



ARTICHOKE
By **Melissa Hekkers**

Hold on

As though Lesvos hadn't carried enough on its shoulders through the peak influx of refugees in 2015, last week an earthquake hit its shores, dislocating numerous people and disorientating local communities.

I thought hard about my time on the island, and recalled the generosity locals had shown amid the refugee crisis, how they had opened up their homes to people fleeing, and made time to give a helping hand within the means they could. I felt it was unjust that other tragedies had come to knock at their door.

But I guess that's not the way it works; it's not about how much one can endure and the other can't. Perhaps it's easier for communities who have already been through hardships to go through other meltdowns. Perhaps experience, in that sense, makes you stronger. Or perhaps it doesn't. Perhaps one more incident is just the cherry on the cake.

The power of nature is truly astounding. Whether seen through the force of the earth shaking in the north-eastern Aegean Sea, or through the flames enveloping the Grenfell Tower in London on Tuesday evening, her spirit is fierce.

I remembered the nights when the sea was rough and we awaited dozens of refugees crossing the Aegean on small dingy boats. I closed my eyes and wished that, at the very least, the sea would treat them right; that they would not capsize from its waves and that its freezing temperatures wouldn't get the best of them. That it wouldn't start raining as they got off the boats onto the shore to safety.

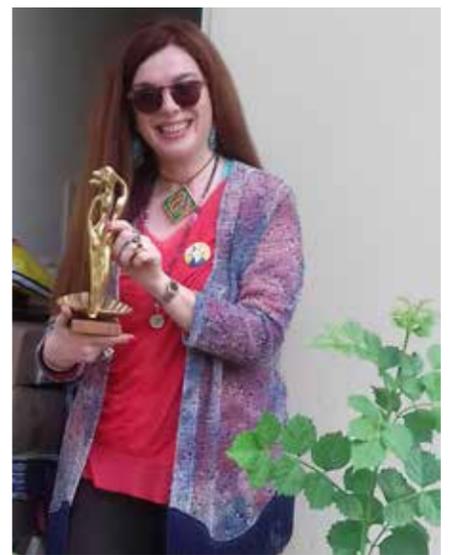
And there were evenings where nature had no mercy on us. The gales were in full force, the tents were unhooking themselves, the firewood - our only source of warmth - was sopping wet. And life went on.

It went on and, most mornings, the sun would join us in gathering our thoughts and processing our evening's commotion. It would caress our bodies and provide us with the energy we needed to carry on. And so it will for the peoples of Lesvos and those of Grenfell Tower, in time.



CIFF founder and movie director Petra Terzi wants to promote women in film

THE initiative could help more women follow in the footsteps of award-winning female directors like Sofia Coppola



Women in film

CIFF founder Petra Terzi creates Cyprus WIFT chapter

By **Athena Karsera**

As a film director herself, Petra Terzi knows first-hand the difficulties that female movie-makers face in the industry, thereby perfectly positioning her to set up the Cyprus chapter of the international Women in Film & Television (WIFT) organisation.

WIFT is a dynamic international body dedicated to empowering, promoting, and mentoring professionals in the entertainment, communication and media industries.

'I saw the need for unity among female film and television producers and directors to ensure that women's visions and voices are seen and heard'

Speaking to the Cyprus Weekly, Terzi, also the founder and director of the Cyprus International Film Festival (CIFF) - currently under way in Paphos - revealed what prompted her to create the local chapter.

"The time is now for women to work together to ensure that we always have our place at the head of the table of the film and television industries. The Cyprus branch of

Women in Film and Television is dedicated to achieving this goal," she said.

Although the number of women in the film and television industries, especially as producers and directors, is increasing, Terzi continued, there was still a long way to go.

She decided to found the Cyprus chapter of WIFT to help things along on the island, and also because, she was encouraged to do so while personally applying to take part in film festivals for female directors.

"They were asking me to become a member of WIFT and, as here there were no branches in Greece or in Cyprus at that time, they proposed I open a new one here," she told the paper.

Terzi added: "I saw the need for unity among female film and television producers and directors to ensure that women's visions and voices are seen and heard. Personally, I experienced the difficulty women have gaining equal footing in this industry. Together, women can be strong."

Her experiences with the members of other WIFT branches overseas have been encouraging.

"I especially enjoyed my discussions with the women of the New York Women in Film and Television group," she said. "The work they do inspires me to ensure the women of Greece and Cyprus have the

opportunities to develop and market their talents."

What she hopes to help achieve through the Cyprus branch includes increasing the number of women working at high levels of the film and television industries.

"More film and television industry productions must be by women and about women. And they must be about women of all ages, backgrounds and ethnicities. Given equal opportunities, today's women will inspire tomorrow's women," Terzi noted.

She continued: "Films by women will enlighten the world. Films by women will inspire people to do what is good, to do good in film, but, more importantly, to do good for the world. The end result is a better world. Women have that power."

Visit petrafilmdirector.wix.com/petrastone to learn more about Terzi and her work, and visit cyiff.cineartfestival.eu/en/ or the 'Cyprus International Film Festival - Page' Facebook page for more information about this year's festival, on in Paphos until June 24.

Now in its 12th edition, the festival offers a range of various activities, master-classes, workshops and film screenings with an international jury of prestigious experts choosing their favourites from amongst a selection of quality entries from around the world.

Pafos2017 shows to set summer ablaze

In this sixth month of the cultural year, Pafos2017 continues its events with the participation of world-renowned artists from Europe.

On July 7 and July 8, Euripides' 'Trojan Women' will take the stage. It is an international production featuring actors from Syria and Greece, as well as divided cities such as Nicosia, Mostar and Jerusalem. Under the direction of the famous Greek director Theodoros Terzopoulos, the performances are dedicated to the memory of the visual artist Jannis Kounellis who was meant to design the set of the performance. Despina Bebedelli will take on the role of Hecuba.

The Travelling Stage presents the world-renowned Spanish vocalist Luz Casal in a unique concert that will take place in front of Paphos Castle on July 29th. Casal is the most famous star of the Spanish music scene with a total of 24 albums released and millions of records sold around the world. The famous singer will perform flamenco and tango songs, such as the leg-

endary Piensa en mi and "Un Año de Amor."

Under the more general title 'Moon and Stars', the European Capital of Culture welcomes internationally-acclaimed performers at the enchanting setting of Aphrodite's Rock. On August 4th, events will start with the concert 'Second Life' by Eleftheria Arvanitaki, a unique vocal interpretation of poetry set to music by Alexandros Drakos Ktistakis. The well-known Accordes Guitar Ensemble will open the concert at 8.30pm with nine guitars and a double bass, in a programme featuring covers of famous pieces from the Mediterranean, as well as traditional Cypriot melodies.

On August 5, the Goran Bregovic will build a universe of unique sounds and exciting music. The 'Weddings and Funerals' concert is an amalgam of strong influences from the Balkan tradition. The group Amalgamation Project will open the concert at 8.30pm with the performance 'The Mediterranean Meets the Balkans', presenting its own compositions as well as covers of traditional songs.



GORAN Bregovic

Photo @ Nebojsa Babic

The Travelling Stage presents another world-famous singer, Misia one of the best performers of fado music. She has been hailed as the successor of Amalia Rodrigues and a diva of Portugal, however, she impresses the crowds with her simplicity and frankness. On August 19th Misia will come to the Ancient Odeon of Paphos to perform songs for the soul, about love, passion, joy and life.

For more information about the programme visit: pafos2017.eu