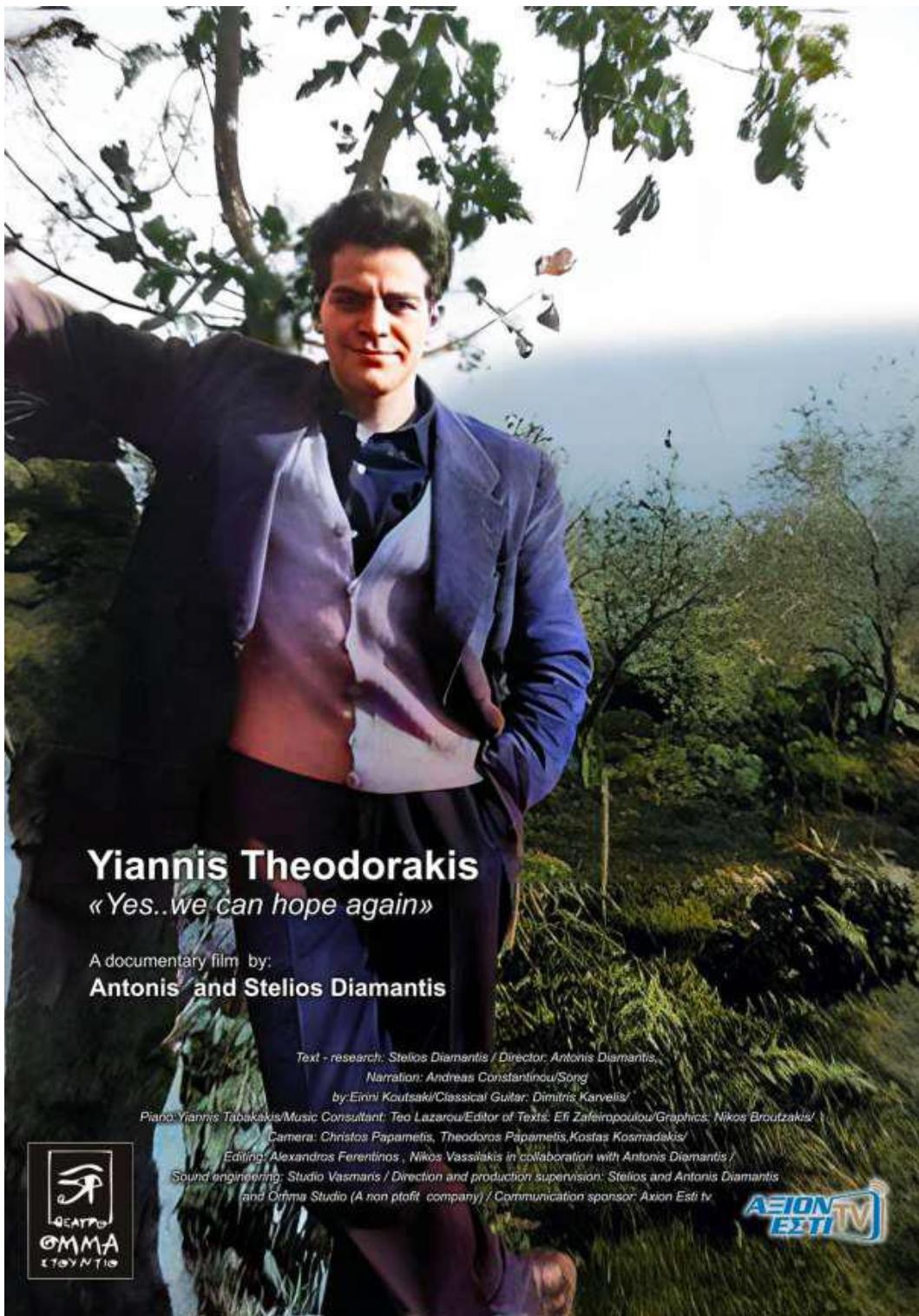


Yannis Theodorakis



Yannis Theodorakis: "Yes... we can hope again"

<https://www.giannistheodorakisdoc.gr/en/home>

Feature-length documentary on the life and work of journalist and activist poet Yannis Theodorakis

Stelios and Antonis Diamantis, the documentary's main contributors, attempt to present the poet, writer, and authentic defender of democracy through their research, interviews, and the testimonies of people who lived, worked, suffered, and loved this great man. The documentary recounts historical anecdotes and little-known events from his life: his relationships with his family, friends, and rivals; journalism; poetry; and, above all, his relationship with his brother, the composer Mikis Theodorakis.

What makes some people interested in the life and work of Yannis Theodorakis? What most people know is his major poetic work and his timeless influence on Greek song, notably thanks to the exceptional compositions of his brother, Mikis Theodorakis. But what remains little known, and what prompted us to research and highlight it, is his major contribution to journalism, his profound historical revelations, and his struggles during the dark periods of contemporary Greek history. For us, it was a challenge, as many fragments of his life have been lost or forgotten. This documentary therefore reveals all these aspects, finally giving us a true picture of the poet and activist journalist Yannis Theodorakis. We hope we have succeeded.

We hope you enjoy watching it!

Stelios et Antonis Diamantis

To stage someone's life for a documentary is an oxymoron. Especially when it's a poet, a politically engaged journalist whose articles reveal social truths. This documentary is the first I've made about the life and work of Yannis Theodorakis.

I've always been interested in art as a working material, containing a document. In other words, creation stems from life, from a real event. My work in the theater is also based on this approach.

Documentary, as an artistic creation, oscillates between truth and myth. The creator, who attempts to record and relive the event, seeks a balance between these two elements.

When I started planning and making the film, I wasn't discouraged by the severe lack of resources. Moreover, I justified it all by telling myself, "Everyone pays for their own freedom", since we had no sponsors, apart from the help of a few friends. So, my brother and I could choose what we felt was best. The most difficult thing for me was finding and presenting the testimonies of those who speak about Jean, both as a historical figure and as a "private" personality.

But who was John? The central element that piqued my curiosity stemmed from a question and an observation I heard as a testimony in the film. It was while listening to it that I understood why I wanted to make this documentary: "It was always 'behind'... and generally, those who are 'behind' are also very important". I think this sentence characterizes the essence of Yannis Theodorakis's life, the essence of art, but also of life itself. Of the victory of light over darkness. Of the strength of man to rise again when he falls. Of his love for freedom, dignity, equality, and all of nature.

His Cretan roots are the hallmark of his modesty, of the silence he expressed through his poetry, of his attachment to nature, and of his love for humanity and life. Values far removed from ostentation and affectation, from the fleeting recognition of insignificant associations and vanity.

Nikos Kazantzakis, another great Cretan writer of international renown, gave his book "Ascetica" the subtitle: "Save God". Such is the life and work of Yannis Theodorakis: a struggle, a fight to "save God," as Kazantzakis's view of existence reveals.

Kazantzakis writes:

"Dig! What do you see?"

"Men and birds, water and stones."

"Dig deeper! What do you see?"

“Ideas and dreams, fantasies and flashes of lightning!”

“Dig deeper! What do you see?”

“I see nothing! A silent Night, thick as death. It must be death.”

“Dig deeper!”

“Ah! I cannot pierce the dark wall! I hear voices and cries. I hear the beating of wings on the other shore.”

“Don't cry! Don't cry! They are not on the other shore. The voices, the cries, and the wings are your own heart.”

This heart is therefore the center and essence of the life of the poet and fighter Yannis Theodorakis who sends us the message: “Yes... we can hope again”.

Antonis Diamantis (Director)