

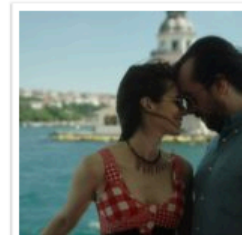
the Hellenic Journal

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SEEFest

The 12th **South East European Film Festival** (SEEFest) opened on April 27th and continues through May 4th, showing a total of 56 films – “our largest-ever selection,” says founder and director **Vera Mijojlic**, “and includes features, documentaries and 35 short features and animations.” Screenings are held at the **Writers Guild Theater** and **Laemmle Music Hall** in Beverly Hills, as well at the **Goethe-Institut** in Miracle Mile area and the **West Hollywood Council Chambers**.

This is one of the better film festivals in Los Angeles with Mijojlic presenting consistently fine works from South Eastern Europe. Of particular interest to Hellenic Journal readers is ***Roza of Smyrna***, a love story spanning the turbulent Greek-Turkish history of the 20th century. The enigmatic old woman Roza from Izmir and the powerful Ismael live for decades with the weight of a well-kept secret. An avid collector of Greek objects in Asia Minor, Dimitris, prepares an exhibition in a renowned museum in Athens on Culture of Nationalities, which cohabited in Izmir before the genocide.



George Kordellas' *Roza of Smyrna* screens at SEEFest in Los Angeles on May 4.
COURTESY PHOTO

On a trip to Izmir with the curator of the museum, he accidentally finds in a small antique shop a Greek wedding dress that is stained with blood. An old photograph, the dress, and a letter become the reason to retrace their story from the past.

The film is directed by **George Kordellas**, written by **Christina Lazaridi**, and stars **Tasos Nousias**, **Leda Prosopsalti** and **Evgenia Dimitropoulou**. It will be shown on the final gala evening of the Festival at the Writers Guild Theater, 1355 Doheny Drive, Beverly Hills, 90211.

Visit seefilm.org for tickets and information.