

**Exile Films and Storyline Entertainment, in co-production with ERT, in association with Channel 8,
RTS Radio Télévision Suisse and *documentary* Channel present**

**WOMEN
OF THE DEUCE**

a film by Valerie Kontakos



2022

Duration: 78'

Production countries: Greece, Canada

Languages: English, Greek

**CONTACT
INFORMATION**

Production

Exile Films - Despina Pavlaki
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Storyline Entertainment - Ed Barreveld
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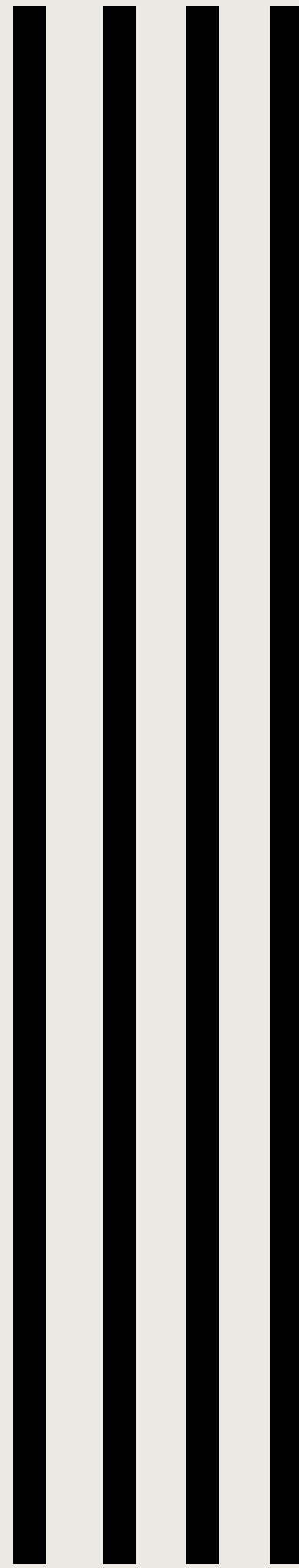
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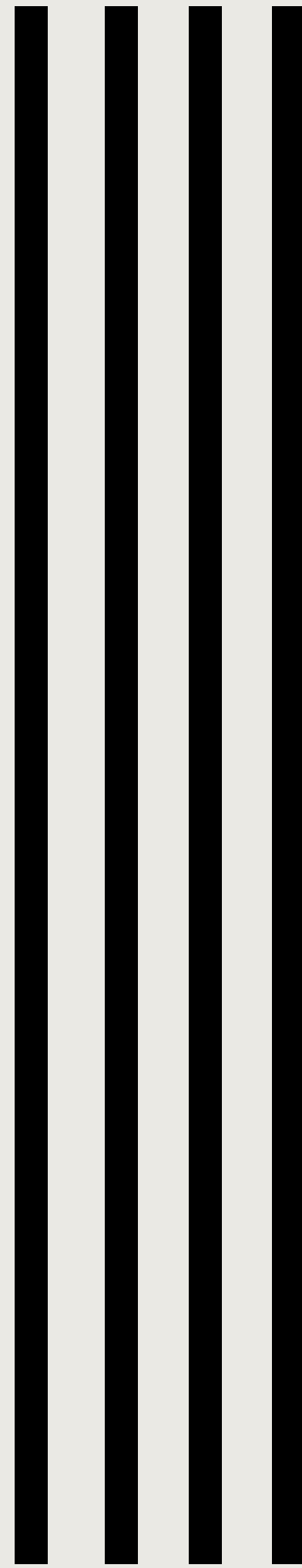
Shoshi Korman
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From pre-WWII Greece to her meteoric rise through the Times Square porn circuit in the 1970s, *Queen of the Deuce* tells the fascinating story of Chelly Wilson, trailblazing entrepreneur and unconventional matriarch, who built an empire based on desire.

XXX



XXX



SYNOPSIS

From the late '60s to the mid '80s, in the notorious Times Square area known as the Deuce, the eccentric, Greek-born Chelly Wilson built a porn cinema empire and a reputation as one of the most savvy and charismatic figures on the scene.

With a cigarette in hand and bags of money stashed in the corner, Chelly regularly held court in her bunkerlike apartment above the legendary 8th Avenue all-male Adonis Theatre, summoning a lively cabal of associates, entertainers and fellow poker players, with her female lovers always hovering and grandchildren often underfoot. Yet few in her circle knew of the risks she took to get there.

***Queen of the Deuce* reveals Chelly's origins as a taboo-breaking entrepreneur and traces the fraught events that lead to her departure from Europe on the eve of war, and the unconventional trajectories of her American business ventures and personal life. With the rise of feminism, the sexual revolution and gay pride in frame, *Queen of the Deuce* is an alternate take on cultural history as seen through Chelly Wilson's empowering story of survival.**

\$ 99 EROTIC SEX
HOT & WET
SUCCULENT



LONG SYNOPSIS

From the late '60s to the mid '80s, in the notorious Times Square area known as the Deuce, the eccentric, Greek-born Chelly Wilson built a porn cinema empire and a reputation as one of the most savvy and charismatic figures on the scene.

With a cigarette in hand and bags of money stashed in the corner, Chelly regularly held court in her bunkerlike apartment above the legendary 8th Avenue all-male Adonis Theatre, summoning a lively cabal of friends, strangers and fellow poker players, with her female lovers always hovering and grandchildren often underfoot. Yet few in her tight circle were aware of the risks she took to get there, and where her story began.

Weaving together film and audio archive featuring Chelly's raucous, raspy voice, home videos, animation and no-holds-barred interviews with her children, grandchildren and associates, *Queen of the Deuce* reveals the origins of Chelly the entrepreneur and taboo-breaker, traces the fraught events leading up to her departure from Europe on the eve of war, and explores the highly unconventional trajectories of her American business ventures and personal life.

Bucking her conservative Jewish upbringing in Thessaloniki, Chelly divorced her husband and then abandoned her children, leaving them with trusted guardians in Greece, before sailing to New York at the outbreak of WWII. In time, she gained a financial foothold, married a movie projectionist and had two more children, who didn't know they had half-siblings until Chelly traveled back to fetch them.

If the loss of her entire Jewish community in Greece during the Holocaust is the heartbreak of her story, then putting her own family back together is its heart. With the rise of feminism, the sexual revolution and gay pride in frame, *Queen of the Deuce* is an alternate take on recent cultural history as seen through Chelly Wilson's empowering story of survival.



ΣΗΜΕΡΟΝ
ΤΗΣ ΜΟΝΗΣ
ΤΗΣ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΙΣΤΗΣ
ΚΟΜΩΔΙΑΣ
ΤΗΣ ΕΝΝΙΑ
ΤΟΥ ΜΑΚΑΡΙΤΗ.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΝ ΘΕΑΤΡΟΝ
ΑΥΤΗΡΑ
ΜΑΡΙΚΑ ΓΑΓΓΙΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ
ΚΟΥΛΑ ΓΚΙΟΥΖΕΠΠΕ
GREGORY MITCHELL
ΑΝΙ ΣΙΜΟΣ
ΦΡΑΝΣΕΣΚΙ ΣΦΑΡΜΙΣΤΙΣ

ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΑΤΜΟΠΛΟΤΗ ΤΗΣ
ΕΔΡΑ ΕΝ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑ
ΓΕΝΙΚΟΝ ΠΡΑΚΤΟΡΕΙΟΝ
ΕΙΣΙΤΗΡΙΟΝ
ΕΚ ΝΕΑΣ ΥΟΡΚΗΣ ΔΙΑ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑ
ΜΕ ΤΟ ΥΠΕΡΚΡΕΑΝΕΙΟΝ "ΝΕΑ ΕΛΛΑΣ,"



BIOS

Valerie Kontakos

Director, writer, producer

A native New Yorker, Valerie Kontakos has been living between Athens and New York since 2003. After graduating from New York University, she worked as a sound editor for the Maysles brothers, Deborah Dickson, Anita Thacher and others. In 1989 she directed her first feature documentary *A Quality of Light*. In 1994 she became the deputy director of the Hellenic Foundation in NYC, where she started the NYC Greek Film Festival and curated a monthly program for the American Museum of the Moving Image. Her second feature, *Who's on First?* (2006), aired in the US, Greece, Finland and South Korea. Her third feature, *Mana* (2015), went viral during the 2018 wildfires in Greece, helping the nuns featured in the film rebuild their orphanage. She founded the production company Exile Films in Athens in 2007 and has been operating the non-profit Exile Room, focusing on social outreach through documentary, since 2009. She has been on the Board of Directors of the Greek Cinematheque for over a decade. *Queen of the Deuce* is her fourth feature.

BIOS

Ed Barreveld

Producer

Storyline Entertainment CEO and Emmy Award-winning producer Ed Barreveld is one of Canada's top independent documentary film professionals. A hands-on producer with 35 years of experience in both financing and the field, Barreveld brings together Canadian and international storytellers, investors and partners on documentaries that explore underexposed places and perspectives in society and culture. Barreveld has partnered with producers and investors in Germany, Belgium, Australia, Greece, France, Chile, and the US. He regularly attends many of the top documentary market events. Storyline titles have sold internationally, screened at Tribeca, Hot Docs, IDFA and TIFF, and garnered numerous festival accolades, as well as Emmy, Gemini and Canadian Screen awards and nominations.

BIOS

Despina Pavlaki

Writer, producer

Born in Athens, Greece, Despina Pavlaki worked as a film critic and festival programmer for ten years, before getting involved in production. She was the programming director of the Athens International Film Festival and the general coordinator of the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, while co-organizing other festivals in Greece and abroad. She has worked for the production company Exile Films and its non-profit arm, Exile Room, since 2009, where she has been leading production and social outreach programs. Her credits include *Volta* (2014), the first Greek short to screen in competition at Sundance, which toured more than 75 festivals and garnered awards worldwide. In 2017 she designed *Tell Me Your Story*, the first educational program in Greece to train male inmates to shoot their own short documentaries behind bars. Her latest production is *Queen of the Deuce*, which she also co-scripted.



CREDITS

Director

Valerie Kontakos

Writers

Valerie Kontakos, Despina Pavlaki

Co-writer

Christos Asteriou

Producers

Ed Barreveld, Valerie Kontakos, Despina Pavlaki

Executive Producers

Ed Barreveld, Valerie Kontakos, Don Walters, Bondi Wilson Walters

Editor

Rob Ruzic

Cinematographers

Patrick McGowan, Martina Radwan

Original Music

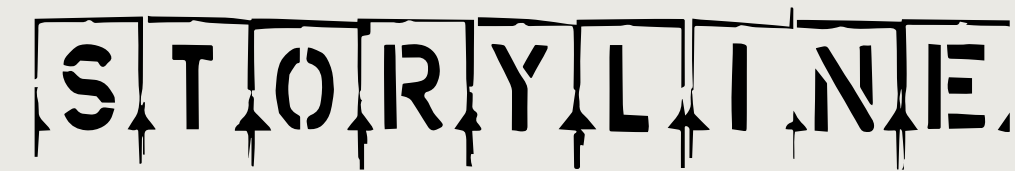
Ken Myhr

Animation Director / Lead Animator

Abhilasha Dewan



**An Exile Films and Storyline Entertainment production, in co-production
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With the participation of Canada Media Fund, Rogers Documentary Fund, Ontario Creates, with the support of the Greek Film Centre, Creative Europe Programme – MEDIA of the European Union, Jewish Story Partners, Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, OMDC Film and Television Tax Credit



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Eros I

WHAT A GREAT
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LUGGAGE
ELECTRONICS
&
SOUVENIRS

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&
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Daniel
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