



The War Archive is delighted to invite you to the presentation of the documentary film:

Makronisos

Directed by **Ilias Giannakakis and Evi Karabatsou**. Ilias will be present, and will participate in the usual discussion after the showing of his film. The film and the presentation will be in Greek

Saturday 23 July 2016 at 19.30

Dear friends of the Archive,

This will be the last presentation for our 2015-16 season and we will be looking very much forward to seeing you all again in September 2016. This season was possibly the most successful of the Archive so far in terms of the number of presentations, almost «once a month» now, and in terms of the new friends we have made and of new presenters. We are particularly pleased with a series of film presentations we have made, both fiction and documentaries, touching on painful but most important periods of Greek history, all of them presented by their directors who then led a discussion with our audience-friends.

We hope that our next season will be equally fruitful and interesting and look forward to your presence and your support.

Andrew and Anabella Freris

A few words about the film

Makronisos refers to the island of Makronisos where, starting in 1947, was the site of an extraordinary military-political experiment. A specialist prison camp was set up with the express purpose to re-educate recalcitrant left wingers and /or members of the Greek communist party and, for those of military age, prepare them to join the fight against the left wing guerrillas and the left «Democratic Army». The Left was at the time in a bitter life-or-death struggle with the «Nationalist» forces over the political and economic fate of post war Greece. An important aspect of the re-education, which included all the sorry litany of brutalities, was the signing of declarations of repentance by the inmates, which gave them a way out of the camp, but with the attendant social and political humiliation as the Greek communist party disapproved strongly of the practice.

The documentary, which was ten years in the making, uses a large amount of primary material including interviews with now aged ex-inmates, as well as with one of the most notorious governors of the island prison, who agreed to be interviewed on this controversial issue.

The presenter and director of the film

Ilias Giannakakis' career and work spans over 150 films, documentaries and fictional, on a very wide variety of topics including politics, history, culture, theatre, literature and sports. He has made major contributions in serials and programs in the Greek official TV station, ERT, as well in independent productions. He has received over 20 prizes for his films, and the one shown tonight, received exceptional public acclaim when it was presented in the 2008 Salonica Film Festival. The film was praised for its humane and balanced presentation of an exceptional and little known chapter of the Greek civil war.

The Arheion is looking very much forward to your presence in this event.

We ask you however to let us know whether you will be coming either by replying to this email at afreris@wararchivegr.org and/or by contacting Maka Dokhnadze at the phone of the Arheion, 210-8676390, or mobile phone 69-98088220 **by latest 20/07/2016**. Please do note that space is limited.