

## Film of Swiss Director Olivier Zuchuat Features Island of Makronissos

By **Fani Toli** - Feb 8, 2012



A film dedicated to the Greek Island of Makronissos, directed by Olivier Zuchuat, will premiere in April at the Nyon Festival in Switzerland.

The film titled 'Like Stone Lions at Nightfall' (original title: *Ces pierres à l'entrée de la nuit*) is constructed in three ceaseless literary and pictorial spaces.

The story of the film dates back to 1947 and 1951 when the Greek government interned soldiers and civilians (men, women and children) for "communist activity". They were sent through 're-education programmes' in order to get back "on the right track", guided by the extreme right-wing nationalist King Paul.

Numerous prisoners, including the famous poet Yannis Ritsos, wrote texts there, "pencils buried inside bottles and managed to bring home from the camp. These texts fuelled a barbaric laboratory which was set up specifically in order to facilitate the "mental re-education" of members of the communist resistance.

They will be brought together in a written script depicting the life and survival of these prisoners, the brain-washing techniques used there. This film will focus on the insight of these survivors, the ruins of the camp, recorded like "cinematic archaeological excavations".

In addition to the poetic backbone of the film, there will be significant, highly aesthetic elements: etchings, survivors' accounts on the voice-over, military propaganda photos – which will be integrated into the project using sound and video techniques borrowed from experimental cinema.

The film is a co-production of Switzerland, Greece and France.