

**FREEDOM BESIEGED**  
(*Feature Documentary, Coming Spring 2018*)

Directed by: Award-winning filmmaker *Panayioti Yannitsos*  
Company: *Inside Earth Productions Inc* (Vancouver, Canada)

**What is it?**

*Freedom Besieged* is a 70-minute documentary concerning the current economic and political climate of Greece amidst what has been described as "one of the greatest economic collapses in human history". The film documents the lives of young Greeks searching for any semblance of hope and identity amidst the doom-and-gloom messaging of what is known, simply, as "The Crisis".

It is currently in post-production after having gathered 6,000 minutes of footage over four overseas trips.

**Who is in it?**

World renowned intellectuals from five countries and 10 different cities are featured in this film including: **the iconic NOAM CHOMSKY, former US Presidential Nominee MICHAEL DUKAKIS, four-time Olympic medalist PYRROS DIMAS, popular clinical psychologist DR JORDAN PETERSON, Greek New Democracy Party Leader KYRIAKO MITSOTAKIS among others.**

**PRIVATE LINK to the OFFICIAL TRAILER:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8t9bCALjgA0>

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**FULL DETAILS**

My name is Panayioti Yannitsos and I am a Canadian-Greek filmmaker based out of Vancouver, BC. Since August 2016, we have been in production of a feature-length documentary concerning the current economic and political climate of Greece and specifically how such has impacted the psychology and development of the nation's youth.

We begin by chronicling the story of Alexandros Grigoropoulos, a fifteen-year-old boy shot and killed in cold blood by Greek police in 2008. An event that sparked outrage and awoke many youth in the country to analyze their own place in the modern Greek narrative. This is our *inciting incident* and from there...

We communicate a hope-based theme by showcasing some of the most unique actions positively impacting the psychology of Greek youth today despite the doom-and-gloom messaging of the

economic crisis that our young people are all too familiar with. We follow intimately the stories of...

**JOHN KARKALATOS**, a local farmer in the village of Kiveri, Argolida who runs a youth basketball camp that instills values of self-belief in the local youth.

**APOSTOLOS SIANOS**, who fled Athens for the mountains of Euboea to create a groundbreaking eco-village where he and other young Greeks seek a fully self-sustainable lifestyle.

**KONSTANTINOS PAPACHRISTOU**, a fifteen year old from Thessaloniki who created Greece's first online teen think tank for youth to discuss amongst one another topics concerning the nation.

**EIRINI FANARIOTI**, a young director and actress who refused to leave Greece and founded her own theatre company.

**YANNIS DIAKOUMAKOS**, who despite gutting bureaucracy and taxation that threatens his business, continues to build and designs analogue synthesizers that have been distributed successfully around the world to bands such as Depeche Mode and Aerosmith.

Paired with the documentation of these unique endeavours, the narration of this film will be driven by the interviews of world-renowned intellectuals, scientists, doctors, psychologists, politicians, police officers, teachers, and experts from within Greece and the international community. The idea is to create a sense of connectivity between the voices of Greek youth and the voices of the world around them as we discuss this important topic of youth identity in Greece.

*Expert participants in this film include:*

**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 DIAMANDIS** (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)

**\*Until now, my company has self-financed this film through production along with a handful of independent donations. To this day, we continue to fundraise the money needed to finish the project.**

**\*We are currently editing the film in Vancouver and plan to have it finished by April of 2018.**

**\*A trailer will be released at the end of February.**

*Some "quotable" bits:*

This is not a film about economic policy or the day to day drama of Greek politics. This film is about communication. 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 was 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. To remain ignorant to this fact is reckless.

Then, 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 would exist 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. 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 that stigma.

What has been clear about this documentary from the beginning is that our door remains open to anyone who wishes to answer our call, including the Prime Minister himself. This film is the equivalent to sitting under one roof together, face to face, and having a conversation with the young Greeks we should have been listening to decades ago.

**Online:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/freedombesieged/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/freedombesieged> Website: <http://freedombesieged.com/>

**Press:**

<https://greekcitytimes.com/freedom-besieged-insight-greeces-youth/>

<http://neoskosmos.com/news/en/We-cannot-afford-to-lose-another-generation-Not-one-this-talented>

<http://hollywood.greekreporter.com/2017/06/19/freedom-besieged-sets-out-to-change-the-story-of-greek-youth/>

<http://www.kathimerini.gr/921712/article/politismos/kinhmatografos/oi-neoi-ths-krishs-den-paraitoyntai>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-rebirth-of-discussion-how-a-fifteen-year-old-is\\_us\\_59486276e4b0f7875b83e547](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-rebirth-of-discussion-how-a-fifteen-year-old-is_us_59486276e4b0f7875b83e547)

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[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/panayioti-yannitsos/hymn-to-liberty-why-one-g\\_b\\_11787580.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/panayioti-yannitsos/hymn-to-liberty-why-one-g_b_11787580.html)

<http://neoskosmos.com/news/en/The-Greek-crisis-and-its-impact-on-youth-identity>