

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Monday, September 8, 2014

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ACCLAIMED GREEK DOCUMENTARY TO BE SCREENED AT CUNY GRADUATE CENTER

"PALIKARI: LOUIS TIKAS AND THE LUDLOW MASSACRE" CHRONICLES THE STORY OF GREEK IMMIGRANT LOUIS TIKAS, A COAL MINER IN LUDLOW, COLORADO, WHO LED MOVEMENT CALLING FOR BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS AT THE MINES, CULMINATING IN THE MOST VIOLENT EVENT IN AMERICAN LABOR HISTORY.

An acclaimed Greek documentary will reach American shores for the first time, as the **CUNY Graduate Center** and the **CUNY Center for the Study of Culture, Technology, and Work** will present the first-ever U.S. screening of "*Palikari: Louis Tikas and the Ludlow Massacre*" on **Friday, September 19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Sociology Lounge** of the **CUNY Graduate Center**. This will launch the U.S. screening tour of *Palikari*.

This fascinating documentary chronicles the life, trials, and tribulations of Greek-born Louis Tikas (born as Elias Anastasiou Spantidakis), who arrived in the United States as an immigrant and found work as a coal miner in Ludlow, Colorado. Responding to the dire conditions faced by miners on a daily basis, Tikas became the main organizer of a labor strike which was to last 14 months, as workers called for improved working and living conditions, including the right to be paid a fair and equitable wage in dollars, instead of scrip (a private currency used by the John Rockefeller-owned mining company, which could only be used at company-owned stores). In a violent culmination of the 14-month strike, troops from the Colorado National Guard, along with members of the private militia of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company laid siege to the miners' colony. Tikas was shot to death, while 19 people in total lost their lives as part of the massacre, including two women and 11 children.

The "**Ludlow Massacre**," as it came to be known, marked one of the bloodiest moments in American labor history, and it also led to nationwide calls for labor reforms. It became immortalized as a turning point in the American labor rights movement, with artists such as **Woody Guthrie** and writers such as **Howard Zinn** having paid tribute to the memory of the massacre through their music and writing.

The producers of *Palikari*, **Lamprini Thoma** and **Nikos Ventouras**, will travel from Greece to New York City to be on hand at the screening and will introduce the documentary. They will be joined by professors **Stanley Aronowitz** of CUNY and **Kostis Karpozilos** of Princeton University, who will serve as discussants. A question-and-answer session will follow immediately after the screening of the documentary.

Admission is **free and open to the public**. The Graduate Center is located at **365 5th Avenue**, at the corner of 34th Street, within walking distance of the 34th Street-Herald Square Station (B, D, F, M, N, Q, R) and the 33rd Street Station (6). Media sponsorship the U.S. screening tour of *Palikari* is provided by **Dialogos Radio**, a weekly Greek-American radio program which airs locally on WUSB 90.1 FM (Long Island) and www.wusb.fm each Thursday from 1:30-2:30 pm. For more information about the screening plus trailers from the documentary, visit **www.palikari.org**.