



## Technical Information

**Working Title:** This Year's Spring  
**Director:** Panayotis Christopoulos  
**Screenplay by:** Panayotis Christopoulos  
**Nationality:** Greece / France  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Shooting Location:** Greece

### Production Companies:

The Cassaveti Connection  
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EZ Films  
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## Director's Biography

Panayotis Christopoulos was born in Greece, in 1980. He studied Film & Media at the University of East London and has received an MA in History of Film from University of London, Birkbeck College. His short film *I Ektasi Pou Analogei* was awarded the *Greek National Award* and the *Greek Film Centre Award*. *This Year's Spring* is his first feature film.

## THIS YEAR'S SPRING

A FILM BY PANAYOTIS CHRISTOPOULOS



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

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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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illustrations: © Noa Goffier

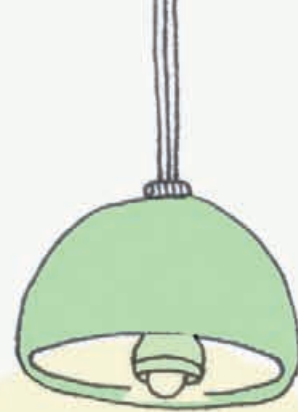




#### SYNOPSIS

11-year-old Tony and his overweight dad Yannis have made some serious plans for this year's spring. Tony is planning to find himself his first girlfriend, while Yannis is planning to lose some weight. They support and encourage one another, but each is cheating behind the other one's back. Tony falls in love with a new boy who has just joined his school, while Yannis secretly keeps binge eating.

When Yannis finds out about his son's homosexuality, losing weight doesn't matter anymore. Yannis does everything in his power to keep Tony "in the closet", worried that his son would get bullied at school. Tony doesn't like seeing his dad worried, but the closet starts suffocating him and he decides to come out. Unfortunately, the only way to open the closet door, is to push against his father...



#### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Tony and Yannis may live in the same house, but in parallel worlds which never meet. Tony hides his homosexuality and has assumed this "perfect kid" role – while Yannis is embarrassed to expose his eating disorder to his son. The film offers a peek into these two private worlds quietly coexisting between the same walls. The revelation of Tony's homosexuality shakes this status quo, replaced by constant tension. The family routine may look the same, but something has changed forever. Tony and his father will have to learn to love each other all over again, accepting each other's peculiarities. Accepting each other may actually pave the way for them to also accept themselves.

This Year's Spring is set in the middle-class suburbs of Athens, where seemingly nothing ever happens. The tone of the film adopts this façade of tidiness and safety that the locations offer; only to highlight the unleashed tension that is always present underneath.

#### SYNOPSIS

Tony 11 ans et son père Yannis en surpoids, ont fait de sérieux projets pour le printemps. Tony a l'intention de rencontrer sa première petite amie, tandis que Yannis prévoit de perdre du poids. Ils se soutiennent et s'encouragent mutuellement, mais chacun triche dans le dos de l'autre. Tony tombe amoureux d'un garçon qui vient d'arriver dans son école, tandis que Yannis cache ses crises de boulimie. Quand Yannis découvre l'homosexualité de son fils, perdre du poids n'a plus d'importance. Yannis fait tout ce qu'il peut pour garder Tony "dans le placard", craignant que son fils ne se fasse martyriser à l'école. Tony n'aime pas voir son père inquiet, mais le placard commence à l'étouffer et il décide d'en sortir. Malheureusement, la seule façon d'ouvrir la porte du placard, est de s'opposer à son père...

#### NOTE D'INTENTION

Tony et Yannis vivent dans la même maison, mais dans des mondes parallèles qui ne se rencontrent jamais. Tony cache son homosexualité et assume ce rôle « d'enfant parfait » – tandis que Yannis est gêné d'exposer ses troubles alimentaires à son fils. Le film offre un aperçu de ces deux mondes privés qui coexistent tranquillement entre les mêmes murs. La révélation de l'homosexualité de Tony secoue ce statut quo, remplacé par une tension constante. La routine familiale semble la même, mais quelque chose a changé pour toujours. Tony et son père vont devoir apprendre à s'aimer à nouveau, à accepter les particularités de chacun. S'accepter l'un l'autre peut leur ouvrir la voie pour s'accepter eux-mêmes.

This Year's Spring se déroule dans une banlieue de la classe moyenne d'Athènes, où apparemment rien ne se passe. Le ton du film adopte cette façade de la propreté et de la sécurité que les lieux offrent, uniquement pour mettre en évidence la tension déchaînée toujours sous-jacente.

