



BRIDES

A film by Pantelis Voulgaris

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CAPPA/DE FINA PRODUCTIONS KG PRODUCTIONS and ALCO FILMS present
in association with CINEGRAM S.A. GREEK FILM CENTRE CL PRODUCTIONS
ODEON ALPHA TV LEXICON FACTORY S.A. FILMNET with the support
of EURIMAGES GREEK MINISTRY OF CULTURE NATIONAL TOURISM
ORGANIZATION OF GREECE A PANTELIS VOULGARIS FILM Damian LEWIS
"BRIDES" Victoria HARALABIDOU Andrea FERREOL Evi SAOULIDOU Dimitris
KATALIFOS Irene IGLESSI Evelina PAPOULIA and Steven BERKOFF Sound Nicos
PAPADIMITRIOU Costume Design Damianos ZARIFIS Eva NATHENA Production
Designer Dimitris KATSIKIS Music by Stamatis SPANOUDAKIS Director of
Photography Yorgos ARVANITIS Editor Takis YANNOPOULOS Associate Producers
Despina MOUZAKI Haris PADOUVAS Michelle RAY-GAVRAS Valerie GOBOS Shira
LEVIN Line Producer Costas LABROPOULOS Produced by Barbara DE FINA
Pantelis VOULGARIS Terry DOUGAS Written by Ioanna KARYSTIANI Directed by
Pantelis VOULGARIS

Executive Producer Martin SCORSESE

Distributor Odeon S.A.

Running time 128'

World Sales

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by Pantelis Voulgaris





Pantelis Voulgaris

BRIDES

Director's note

My tenth film, "BRIDES".

Every film is a wager.

Ever wager is won or lost in the dark movie theater.

Especially on opening night.

The eyes of strangers in whom you either meet acceptance or rejection.

The anonymous viewer who is the last creator in the great cycle of a dream imprinted on film.

Stories of young girls who leave behind images, smells, sacrifices, gestures, familiar gazes on a voyage into the vast unknown.

Stories of 1922 but at the same time totally contemporary. Movements of people – movements of cultures. Girls with small lucky charms and ancient customs who set foot in the New World after 20 days at sea.

With "BRIDES" my associates and I submit our emotion and respect for these humble heroes.



Brides

Summer 1922

Smyrna Turkey

After roaming Asia Minor for several years American photographer Norman Harris must return home. The American newspaper he works with has rejected his photographs from the battlefield.

At the same time in Samothrace, Niki, a seamstress, is preparing her little trunk for Chicago. She must marry Prodromos, a tailor she has never met in place of her older sister who couldn't bear living away from home and returned to Greece in bad health.

Norman and Niki are traveling on the same ship. He is in First Class, she is in Third, along with another 700 "mail-order brides" from every corner of Greece, Turkey, Russia, and Armenia. In their suitcases, they all carry the photograph of an unwelcome bridegroom and their wedding gown. Some are immigrating through agencies, others through orphanages or church organizations.





A boatload of brides. an arc of cultures and colors from a turbulent, sorely tried region. The sad eyes of the women, the truth in their faces, the decency, the harshness, the expectation make Norman want to photograph them. Niki, who works sewing during the voyage, is the one he can't get out of his mind. Little by little they get to know each other and fall in love.

Niki's friend Haro, the pimp Karaboulat, the famous fortuneteller Emine, Marinos the ship's captain, Miss Kardaki the spinster chaperone of the orphans from Epirus, the teenage Russian Olga, the young cabin boy Nicholas, the American choreographer Marion, all have their own stories to tell which intersect at sea with the secret love of Niki and Norman, a love that runs counter to the "dos" and "don'ts" of the era.

A journey from the East to the West.

At the same time the inner journey of the people who battle the waves of agony, doubt, courage, resignation, and hope.

The closed, dark and silent world of Third Class emphasizes the intensity of feelings that flare up, the contrast between the old life that they have left behind and the new one that lies before them.

On the docks in New York, Prodomos and hundreds of other bridegrooms wait impatiently.

First acquaintances, bliss, disappointment, goodbyes.

Locked in a passionate embrace, Norman and Niki are called upon to make their big decision.



Director **Pantelis Voulgaris**
Writer **Ioanna Karystiani**
Producers **Barbara De Fina Pantelis Vouglaris Terry Dougas**
Executive producer **Martin Scorsese**
Line Producer **Costas Labropoulos**

Cast
Damian Lewis (*Norman Harris*)
Victoria Haralabidou (*Niki Douka*)
Andrea Ferreol (*Emine*)
Evi Saoulidou (*Haro*)
Steven Berkoff (*Karaboulas*)
Dimitris Katalifos (*Captain Marinos*)
Irene Iglessi (*Miss Kardaki*)
Apostolos Totsikas (*Nicholas*)
Evelina Papoulia (*Marion*)

Cinematography
Yorgos Arvanitis
Sound recordist
Nikos Papadimitriou

Music
Stamatis Spanoudakis

Set design
Dimitris Katsikis

Costumes
Damianos Zarifis
Eva Nathena

Make-up Artist
Fanny Alexaki

Choreography
Mary Tsouti

Editing
Takis Yannopoulos

Visual Effects
Alain Le Roi
Jerome Fournier

Associate producers
Despina Mouzaki
Michele Ray Gavras
Haris Padouvas
Valerie Gobos
Shira Levin

Production
Cappa/De Fina Productions
KG Productions
Alco Films

Co-Producers
Cinegram s.a.
Greek Film Centre
C.L. Productions
Odeon s.a.
Alpha TV
Lexicon Factory
Filmnet

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The actors



Damian Lewis Born in London in 1971. He began his acting career performing with experimental theater companies in London and was for years a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company. He became particularly well known after starring in the big-budget U.S. mini-series "Band of Brothers" (2001) with Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks as executive producers (Hanks also directed some segments) for which he received a Golden Globe nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a TV Mini-Series. Last winter he starred in Lawrence Kasdan's "Dreamcatcher", while this year apart from "Brides" he is appearing with Robert Redford, Jennifer Lopez and Morgan Freeman in Lasse Halström's "An Unfinished Life". Damian also appeared alongside Pierce Brosnan in the film adaptation of "Robinson Crusoe" (1997) directed by Rod Hardy and George Miller, as well as in numerous television series such as "The Forsyte Saga", "Hearts and Bones", "Life Force", "Warriors", etc.



Victoria Haralabidou Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, she is a graduate of the Archi Higher School of Drama and the VGIK in Russia. She has taken lessons in acting and improvisation conducted by Eleni Skoti. She appeared in the short films "Enepolis" by Nikos Davas (1996) and "A Bright Shining Sun" by Vassilis Loules (2002) for which she won two Best Actress Awards. Her stage credits include roles in productions of "I'm telling you darling" by Joyce Carol Oates, "Suburbia" by Eric Bogosian, "Dear Elena" by Liudmilla Razumovskaya and "Curse of the Starving Class" by Sam Shephard.



Andrea Ferreol Began her career in the early '70s and starred in Marco Ferreri's "La Grande Bouffe" (1973) a significant moment in her career. She has worked with major film directors such as Werner Rainer Fassbinder ("Eine Reise ins Licht", 1978), Andrzej Wajda ("Dyrgent", 1979), Francois Truffaut ("The Last Metro", 1980), Alain Delon ("The Fighter", 1982), Peter Greenaway ("A Zed and Two Noughts", 1985), Tony Richardson ("The Phantom of the Opera", 1990), Agnes Varda ("Les Cent ete une nuits", 1995), Claude Lelouche ("Une pour toutes", 1999). Apart from "Brides" she has in the past also appeared in another Greek production, Nikos Perakis' "Milo Milo (1979).



Evi Saoulidou Born in Kavala in 1977. She studied at the State Theater of Northern Greece Drama School and also attended the directing and acting workshops conducted by Stathis Livathinos at the National Theater's Experimental Stage. In the theater she has worked with Peris Michalidis, Nikos Cornilios, Themis Moumoulidis, Stamatis Fassoulis and Ioannis Kokkos. "Brides" is her film debut.



Steven Berkoff Studied Drama in London and Paris before forming the London Theatre Group in 1968. Berkoff's first original stage play "East" was presented at the Edinburgh Festival in 1975. Other original plays include "West", "Decadence", "Greek", "Kvetch", "Sink the Belgrano", "Brighton Beach Scumbags" and "Messiah". Among the many adaptations he has created for the stage, directed and toured are Kafka's "Metamorphosis" and "The Trial" and Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher". His plays and adaptations have been performed in many countries (Japan, Germany, the USA, Singapore, Italy, Finland, etc.) and his books have been translated into many languages. He has also directed and toured in productions of "Hamlet", "Macbeth" and OIscar Wilde's "Salome". His villainous appearances in films such as "Rambo" and the Bond picture "Octopussy" are legendary as are his roles in films such as "A Clockwork Orange", "Beverly Hills Cop", "Absolute Beginners" and "Barry Lyndon".



Dimitris Katalifos Born in Athens, he is a graduate of the Pelos Katselis Drama School. He has portrayed major roles in many plays, including "Death of a Salesman", "The Cherry Orchard", "American Buffalo", "The Doll's House", etc. His film credits include stellar performances in films such as Pantelis Voulgaris' "Stone Years" and more recently "It's a long road", Lakis Papastathis' "Theofilos" for which he won the Best Actor Award at the Thessaloniki Film Festival), "Jaguar" by Katerina Evangelakou, "Cavafy" by Yannis Smaragdis, "Signs and Wonders" by Jonathan Nossiter, "Anna's summer" Jeanine Meerapfel and "Alemaya" by Elias Yannakakis.

Pantelis Voulgaris Born in Athens in 1940, he worked as assistant director on over thirty productions. In 1965 he made his first short film "The Thief" and followed it up with another short, "Jimmy the Tiger" in 1966. Next came the documentary "The dance of the goats" (1969) and in 1972 his first feature film "The Engagement of Anna" which won the FIPRESCI, the Otto-Dibelius and the OCIC Awards at the Berlin Film Festival. In 1973 he made "The Great Love Songs" (of Manos Hadjidakis). This was followed by the political allegory "Happy Day" in 1976 and "Eleftherios Venizelos" four years later. In 1986 he directed "Stone Years" which starred Themis Bazaka and won the actress a special nomination at the Venice Film Festival as well as the OCIC Award. "The striker with the No. 9" followed in 1989 and was shown in competition at the Berlin Film Festival and which won the Silver Knight award at the Moscow Film Festival. Voulgaris was back competing in Berlin two years later with "Quiet days in August" which won a special mention by the festival's International Protestant Film Jury. In 1995 he directed "Acropole", which won the Best Director Award at the 1996 Cairo International Film Festival and the Best Music Award at the Valencia Film Festival, while in 1997 he returned with "It's a long road".

Ioanna Karystiani Born in Chania, Crete of parents from Asia Minor, she studied law at the University of Athens. For ten years she worked professionally as a cartoonist. She has written the short stories "Mrs. Katakis" (1995) and the award-winning novels "Little England" (1997), "Suit in the Dirt" (2000) and "The Saint of Loneliness" (2003), which have been translated into many languages.

Stamatis Spanoudakis Born in Athens in 1948, he studied "classical music" (guitar and theory) with Charalambos Ekmetsoglou, but soon stopped after he first heard the Beatles and began to play bass and guitar with many groups of the '60s and '70s in Greece but also in Paris and London. He returned to "classical music" and his studies at the Würzburg State Conservatory, Germany where he studied composition with Professor Bertold Hummel and in Athens with Professor Constantinos Kydoniatis. From "classical" music he made the leap to Byzantine music, which gradually led him to Greek song. He has worked with Pantelis Voulgaris on the films "Stone Years", "It's a long road" and "The Striker with the No. 9" and has also composed the music for the films "Absences" by George Katakouzinis, "Sudden love" and "Take care" by Yorgos Tseberopoulos and others.

Giorgos Arvanitis Born in 1941. Since 1966 he has worked with hundreds of Greek and foreign directors. He lives and works in Paris and his name has been connected to great artistic successes of the international cinema. He has worked with Pantelis Voulgaris ("Stone Years"), Theo Angelopoulos ("Eternity and a Day", "Ulysses' Gaze", "The Suspended Step of the Stork", etc.) has distinguished himself at many festivals for his work including the Best Cinematography Award at the Venice Film Festival in 1989 for Jean-Jacques Adrien's film "Australia".

Barbara De Fina Barbara De Fina produced Martin Scorsese's "My Voyage to Italy", "Bringing out the dead", "Kundun", "Casino", "The Age of Innocence", "Cape Fear", "The Last Temptation of Christ", "The Color of Money", "Life Lessons" segment of "NY stories" and served as executive producer on "Goodfellas". She has also produced Kenneth Lonergan's "You can count on me", Stephen Frear's "The Grifters" and "The Hi-Lo Country", Matthew Harrison's "Kicked in the head", etc.