoking cigarettes in abandoned construction sites and rooftops, riding motorcycles, the sun on our skin and on theirs, the clashing waves of the Mediterranean Sea, toes in the sand, blue sky above and our existential conversations, the never-ending sound of the cicadas, falling in and out of love, feeling guided by our own understanding of what freedom might be. A film for me is merely a collection of such moments, which in a unified motion all fall into place, one after the other, to create a whole.

Energy to energy, in this sense, film is somewhat like life. You watch and you live, and maybe you can predict what to expect, but, at the best of times, you cannot. At present, the film I want to create is the one of Aria, a vivacious teenager, tied down by the strong bonds of an island life, which she must accept in order to get closer to her own sense of freedom.

Note d'intention

Fumer des cigarettes dans les chantiers abandonnés et sur les toits, conduire des motos, le soleil sur sa peau et sur les leurs, les vagues de la mer Méditerranée, les orteils dans le sable, le ciel bleu au dessus et nos conversations existentielles, le chant permanent des cigales, tomber amoureux et se quitter, se sentir guidé par notre propre compréhension de ce que pourrait être la liberté. Un film pour moi est une collection de ces moments qui, dans un mouvement unifié se mettent en place, l'un après l'autre, pour créer

un tout. D'énergie en énergie, en ce sens, le film ressemble un peu à la vie. Vous regardez et vous vivez, et peut-être vous pouvez prédire ce à quoi vous attendre, mais, la plupart du temps, vous ne pouvez pas.

Pour le moment, le film que je veux créer est celui d'Aria, une adolescente au tempérament vivace, solidement liée à une vie insulaire, qu'elle doit accepter pour se rapprocher de son sens de la liberté.

Synopsis

Aria est une adolescente au tempérament emporté qui grandit à Chypre et est impatiente d'apprendre à conduire. Attachée par les liens de la vie sur l'île qui semble toujours plus étouffante, elle désire simplement un moment de liberté. Un ancien employeur vindicatif, un robinet qui fuit, le bavardage de son meilleur ami et son père qui lui demande encore «une autre faveur» la contraignent à s'éloigner de la trajectoire planifiée. La relation instable d'Aria avec son père devient son plus grand défi à surmonter; jusqu'au moment où elle se rend compte que cela pourrait aussi être le chemin vers son indépendance.