

ANCIENT GAME PRODUCTIONS in association with VIEW MASTER FILMS
Presents



Following a meltdown that leads to a suspension, professional golfer Zoe Papadopoulou travels to her grandparents' village in Greece to escape the harsh spotlight of the international sports world. Between baking bread and eating baklava, she meets and mentors a ten-year-old girl who is determined - against all odds - to become the next golf sensation. Along the way, Zoe rediscovers her Greek heritage, her love of the game, and the hidden strength within herself as she inspires the townspeople in an epic showdown against a greedy American developer.

“SWING AWAY”

A GEORGE ELIAS STEPHANOPOULOS PRODUCTION

A MICHAEL ACHILLES NICKLES FILM

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World Premiere 2016 Bentonville Film Festival, Official Selection

Official trailer YouTube: <https://youtu.be/UnWh4Y1PnwI>

Running time 98 minutes

Genre Comedy, Drama, Romance

Rating PG

Year 2016

Language English, Greek (English subtitles)

Country of Origin USA, Greece

Format 2048 x 1090, 24fps, 2.35, Sound 5.1

Links Official website: www.swingawaymovie.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/swingawaymovie
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/swingawaymovie>
IMDB: www.imdb.com/title/tt4653950/

**“SWING AWAY”
ABOUT THE CAST AND CREW**



Zoe Papadopoulos
Glenn Henderson
Marcos Roussos
Panayiotis Mamalakis
Thomas Black
Haralambos Papadopoulos
Keti Papadopoulos
Fr. Anthony
Stella Roussos

SHANNON ELIZABETH
JOHN O’HURLEY
MANOS GAVRAS
RENOS HARALAMBIDIS
KARL THEOBALD
ALEXANDROS MYLONAS
OLGA DAMANI
CHRISTOS SOUGARIS
VIKTORIA MILLER

CREW

Director
Produced By
Producer
Greek Producers
Screenplay By
Story By
Directory of Photography
Production Designer
Editing
Composer
Unit Production Manager
1st Assistant Director
Costume Designer

MICHAEL ACHILLES NICKLES
GEORGE ELIAS STEPHANOPOULOS
STAMATIOS TOM HIOTIS
COSTAS LAMBROPOULOS, GEORGE KIRIAKOS
PAUL ROBERT LINGAS, JULIA WALL NICKLES
GEORGE ELIAS STEPHANOPOULOS, PAUL ROBERT LINGAS
YIANNIS DASKALOTHANASIS
KATERINA ZOURARI
LAMBIS HARALAMBIDIS
TAO ZERVAS
DIMITRIS HATZIVOGIATZIS
EVDOKIA KALAMITSI
VASSO TRANIDOU-SOURIADAKI

“SWING AWAY”
ABOUT THE STORY – George Elias Stephanopoulos, Creator/Producer

The Idea: *Swing Away*, set in present day Greece, is a comedy with heart. And never has an American golf film ventured out of America before this one. Golf is increasingly becoming a worldwide sport with its ascent at last to the Olympics in 2016. Of course, Greeks will likely claim this represents the return of golf to Greece as an ancient Greek game. Whether Greek myth or legend, the charm and wonder of golf is ultimately revealed in *Swing Away*.

The Story: The main story of *Swing Away* is about a American golfer who journeys home to overcome an obstacle and in the process rediscovers again how to “swing away” at life and embrace that which matters most – family, children, health, friends and passions. Despite a very public humiliation, Zoe’s return to Greece allows her to rediscover her roots, her humanity and ultimately her love of the sport.

Theme: “*Swing Away*” is a golf term that means to hit the ball with ease and freedom. It also serves as a useful metaphor meaning it’s only in following the yearnings of our true self (like Stella does) or in rediscovering them again (like Zoe) that allows the universe or golf gods in this case to conspire to bring joy and unity into our lives. And it’s only through comedy that this theme can be adequately expressed in order to remind each of us to “swing away” in our own lives.

A Greek-Inspired Film: *Swing Away* was one of the few non Greek-language films to be shot, edited, and post-produced within Greece in an effort to support the Greek creative community, as well as to showcase the enormous talent of those working in the industry there, both in front and behind the camera.

“SWING AWAY”
ABOUT THE PRODUCTION – Michael Achilles Nickles, Director

On Directing: I have always wanted to direct a film in Greece, as I have roots there (all four of my grandparents are Greek) and I am proud of my heritage. I first visited the country as a teenager when I was a camper at the Ionian Village. That is where I first met and became friends with producer George Stephanopoulos. It was during that trip that I had the strange sensation that I had come “home.” All of my trips to Greece since then have had a tremendous impact on me and I wanted to one day honor that in a film. Swing Away gave me that opportunity and it was an experience I’ll never forget.

On Casting: The most challenging role to cast was the one of Stella. There just aren't that many pre-teen, Greek-speaking, golf-loving girls in Greece. There probably aren't many in the world, actually. It was a little like finding a needle in a haystack. George Stephanopoulos searched high and low for many years when looking to cast a boy in the role of Spiros (now Stella), before I was even attached to direct. Eventually, we held casting sessions in Athens and that's where I met Viktoria Miller. She had never been in a film before but had a natural ease in front of the camera. She was also very honest, serious and curious, which are qualities I greatly admire in any actor. She took six months of golf lessons to prepare for the role and ended up giving a wonderful performance in the film.

On Locations: We shot the film on the island of Rhodes, which is very beautiful and fairly easy to make look like a pretty postcard. A lot of films are content with sharing just that. Working with cinematographer Yiannis Daskalothanasis, however, I wanted to reach past that kind of tourist-y surface and find specific visuals that might hint at a more authentic experience. In essence, I wanted to share my own memories of Greece - the sights and sounds I took home with me after my first visit to the country: old yiayias speaking Greek as they walk through the village, a grazing goat at sunrise, a vendor selling fruit off his scooter, the meditative color and texture of the sea, the delicious food. We set aside time to capture those moments at each of the locations we visited so we could sprinkle them throughout the edit.

On Writing: The script was very ambitious and we didn't have a lot of time. Nevertheless, we committed to telling the story in as big a way as possible, without cutting too many corners. There were many nights that we'd have to reconsider the next day's material based on what we were able to achieve the day before. Luckily, my wife, Julia, one of the screenwriters, was in Greece to make those last-minute, high pressure changes. The actors came to expect new material each morning and, again, lucky for us, they rose to the challenge.

**“SWING AWAY”
ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

Director **Michael Achilles Nickles** is an award-winning filmmaker who began his career as a film student at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where he won the William Morris Screenwriting Award for his short film *Killin' Time* and later graduated with top honors after receiving the school's most prestigious filmmaking award, the merit-based WTC Johnson Fellowship.

He went on to study with director Cory Allen and legendary acting teacher Sanford Meisner and has written and/or directed several award-winning feature films and scripts including *Playback* (starring Christian Slater), *Just Peck* (starring Brie Larson), and the animated feature *Bunyan and Babe* (starring John Goodman).

As a cinematographer, Nickles has shot several acclaimed documentaries, including *Hands On A Hardbody*, which won the Audience Award at the AFI Festival and which was recently turned into a Broadway musical. He also shot the travel doc *Mike's Indian Adventure* and the rock-doc *Motorcity Motor Mouth* along with several music videos and behind-the-scenes episodes on musical artists for MTV and VH1.

Most recently, Mr. Nickles wrote, directed and produced the Maine-based holiday/comedy *Holly Star* and is the Executive Producer of Heather Graham's directorial debut *Half Magic*. He is also the writer/director of the upcoming international thriller *Circle 9*.

**“SWING AWAY”
ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

George Elias Stephanopoulos is an independent producer and media attorney based in New York.

He completed production as executive producer of the film *Bereave* (starring Malcolm McDowell and Jane Seymour) and *Golf in the Kingdom* adapted from Michael Murphy’s best-selling golf novel (starring David O’Hara and Mason Gamble), and as co-producer of the film Second City’s *BuzzKill* (starring Krysten Ritter), which was the first motion picture to be branded by The Second City in more than 40 years.

In addition to *Swing Away*, George created and produced the documentary short *Artistic Energy: The Bronx*, a Yes the Bronx Production, and is a credited producer of the Harry Potter-inspired Off-Broadway hit comedy *Puffs*.

Other film credits include *Lassie* (starring Peter O’Toole, Samantha Morton and Peter Dinklage) and *VeggieTales: The Pirates Who Don’t Do Anything* (among these credits, he worked on SNL-spin off movies *Wayne’s World* and *Coneheads*, *Lassie: Best Friends Are Forever*, *The Lone Ranger*, *Underdog* and *Mr. Peabody & Sherman*).

George currently maintains his own legal and consultancy practice and previously served as a senior advisor to Classic Media, Inc. and its UK and Nashville-based subsidiaries (now part of DreamWorks Animation) in 2009 and was Executive Vice President and General Counsel there from 2001 to 2007.

“SWING AWAY” ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Stamatios Tom Hiotis (Producer) comes to filmmaking from the world of advertising. Having been producer and head of production for a major multinational advertising agency, he then moved on to produce with some of the biggest production houses in Greece. After 26 years of producing award-winning commercials for both the Greek and International markets, he set his sights on new projects. He has since produced the documentary short *Artistic Energy: The Bronx* and currently also an Executive Producer for the feature length documentary *The Road to Sparta*, (to be released in 2017), and is currently a producer on the movie *Holly Star*, which will be released in late 2017. Tom is also one of the producers of the hit Off-Broadway show *Puffs, or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic & Magic*.

Paul Robert Lingas (Co-Writer, Executive Producer) received a double BA in English Literature and Spanish at the University of Oregon before earning his MFA at the University of Southern California’s School of Cinema-Television. His award winning film *Wide Awake in Nothing* screened at numerous worldwide festivals and enjoyed a multi-year run on the Independent Film Channel (IFC). His film *Just Ask...* is currently on the festival circuit, having already garnered seven awards, including four prestigious Awards of Excellence from the Accolade Global Film Competition, IndieFest Awards and Best Shorts Competition, and another eight nominations. Paul has produced, written and directed a number of other award winning films, a web based sit-com and a pair of documentaries. He has been commissioned to write and/or rewrite feature screenplays for a variety of production companies in Los Angeles, New York, London and Athens.

Paul is a Co-Founder of Blind Confidence Productions. Besides *Swing Away*, Paul has a number of other projects coming out this year, including *Cold Water*, an independent drama for which he was Director of Photography, and the forthcoming sci-fi TV series *Dystopia*, which he co-wrote.

Born in Portland, Oregon to a Greek father and Canadian mother, Paul was fortunate to have the unique and highly influential experience of spending nearly every summer of his youth at his family home in Greece and he continues to visit as often as he can. A long time resident of Los Angeles and New York, he also writes short and long narrative fiction and has written for two online music magazines, having interviewed Gary Busey and Ray Davies, among others. In addition, Paul was a Professor of Critical Film Theory and History for five years at the New York Film Academy.

J.W. Nickles (Co-Writer) has been a professional writer and editor for the past fifteen years.

The critically-acclaimed documentary *Hands On A Hardbody*, on which she served as Associate Producer, became an instant cult classic and inspired the 2013 Tony-Award-nominated Broadway musical of the same name.

This is Not a Film, the feature-length comedy she co-wrote and produced, won numerous film festival awards and played on the Independent Film Channel for several years. In addition to *Swing Away*, she also co-wrote the screenplay for *Bunyan & Babe*, an upcoming animated feature starring John Goodman and Kelsey Grammer. Most recently Nickles completed a fantasy-adventure novel for young adult readers, the first in a series featuring a strong female protagonist and centered on female friendship.

Costas Lambropoulos (Greek Producer, View Master Films) founded in 1985 CL Productions and since 2010 he has been collaborating also with the Athens based film production company View Master Films, producing feature films, television, theatrical and cultural events' productions for national and international projects. Lambropoulos has participated (as a producer or ex. producer) in more than 190 feature films and has successfully worked with director Theo Angelopoulos producing the films *Eternity and a Day*, *The Weeping Meadow*, *Ulysses' Gaze*, *The Suspended Step of the Stork*, *Landscape in the Mist*, *Dust of Time*, and (unfinished) *The Other Sea*, with director Costa-Gavras for the film *Eden is West*, with director Pantelis Voulgaris producing the film *Brides*, with Tassos Boulmetis producing *A Touch of Spice*, and with the director Nikos Perakis producing his film *Loafing and Camouflage: Sirens in the Aegean*, which is until today Greece's biggest commercial success. Most of his films have been awarded at International Festivals and have travelled in the festival circuit.

**PRODUCTION SERVICES
ABOUT VIEW MASTER FILMS**



VIEW MASTER FILMS, located in Athens, is an independent film production company established in 2010, by George Kyriakos - a qualified film production manager with over 25 years of experience in the audiovisual field.

The company has joined with producer Costas Labropoulos, one of the top professionals in the audiovisual field. Together, they produce and co-produce content for the cinema and TV using the most up-to-date technology and creative skills available today.

View Master Films is now one of the leading production companies in Greece. Through collaborations such as those in Cappa Productions, Martin Scorsese U.S.A., Theo Angelopoulos, Costas Gavras, Filmauro Aurelio DeLaurentis, Village Roadshow, Network Production U.S.A., the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and participation of Olympic Games Athens 2004, the company has paved the way for international productions.

The company also operates in the field of Public Events. From 2012-2015 it had the responsibility for the production of the Kalamata International Dance Festival as well as the Inauguration Festivities and the Full Operation of the Peiraias Municipality Theatre (2013-2015). In 2015, View Master Films was responsible for the production execution of the event "Light up the Night" which took place at Stavros Niarchos Park (June 2015).

“SWING AWAY” WORDS FROM THE CAST

Shannon Elizabeth (Zoe Papadopoulos) - Shannon Elizabeth is an actress, known for her roles in “American Pie”, “Scary Movie” and “Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back.” Shannon appeared in several films and television shows before she landed the iconic role of “Nadia” in the 1999 comedy film American Pie. She has also directed and produced the music video, “More Than Friends, by the rapper Tha Vill and British sensation Kele Le Roc, and formed Ganesha Productions to develop other projects including a feature film “Hazard,” based on the Richard Marx song of the same name. Shannon’s other love, and what she refers to as her purpose in life, is her non-profit, Animal Avengers. Started in 2001 as a Los Angeles animal rescue, the charity became international in 2015 and moved into doing conservation work in Africa.



“SWING AWAY was one of the most fulfilling projects for me that I’ve ever worked on. From an unbelievably talented cast and crew, to getting to work on learning some golf and Greek, to working in a stunningly gorgeous location...everything was perfect. I hope to do it all again very soon!”

John O’Hurley (Glenn Henderson) - John O’Hurley is an American actor, voice actor, author and television personality. He is known for the role of J. Peterman on the NBC sitcom “Seinfeld” and was a host of the game show “Family Feud” from 2006 to 2010. John is also renowned for his excellent voice work, having voiced dozens of characters in animated TV shows and movies, including for the hit show “Family Guy.”

“This film was a never-ending gift of unexpected surprises. The beauty of Rhodes is present in every frame. The pride of the Greek people breathes in every line of the script. The bonding of cast and crew made this wonderfully renewing story so easy to reveal - the way all good art should be. I will remember this time as one of the most enjoyable and memorable of my career.”



Manos Gavras (Marcos Roussos) – Manos Gavras studied at the National Theater Academy of Greece and is thus far the only Greek actor to have graduated from the Stella Adler Studio of Action (New York City). He has appeared alongside F. Murray Abraham on stage. Manos is also an accomplished musician and dancer. He is based in Los Angeles.



“One of my nicest film shooting experiences. Brings me memories and beautiful feelings that I am sure will all be reflected on the big screen too.”

Renos Haralambidis (Panayotis Mamalakis) - Renos Haralambidis is an award-winning Greek actor, director, screenwriter and producer who was born in Athens. He wrote, directed and starred in “No Budget Story” (1997), “Cheap Smokes” (2000), “The Heart of the Beast” (2005) and “Four Black Suits” (2010) and has appeared as an actor in numerous other film, TV and theater productions. Renos is based in Athens.

“A great experience working with people who really love cinema. A combination of artistic and commercial film that can win the heart of the audience.”



Karl Theobald (Thomas Black) Karl Theobald was a stand-up comedian before graduating from the Drama Centre in 2000, and subsequently joining theatrical touring companies such as Complicite. In both 2000 and 2001 he appeared at the Edinburgh Festival, in 2001 as a member of the prestigious “Comedy Zone.” He has also travelled throughout Great Britain performing his one-man show entitled “Mr. Tinnamen’s Traveling Medicine Show.” In addition to his appearances as a comic actor, notably on television’s “Green Wing,” “2012” and as the grasping landlord in Roman set “Plebs,” he is also a writer and in 2002 he was part of the team who collected a British Academy award for Best Television Comedy Series for scripting “The Sketch Show.”



“A film with all the H's - Heart, Humour, Humanity, Haralambidis, O'Hurley, Homer and of course Hole's (in one)!!”

Alexandros Mylonas (Haralambos Papadopoulos - Papou/Grandfather) - Alexander Mylonas studied acting at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London (1971-1974). He worked in British regional theaters in Perth, Brighton and Norwich but suddenly returned to Greece to do his military service (1975-77) when the dictatorship fell. During that period he worked at the Art Theater of Karolos Koun acting in four productions. He returned to England to do “Giri in Arturo Ui” at the Chester Gateway Theater. He then went to the States, where after a period of introspection landed in New York, where he lived for most of the 80’s. During that period he worked in many off and off off Broadway venues such as La Mamma Theater where he performed in eight productions, most notably “The Architect” and the “Emperor of Assyria” by Arrabal. He also worked with Olympia Dukakis playing the priest in “The Rose Tattoo.” Since 1990 he lives in Athens and works fulltime in the theater where he has appeared in over forty plays. He has taken part in many Greek TV series and has acted in several films. He has directed eight plays and has been awarded as best new director for Mandragola by Machiavelli. He has also received a lifetime achievement award.

“I enjoyed tremendously working in this movie. Michael Nickles is one of the sweetest guys I have met. He knew how to get the best out of me. An honest movie with a great script, without pretensions. A great experience!”



Olga Damani (Keti Papadopoulou - Yiayia/Grandmother) Olga Damani is an actress, known for “Brides” (2004), “Circo de la vida” (2006) and “Vendetta” (1999).



“I am proud to be part of this movie and to have worked with such a great cast and crew - it was an unforgettable experience. The entire team embraced and encouraged us. It is very important for Greece that such a production took place here and showcased the beauty of our islands.”

Christos Sougaris (Fr. Anthony) - Christos Sougaris is a graduate of the Drama School of the National Theatre in 1997. Christos has performed roles such as Jupiter and Odysseus in Homer's Iliad, Riga in Erotokritos, Duke of Cornwall in King Lear by Shakespeare, Pentheus in Euripides' Bacchae, Hercules and Aiakes in The Frogs by Aristofanis, Julian the Apostate written by Nikos Kazantzakis, and Mosmpi in Arden from Faversham. His first job was in the film “Eternity and a Day” by Theo Angelopoulos in 1997 and the last “The Stage Fright” of George Zois that will be released in 2015.

“It was an amazing experience for me and a great opportunity to perform a well written part. Father Anthony is the perfect type of preacherman. One of those men who can inspire people. Those men who can earn respect from people. SWING AWAY is a sweet, funny and very emotional movie, produced and directed from two great guys George and Michael and I feel blessed that I’m part of it.”



Viktorija Miller (Stella Roussos) Viktorija Miller was born in Patras, Greece, the daughter of a Scottish father and Greek mother. “Swing Away” is Viktorija’s acting debut.



“Working together with the cast...it was awesome! I liked all the actors, but I became very close to Shannon Elizabeth and Manos Gavras. From what I have seen of the film, it looks wonderful especially for families. I am sure it is going to be a success.”

PRESS LINKS

FILM SWING AWAY ABOUT HEART, SOUL, GOING FOR IT: STEPHANOPOULOS, NICKLES REFLECT ON THE INSPIRATION - <http://photo.ekirikas.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/29103803/955.pdf>

SWING AWAY – A SPORTS COMEDY WITH HEART AND ROMANCE – SHOOTING ON THE ISLAND OF RHODES - <http://www.lpga.com/news/2015-swing-away-sports-comedy-release>

CREW OF ‘SWING AWAY’ MOVIE ECSTATIC WITH WORK AS FILM ENTERS FINAL STAGES OF PRODUCTION - <http://7csgolf.com/articles/?p=3449>

SWING AWAY: CASTRALE’S OPENING ACT - <http://www.lpga.com/news/2015-swing-away-castrale>

ANCIENT GAME PRODUCTIONS’ FEATURE FILM SWING AWAY MOVES INTO POST-PRODUCTION - <http://www.worldgolf.com/newswire/browse/90449-Ancient-Game-Productions%E2%80%99-Feature-Film-Swing-Away-Moves-Post-Production>

INTERVIEW WITH FILMMAKER MICHAEL NICKLES - <http://areviewlution.com/interviews/interview-with-filmmaker-michael-nickles/>

OPA! ‘SWING AWAY’ AT LIFE! - http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alex-pattakos/the-opa-way_b_3506401.html

ANCIENT GAME PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH VIEW MASTER FILMS PRESENTS A GEORGE ELIAS STEPHANOPOULOS PRODUCTION A MICHAEL ACHILLES NICKLES FILM
SHANNON ELIZABETH JOHN O’HURLEY MANOS GAVRAS RENOS HARALAMBIDIS “SWING AWAY” KARL THEOBALD ALEXANDROS MYLONAS OLGA DAMANI CHRISTOS SOUGARIS INTRODUCING VIKTORIA MILLER
COSTUME DESIGN VASSO TRANIDOU-SOURIADAKI PRODUCTION DESIGN KATERINA ZOURARI MUSIC BY TAO ZERVAS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY YIANNIS DASKALOTHANASIS EDITED BY LAMBIS HARALAMBIDIS PRODUCERS COSTAS LAMBROPOULOS
GEORGE KYRIAKOS CO-PRODUCER STEVEN KAMPMANN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PETER J. PAPPAS SHANNON ELIZABETH PRODUCER STAMATIOS TOM HIOTIS PRODUCED BY GEORGE ELIAS STEPHANOPOULOS
STORY BY GEORGE ELIAS STEPHANOPOULOS AND PAUL ROBERT LINGAS WRITTEN BY PAUL ROBERT LINGAS AND JULIA WALL NICKLES DIRECTED BY MICHAEL ACHILLES NICKLES

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