

Kataleifos Interview Question 11

Kataleifos:

Even though things are changing so rapidly in our times, there are certain films that may be concerned with older subjects, but that tell a lot about Greece -- her history, the older decades... For me, some of the best films made in Greece are: Alexis Damianos' *Evdokia*, Nikos Koundouros' *Ogre*, some older Greek comedies...The 'New Greek Cinema', despite its great attempts to distance itself from the previous decades, when chiefly commercial films reigned, with native star actors, the screenplays were not good -- I believe that the screenplay is the Greek Cinema's 'Achilles' heel'. The screenplay appears as the weak point of most Greek films, expressly or not. In any case, I believe that in regard to the screenplay, since there wasn't..., rather now I think there is a related University Dept. in Thessaloniki, screenplay writing isn't taught, and it's seventy percent of a film. Well, if not seventy percent, the screenplay is sixty percent of a film, in my opinion. So in this aspect the Greek Cinema is lacking to a large degree, even though good films, successful enterprises, have been produced. I believe that we (in Greece) are not at the level of some American and English filmmakers, such as Mike Leigh, or other great filmmakers, such as (Pedro) Almodovar in Spain. Namely, I believe that film 'geniuses', such as in other European countries and America, are lacking in Greece. Some films of Voulgaris and of Angelopoulos are very interesting, now there exists a new upswing, with Lanthimos who filmed *Dogtooth*, a very interesting movie. Recently there is also Economides, who filmed *Matchbox* and *Knifer*. There are young filmmakers, from a much younger generation than Voulgaris or Angelopoulos, who propose things that are bolder and more representative of current Greece. I have had the misfortune to belong to the Cinema of earlier decades, in which times (to speak as a harsh critic) the biggest problem was the screenplay. Although in technical aspects (photography and sound production) much progress had taken place, the screenplay was always an issue. Now, things are better.