



STORIES OF A LIE

a film by Olia Verriopoulou



STORIES OF A LIE

ISTORIES ENOS PSEMATOS

a film by **Olia Verriopoulou**

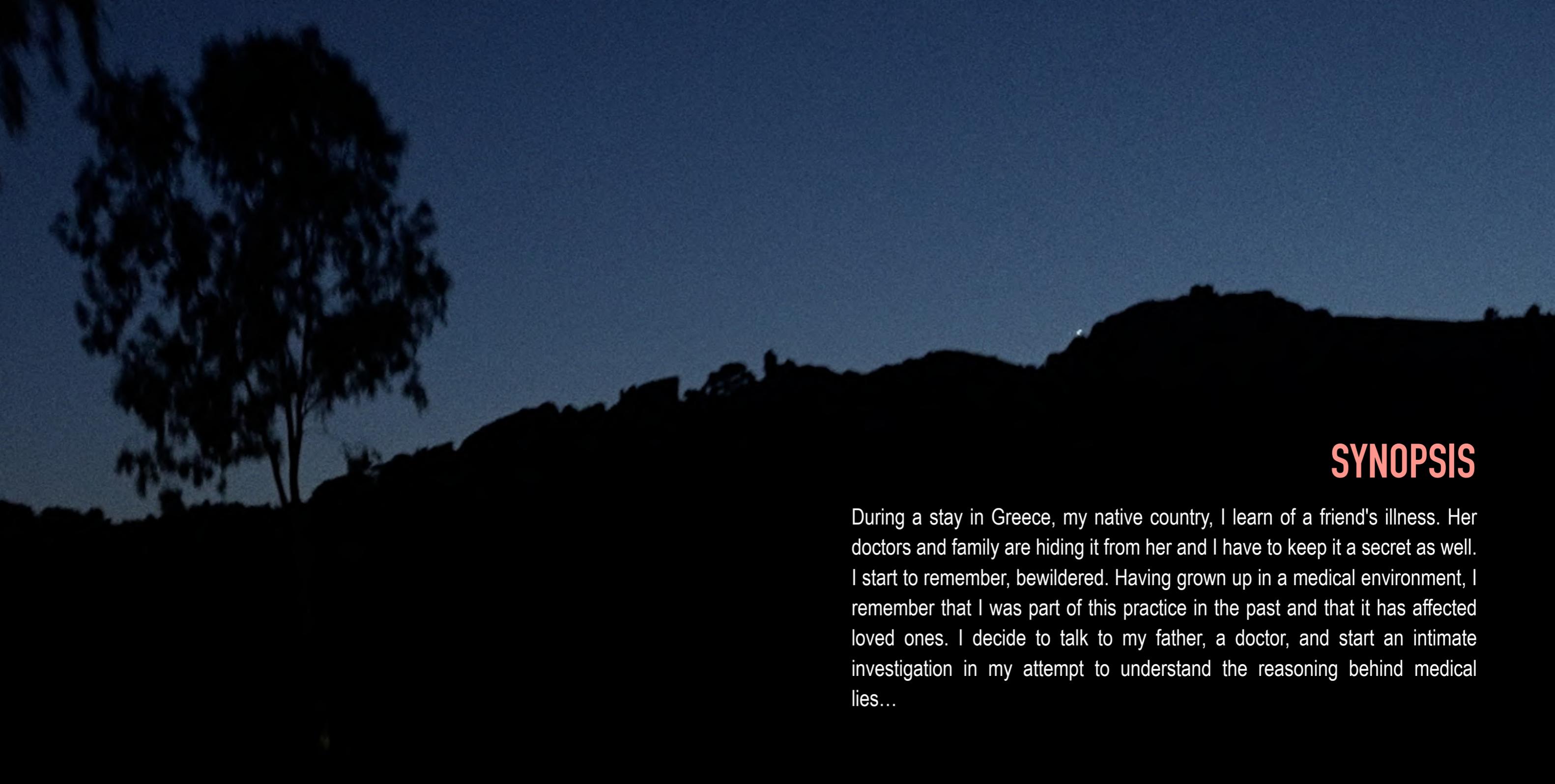
*76 minutes • documentary • Greek, French
• Production Greece-France • 2025*

PRODUCTION
Marni Films
info@marnifilms.gr

PRODUCTION
Perspective Films
contact@perspectivefilms.fr

PRESS
Anyways
florence@anyways.fr

SALES
Odd Slice Films
info@oddslicefilms.com

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a landscape at dusk or dawn. The sky is a deep, dark blue. In the foreground, the silhouettes of trees and a hillside are visible against the lighter sky. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

SYNOPSIS

During a stay in Greece, my native country, I learn of a friend's illness. Her doctors and family are hiding it from her and I have to keep it a secret as well. I start to remember, bewildered. Having grown up in a medical environment, I remember that I was part of this practice in the past and that it has affected loved ones. I decide to talk to my father, a doctor, and start an intimate investigation in my attempt to understand the reasoning behind medical lies...

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

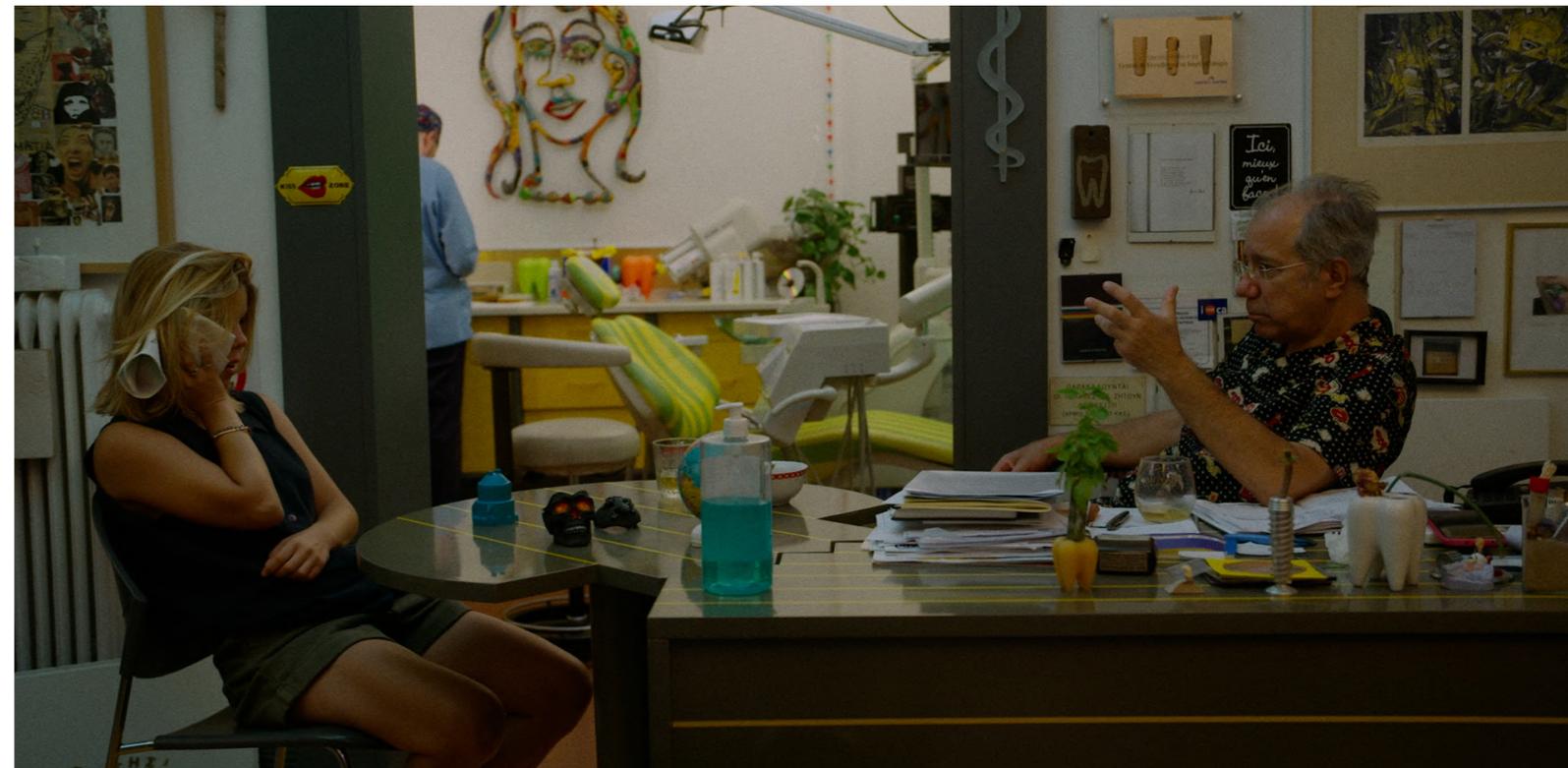
This is a film about medical lies, meaning doctors or families hiding the truth from the patients about their diseases. But the film follows an intimate POV.

In fact, it all started a few years ago, when I learnt that a childhood friend, had cancer. Her family and doctors decided that she mustn't know. They used a different term, to cover up the real nature of her illness.

Triggered by this event, I started remembering that I have grown up immersed in this practice of medical lies, in a family of doctors. So this inevitably brought up memories that took me back to my childhood. A number of relatives and friends died without knowing the true nature of their illness, even though everyone around them knew about it, but everyone was pretending.

I decided to make a film that followed the trajectory of this dive into my personal memories, into these family stories from the past. Since I witnessed this as a child, the ambiguity of these lies shaped my relationship with medicine.

At the heart of the film, there is the character of my father, who was involved in all these stories and as a doctor is still involved in the medical affairs of those around him. It is by confronting him that I seek answers. There is something in the doctor-patient relationship that reminds me of the parent-child relationship. And even more so when there is a lie. What should you say to a patient? What should you tell a child?





The starting point is always childhood, the memory distorted by time and by the eyes of a child. And because it is carried from beginning to end by my own questions, the film is situated between this childhood point of view and the adult conscience. I kept wondering why it is so difficult to talk about illness? What concerns me, beyond our heritage of lying, is our relationship with medical authority, the balance of power between doctor and patient.

The film is also a fight between generations, and genders. The filiation, a father and daughter relationship, and above all a daughter talking prostate with her father...

After my father, I continued the investigation with my other relatives who are also doctors. For me, doctors and family coincide, and this is the particularity of my approach and of my POV. The question of medical lies is therefore treated from this intimate angle, and not just a "scientific" one. I don't question ethics or laws, and I'm not looking for a general practice, but for human subjectivities and intimate stories.

The film has a very hybrid form and is composed by different image sources. It balances between a dreamlike, romantic tone on the one hand and a more realistic one on the other. That's why one of the most important materials in this intimate quest are family amateur archives.



Up until now, I have always stayed behind the camera, using it as a direct equivalent of my eyes. In this particular endeavor, being behind the camera could be potentially interpreted as judgmental or accusatory, almost like an interrogation. This time my place is in front of the camera, alongside my characters. I am a character of the film, leading the investigation, and sharing the frame with them as I share the questions and the memories, the need to understand.

I also wanted the film's narrative to be guided by this female voice-over, in the second person singular, like a little voice that echoes in my head without letting go. Like a super-ego emanating from the film.

Olia Verriopoulou





OLIA VERRIOPOULOU

Born in Athens, Greece in 1992, Olia lives and works between Athens & Paris, where she studied cinema (Paris VII-Diderot, École des Gobelins). In 2021, she directed her first short *Sacralisons*. In 2025, she's finishing two projects, *La Première Image*, her first fiction short, and the feature documentary *Stories of a lie*.

For the past ten years she has participated in the programming and organization of film festivals and labs (Les Écrans Documentaires, Cinéma du réel, Champs-Élysées film festival, Institut Français, Greek Film Archive, Oxbelly Screenwriters Lab...).

CAST AND CREW

A film by Olia Verriopoulou

With Thanasis Verriopoulos, Areti Stefanidou, Andreas Kostalas, Natasa Stasinopoulou,
Maria Mourtou Paradisoupoulou, Elli Skreta, Fotini Gotsi

Cinematography: Pierre Warolin

Sound: Jonathan Arnoult

Additional images: Olia Verriopoulou & Jonathan Arnoult

Additional sound: Stelios Koupetoris

Editing: Jonathan Arnoult & Christos Giannakopoulos

Sound editing: Christos Giannakopoulos

Mixing: Kostas Varympopiotis

Color grading: Gregory Arvanitis

Produced by Gaëlle Jones, Perspective Films & Mina Dreki, Marni Films

In coproduction with Tamarisk, Filaos Productions, Yellowgroove,

the Hellenic Film and Audiovisual Center - Creative Greece,

of the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation - ERT SA

With the support of the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée

Sales: Odd Slice Films

Press: Florence Alexandre, Anyways



MARNI FILMS

<https://marnifilms.gr/>



PERSPECTIVE FILMS

<https://perspectivefilms.fr/>

