2nd Vegan Film Festival 2026

VEG ART ACT

Saturday 31/10 & Sunday 1/11 - World Vegan Day

Greek Film Archive (Tainiothiki)
Metro Kerameikos, Athens, GR

18 films from 13 countries around the world

FREE ENTRANCE

vegartact.gr

The Vegan Film Festival VegArtAct is an independent international film festival in Athens, Greece, organised annually by the VegArtAct team of the FemArtAct social cooperative, around the World Vegan Day, on November 1st.

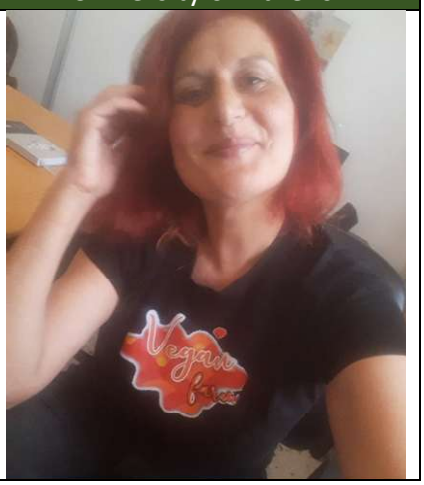
Our mission is to promote vegan filmmaking and veganism, to join cinema with activism in support of animal rights and in solidarity with the global animal liberation movement.

Our vision is a better world for all living beings.

Join us in advocating for veganism and animal liberation worldwide!

https://filmfreeway.com/VegArtAct

J U R Y

Alexia Tsouni	Eri Skyrgianni	Nikoletta Bitouni
Festival Director and Vegan Activist. Co-founder of the FemArtAct social cooperative. Film Director. Hydrologist Civil Engineer & Water Resources MSc at the National Technical University of Athens.	Artist and Vegan Activist. Fine Arts at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Fine Art Photography at the Department of Photography and Audiovisual Arts at the University of West Attica.	Vegan Activist. Founder of the Vegan Farm in Athens, rescuing animals from fires, floods, and illegal farms since 2022. School of Law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.
		

P R O G R A M M E

Saturday October 31st 2026

17:00-21:00

Greek Film Archive, 136 Meg. Alexandrou str, 10435, Athens, Greece

17:00-17:20 OPENING

1	**LIBERATION (2026)**			**17:20-17:30**	
	Jeff Corpening		United States		04:40
A mysterious young girl races to free a doomed calf from a factory farm before it's too late.					
2	**A CHANGE IN THE ROUTE, VIOLET (2025)**			**17:30-17:40**	
	Juan Faundez		Chile		04:50
A piglet is thrown from a truck by his mother in a desperate last attempt to save him from the slaughterhouse. Lost and terrified, he almost fell into the wrong hands, but was rescued by a kind-hearted elderly woman along with her loyal dogs and cat. This is a story of love and compassion, but also a reminder of the suffering millions of exploited animals endure every day, whose longing to live and be free is too often ignored.					 
3	**A PIGGY TALE (2026)**			**17:40-17:50**	
	Leon McConnell		United States		05:45
A teacher cares for students lovingly till it's time to butcher them.					 
4	**GREENFIELD (2025)**			**17:50-18:00**	
	Haru Lev		South Korea		06:07
The stigmatised, objectified, and criminalised transgender-queer body is revealed within nature. A poetic gaze follows these bodies, observing how capital shapes public perception to commodify animal bodies, and where this narrative intersects with systemic social oppressions such as poverty, hatred, and discrimination.					 

5	VEGAN FOR LIFE (2025)			18:00-18:10
	Alysa Brennan		United States	04:58

5-minute romantic, comedic Public Service Announcement (PSA) about veganism and vampires!





6	THE RUSTY FISH (2026)			18:10-18:20
	Milad Fathiani		Iran	06:15

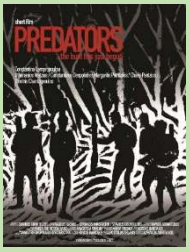
The animated film “Rusty Fish” is a symbolic and thought-provoking narrative of the conflict between man and nature. The story revolves around a hunter who relentlessly and without regard for the consequences of his behavior, destroys the environment around him. He not only hunts animals, but also, with a domineering spirit, disrupts the delicate balance of nature. In his view, nature is merely a resource for exploitation; lifeless, defenseless, and doomed to surrender.





7	PREDATORS (2023)			18:20-18:35
	Kiriakos Anastasiou		Greece	10:00

In one of the three last remaining forests on the European continent, a rare female creature lives free. But the predators have spotted it...





8	MOMO GARDEN: THE COWS WHO SURVIVED FUKUSHIMA (2026)			18:35-18:50
	Ryuji Chua		Japan	11:11

After the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident, towns around the plant became an evacuation zone. Pets were allowed to evacuate, but farm animals weren’t. Considered unfit for consumption and economically worthless, they were left to starve or culled. However, Satsuki Tani fought to save them. Momo Garden is about the cows she rescued and the new life they found together.





9	THE HOWL (2026)			18:50-19:10
	Zaizar Habacuc, Saúl Mercado		Mexico	13:38

A woman walking with her dog in the forest discovers the burnt body of a male. There’s a note next to the body and it says: “An eye for an eye, a tooth for a fang” and it is signed by “The Howl”. The film brings the audience face to face with an uncomfortable reflection about the consequences of our deeds and the value that society gives to life. The Howl is a thriller of psychological horror that uses the tension and suspense to explore the limits between justice, revenge and empathy.





10	CAT PEOPLE (2025)			19:10-19:35
	Molly Dennis		Canada, Greece, United Kingdom	18:00

As Athens faces a stray cat crisis, two veterinarians and a network of volunteers give their time and resources to help the city's overwhelming cat population.





11	TURNING AWAY (2025)			19:35-20:05
	Elisabeth Bergaust		Norway	23:09

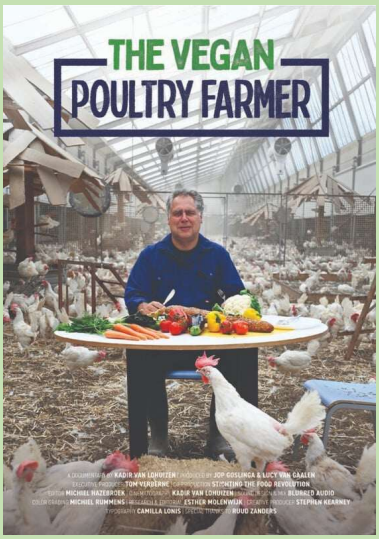
A filmmaker reunites with a former animal rights activist she filmed for a project years ago. Both have stepped away from the struggle they once devoted themselves to. Through conversations, reflections, and quiet sensory observations, the film explores what happens when commitment fades. Turning Away is an intimate portrait of two people trying to come to terms with a sense of hopelessness - and perhaps find a new place from which to stand.





12	THE VEGAN POULTRY FARMER (2025)			20:05-21:00
	Kadir Van Lohuizen		Netherlands	49:37

In the documentary The Vegan Poultry Farmer, renowned photographer and filmmaker Kadir van Lohuizen follows Ruud Zanders, a poultry farmer from the Dutch province of Limburg. After the bankruptcy of his large-scale poultry operations, Ruud reinvented himself with a more sustainable and animal friendly poultry farm: Kipster. The innovative concept has garnered international attention and now stands on the brink of global expansion. Yet, as the business thrives, Ruud increasingly questions the very foundation of animal farming. He now avoids meat, dairy, and eggs in his own diet as much as possible. In this movie he sets out to find out: Can we do without animals in our global food system? With a sharp and honest lens, Kadir van Lohuizen captures Ruud's inner conflict—between ideals and reality. Is it good enough to create the most animal-friendly and sustainable poultry farm? Or does that merely help to uphold the system as it is? The film also explores perspectives from prominent voices like activist George Monbiot and scientist Imke de Boer. And ultimately, it asks the viewer: where do you stand?





22:00-00:00

VegArtAct, 10 Kaklamanou str, 11745, Athens, Greece

WELCOME PARTY with djpap_k

Sunday November 1st 2026

14:00-16:00

Parliament square, Syntagma, 10563, Athens, Greece

ACTION #THISISGYROS

https://www.facebook.com/events/1120137443826148/

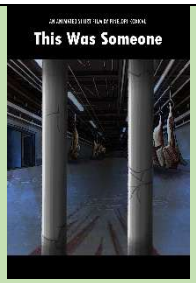


17:00-21:00

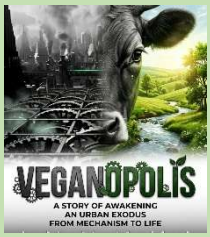
Greek Film Archive, 136 Meg. Alexandrou str, 10435, Athens, Greece

17:00-17:05 WELCOME

13	**THIS WAS SOMEONE (2026)**			**17:05-17:10**	
	Pinelopi Kokkali		Greece		01:05
This Was Someone is an animated short about consumption and the lives we choose not to see.					
14	**VEGANOPOLIS (2026)**			**17:10-17:20**	
	Vegan Film Collective		Greece		03:29
In a dystopian megacity, people's prosperity is based on an invisible system of industrial animal exploitation. When a young worker discovers the hidden truth beneath the city, he decides to challenge the system and put an end to the cycle of violence. His actions spark a peaceful transformation of 'Veganopolis', proving that true progress is founded on compassion, respect for all living beings and coexistence.					









15	GAURI (2026)			17:20-17:35
	Saswati Swaro		United Kingdom	09:32

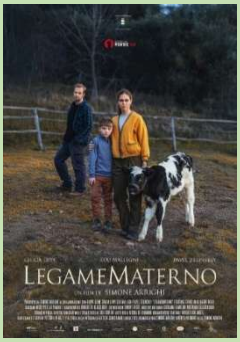
This film explores a singular, devastating question: Does maternal love lose its value when it belongs to another species? Through the story of Gauri, a mother, and Munmun, her child, the film exposes the systematic, industrialized separation of mother and offspring. It is a mirror held up to human self-obsession, asking us to feel the pain of a mother whose grief is ignored because she is 'only an animal.' I chose to create this as a universal narrative to show that the bond between parent and child is the most sacred, and most violated, connection on Earth.





16	MATERNAL BOND (2025)			17:35-17:55
	Simone Arrighi		Italy	15:00

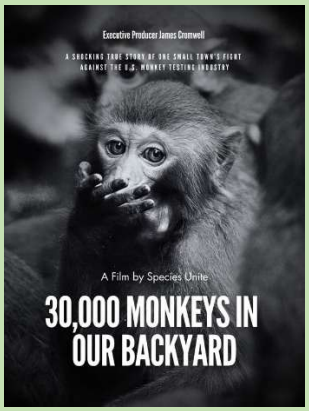
Silvia lives in a small mountain village where she grows and sells vegetables. She lives with her son and a two-month-old calf. After reporting her husband for domestic violence and animal abuse, she unexpectedly comes face to face with her tormentor.





17	30,000 MONKEYS IN OUR BACKYARD (2025)			17:55-18:25
	Thomas Pickering & Amy Jones		United States	26:02

In December 2023, residents of Bainbridge, Georgia, a small Southern town of just 14,000, were blindsided by a shocking plan approved behind closed doors: a massive “agricultural house” that would breed 30,000 monkeys to be sold for painful and often deadly laboratory experiments. This 25-minute documentary follows Bainbridge’s diverse community of farmers, teachers, lawyers, and scientists as they unite to challenge Safer Human Medicine, a company with a troubling history. Through emotional first-hand accounts, expert insights, and ongoing legal battles, the film reveals the dark underbelly of America’s multi-billion-dollar animal testing industry and reminds us that even in an age defined by division, ordinary people can still come together, fight for their communities, and win.







18	THE ALL IS ONE (2023)			18:25-19:50
	Tobias Schönenberg		Germany	01:21:00

Slaughterhouse owner Werner Haas has a ton of slaughter waste dumped on his front lawn in the middle of the night. Fuming mad, he files charges against unknown persons and foolishly sets something in motion that can’t be stopped.





19:50-21:00 AWARDS CEREMONY

Special Guest: Vegan Çiftlik Short Film Festival, Foça, İzmir, Türkiye

1) **Best Feature Film VegArtAct 2026**
Awarded by Eri Skyrgianni, Jury member,
Artist & Vegan Activist

2) **Best Featurette Film VegArtAct 2026**
Awarded by Nikoletta Bitouni, Jury member,
Founder of the Vegan Farm in Athens

3) **Best Short Film VegArtAct 2026**
Awarded by Alexia Tsouni, Festival Director, Jury member,
President of the FemArtAct social cooperative

4) **Best Children's Film VegArtAct 2026**
Awarded by Elli Stourna,
Co-Founder of REthink ANIMALS

5) **Best Student Film VegArtAct 2026**
Awarded by Effie Achtsioglou, Lawyer,
Vegan Politician

6) **Best Experimental Film VegArtAct 2026**
Awarded by George Kounanis, Legal Advisor,
Vegan & LGBTQI+ Activist, Artist

7) **Best Documentary Film VegArtAct 2026**
Awarded by Yusuf Unay, Vegan Çiftlik Farm
Director of the Vegan Çiftlik Short Film Festival

8) **Best Animation Film VegArtAct 2026**
Awarded by Elif Telciler, Vegan Çiftlik Farm
Jury member of the Vegan Çiftlik Short Film Festival

9) **Best AI Film VegArtAct 2026**
Awarded by Anna Pleioni Zilfidou,
Photographer and Vegan Activist



10) **Best Greek Film VegArtAct 2026**
Awarded by Nikolas Nikolopoulos, Vegan Chef & Activist, Co-owner of the Pernera Blue Zone Eatery in Patmos, President of the Conscientious Objectors' Association, Marathon runner

11) **Audience Award VegArtAct 2026**
Awarded by…
The Audience! :)

22:00-00:00

VegArtAct, 10 Kaklamanou str, 11745, Athens, Greece

F A R E W E L L P A R T Y

S P E C I A L G U E S T S

Vegan Çiftlik Short Film Festival, Foça, İzmir, Türkiye













Yusuf Unay

Festival Director



Elif Telciler

Jury Member



A C C O M M O D A T I O N S P O N S O R

