

memoir of a veering storm



by Sofia Georgovassili



synopsis

What happens to a female roe deer during their reproductive period? What does a young female body feel during and after an abortion? Can a storm erupt in a girl's psyche while she is unconscious?

It is a warm morning in September. A storm is on its way. Anna, 15, skips school to go to the hospital. There, she will confront an experience that will bring about a sudden maturity. At the end of the school day, her mother is waiting outside the school gates to take her back to the house. In the film, the mother drives a fifteen-year-old girl to school in the morning and picks up a woman in the afternoon.

Format 16mm / Kodak vision 3 / 1:66

Length 14'

Language Greek [English subtitles]

Foss Productions / Onassis Culture

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written & directed by
Sofia Georgovassili
produced by
Stelios Cotionis
Sofia Georgovassili

CAST

girl
Daphne Peel
mother
Maria Kallimani
boy
Konstantinos Sideris
girlfriend
Stefania Sotiropoulou
doctor
Nikos Hatzopoulos
nurse
Elena Mengreli

CREW

dop
Tudor Panduru
editor
Giorgos Zafeiris
art director
Sofia Georgovassili
sound design
Persefoni Miliou
costumes
Vassilia Rozana
music
Jay Glass Dubs
associate producer
Antigoni Rota
color grading
Andu Radu, Abator, Romania
film lab
avanpost Digital Cube, Romania
vfx
Tina Koubaraki
graphic design
Markos Zour
Ogust





director's note

I started writing *Memoir of a Veering Storm*, after a friend of mine told me of a similar experience at the tender age of fifteen, when his girlfriend got pregnant by accident. With the help of an adult friend, the two kids visited a hospital in order for the girl to have an abortion. All this happened on a normal weekday between her mother escorting her to and from school as usual.

I was deeply moved by this real-life event and by the cinematic possibilities of this circular story. I also had had such an experience of a termination at a young age. In the film, my friend's story is amalgamated with my own subjective experience.

The space of these eight school hours becomes the greatest void of all: a gap of understanding and communication pervades both the family and the social environment. In the last couple of years we are all witness to the struggle of women in countries like Poland, Argentina, Hungary and lately Greece, to protect their inalienable right to self-determination through their reproductive rights, expressed by the motto 'my body, my choice'. Something that shows us that both bodily autonomy and freedom of choice are still in question even today when we take such things for granted.

Be that as it may, I chose not to dwell on the social impact a story like that has. I wanted the *Memoir of a Veering Storm* to observe and depict the effect of such an event on the psyche of a particular young girl who decides to face an abortion, with the company of her same age boyfriend, on the day that a Mediterranean cyclone is closing in on the town.

The story, unfolding within the timeframe of a day, follows this girl and shares her journey and her feelings. It portrays, in a stark but understated way, a coming-of-age story. A journey that many women amongst us have lived through.





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about director

Sofia Georgovassili is an awarded actress and filmmaker based in Athens, Greece. She is an Artworks fellow Stavros Niarhos foundation, 2020.

Her lead part in Mavro Livadi [Black Field],2010, won her the best actress award at Seville European FF and Variety named her performance 'remarkable as a first time thesp'. She is the supporting lead actress in Christos Nikou 'Apples' the Greek nomination for Oscars 2021. The movie opened Orizzonti section at Venice IFF 2020.

Her first short film as a director, Preparation, 2017 had its world premiere in the section Short Cuts at Toronto International Film Festival, 2017, followed by many festivals worldwide and won numerous awards amongst them Best director award at Drama ISFF. After that she directed a short film under the title Cedar Wolf, part of a bigger project called Love, Europe and committed by ARTE/ZDF.

Human condition and coming-of-age ground, are at the heart of her films.

She is now at the pre-production of her first feature film under the title Mignon, which will be shot springtime 2022. Mignon is a trilateral co-production between Plays2Place & Blonde productions [GR], Luna Film [RO] and Le Bureau [FR], and for which she won numerous awards including ARTEKino International Prize at CineLink - Sarajevo FF, 2019 CNC special mention at Thessaloniki IFF - Crossroad market, 2019. Mignon is also a Cinereach grantee, 2020 and was part of Oxbelly Screenwriters & Directors Lab fellowship, 2019.



