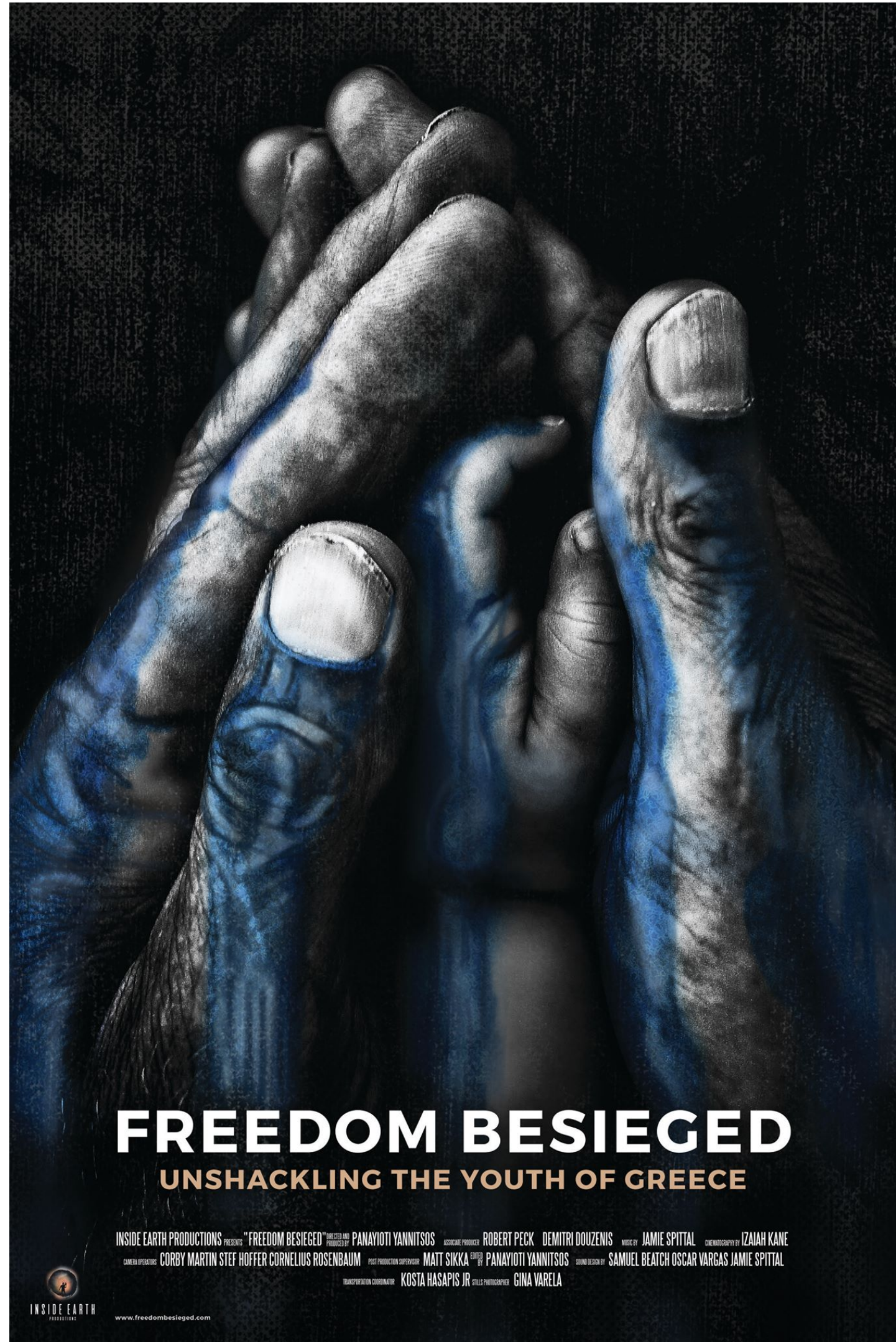


FREEDOM BESIEGED
A film by Panayioti Yannitsos



FREEDOM BESIEGED

UNSHACKLING THE YOUTH OF GREECE

INSIDE EARTH PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "FREEDOM BESIEGED" DIRECTED BY PANAYIOTI YANNITSOS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ROBERT PECK DEMITRI DOUZENS PRODUCED BY JAMIE SPITTAL
SCREENPLAY BY IZAAH KANE
EDITED BY CORBY MARTIN STEF HOFFER CORNELIUS ROSENBAUM
POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR MATT SIKKA
COSTUME DESIGNER PANAYIOTI YANNITSOS
CINEMA DESIGNER SAMUEL BEATCH OSCAR VARGAS JAMIE SPITTAL
PRODUCTION DESIGNER KOSTA HASAPIS JR.
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER GINA VARELA

INSIDE EARTH PRODUCTIONS
www.freedombesieged.com

Sixteen years ago a young Greek Canadian visited Kiveri for his summer holidays. He attended a basketball camp and his life changed forever.

“Remember this guy,” the coach said to the rest of the kids.

This guy is back.

In 2016, young filmmaker, Panayioti Yannitsos, revisited Kiveri to tell the remarkable story of John Karkalatos, the spirited founder of Kiveri Basket. To capture, in a documentary, the remarkable journey he had made. A journey of rediscovered identity, self-knowledge, self-confidence and community. An inspiring journey that opened a ten-year-old’s eyes to new possibility. Possibility through individual empowerment and teamwork.

“Freedom Besieged” expanded beyond Kiveri Basket to include other remarkable programs in Greece, with commentary from global thought leaders such as Noam Chomsky, Peter Diamantis and Jordan Peterson and from influential Greeks such as Piros Dimas, Eva Antoniou, Peter Economides and Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

“Freedom Besieged” seeks to enable and empower new heroes.

“Freedom Besieged” will premiere in Athens early in 2019.

Please join us.

As a sponsor, a volunteer or supporter.

Greece needs change.

But it needs Greeks driving change.

And that requires identity, self-knowledge, confidence and community support.

GINETAI.

Here is what Panayioti Yannitsos, Director of Freedom Besieged says about the film...

**REPLACING "THE GREEK REALITY",
BY CONVINCING GENERATIONS TO DREAM AGAIN:
TO BE DRIVEN BY THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IS THE NEW GREEK REALITY.**

This is not a film about economic policy or the day to day drama of Greek politics.

This film is about how we, as community leaders, engage with our youth in order to provide a SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT that promotes self-belief and allows them to innovate freely and grow. Therefore, the purpose of this film is to communicate a hope-based theme by showcasing some of the most unique actions positively impacting the psychology of Greek youth today. The image of an elderly man weeping outside a Greek bank makes headlines but we forget about the 20 year olds building an eco village three hours away? We obsess over the trauma and ignore those trying to generate something positive, AS IF THEY ARE ALIENS, or as some have put it to me, "exceptions to the Greek reality". The young Greeks I have spoken to do not accept that reality. The message we put out there in the world affects the psychology of our children. We have stripped them of the right to dream. To remain ignorant to this fact is reckless and it must be reversed. It begins with how we COMMUNICATE OUR IDENTITY.

By having the film's narration driven by the interviews of prominent intellectuals, politicians, police officers, teachers, and experts from in Greece and around the world, there now exists a sense of connectivity between Greek youth and the world around them. The topic of Greek youth identity has now been put in the mouths of some of planet Earth's most respected voices and community leaders. *That means something.* Above all, I want to let young Greeks know that there are those of us who will not let the conversation of their future take place without them. This film includes the voices of dozens upon dozens of promising, young Greeks, from actors to theology students to farmers. Although there have been other documentaries done about the negative consequences of the Greek crisis, our film is unique because it focuses on a side to this conversation often ignored: Hope for the future. And what many on the global stage forget is that there are those in Greece who have reacted to this crisis with innovation, compassion, and a focus driven on the future. Greek youth today have been positioned as a lost generation and this film is dedicated to the many who are fighting to REDISCOVER WHAT HAS BEEN LOST.

**Those people are our heroes because they have dared to dream again.
They've slain the Greek Reality and replaced it with Hope.**

Here are some of the prominent individuals featured in the film.

NOAM CHOMSKY (World-renowned intellectual)
MICHAEL DUKAKIS (Former US Presidential Nominee & Governor)
KYRIAKOS MITSOTAKIS (New Democracy Party Leader)
PYRROS DIMAS (Four-time Olympic medalist)
GIORGOS KARAGOUNIS (Greek football legend)
ELENI PORTALIOU (Stateswoman and professor)
MARGARITIS SCHINAS (Chief Spokesperson of the European Commission)
DIMITRI DIAMANTIDIS (Greek basketball legend)
PETER ECONOMIDES (Brand strategist)
YVETTE JARVIS (first African-American elected to Greek public office)
DR. JORDAN PETERSON (Clinical psychologist)
PETER DIAMANTIS (Engineer, Physician, Entrepreneur)
DR. GABOR MATÉ (Childhood development expert)
DR. GEORGE STEIRIS (Professor of Philosophy)
DR. ANTONIS VRADIS (Professor of Geography)
DR. VASSILIS XERAS (Physician)
DR. MARY BOSSIS (Professor of International Affairs)
DR. ANASTASIOS MATSOPOULOS (Professor of Psychology, University of Crete)
ELENI ANTONIADOU (Scientist, Transplants Without Borders, NASA)

About the director...

Panayioti Yannitsos is an award-winning Canadian filmmaker based in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is of Greek descent and was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

His grandparents immigrated to Canada from Argolida and Arkadia, Greece in the late 1950s.

Panayioti attributes much of his love for storytelling to his mother, Sophia Yannitsos, a long time theatre actress and director. He is best known as a dramatic screenwriter as well as a social issue documentarian of several films in Canada, the United States, Greece, and in China.

Today, Panayioti produces television and feature films for several companies within Canada and the United States, including his own, Inside Earth Productions, which is currently producing films taking place in Greece, Canada, the US, and Israel.