

 LOVE
UNBOUND
FEST
2024

Love Unbound: Five Films For Freedom

21–22 March 2024, Thessaloniki

23 March 2024, Athens

The [Love Unbound: Five Films for Freedom Festival](#) is set to make a comeback this March to mark the tenth anniversary of [Five Films for Freedom](#). For the second year of the festival, we are expanding our reach with activities in both Thessaloniki and Athens. The festival is committed to exploring and delving into a variety of LGBTQIA+ and gender equality experiences by harnessing the transformative influence of arts and culture. The festival is co-organised by the British Council and [Parenthesis](#) in collaboration with [Technopolis City of Athens](#) and under the auspices of the City of Athens and the City of Thessaloniki.

The festival focuses on our global programme [Five Films for Freedom](#), which includes a collection of short LGBTQIA+ films from around the world. Through film screenings, panel discussions, empowerment workshops and mentoring sessions, the festival aims to open unbiased discussion on current equality gender issues based on ‘real life’ experiences through artistic outputs. In the parallel programme of the Love Unbound festival, there will be a series of discussions and workshops hosting leading UK professionals from the film and media industries including:

Melanie Hoyes (she/her), Director of Inclusion, Inclusion / CEO Office, British Film Institute: Melanie leverages her postgraduate studies and teaching background in film and TV to lead groundbreaking research on ethnic diversity in UK film. Her role involves advocating for increased access and equity in the industry, implementing strategic interventions and collaborating globally to embed diversity and inclusion into policy and practice.

Anna Smith (she/her), Film Critic and Broadcaster: Anna Smith is the former President of the UK Critics' Circle, she has written about film for over 20 years, contributing to the *Guardian*, *Rolling Stone UK*, *Time Out*, *Deadline Hollywood*, *Sight & Sound*, *Metro* and more. Anna co-founded and hosts the podcast [Girls On Film](#), which was listed as the 'Best Feminist Film Podcast' and is dedicated to championing diversity on screen and regularly discusses LGBTQIA+ issues. Anna appears regularly on BBC TV, Radio 4 and Sky TV.

In **Thessaloniki**, at Ypsilon, we will be hosting an exhibition of [[KERKIS](#)], the book by Dimitris Tairis, a poignant and personal photographic narrative of the photographer's personal life, while on the top floor we will be delivering [Stronger Together for Gender Equality: the transformative power of female leadership](#), an interactive workshop which aims to discuss the significance of gender equality in leadership roles, addressing daily challenges and fostering inclusive practices through personal reflection, experience exchange and practical tools. Reserve your place [HERE](#).

In **Athens**, we invite you to sign up [HERE](#) for the Cultivating Creativity – Speed Mentoring Session for Women and Femininities in Creative Industries. [Women On Top](#) will be hosting an engaging speed mentoring session tailored for women and femininities whether they're aspiring to work or are already employed in the creative sector. For our young friends, [Rainbow Families Greece](#) invite you to join [*Paramythosalata*], a workshop for families and children (aged 4–12), which uses storytelling as a medium to break stereotypes and help them to envision alternative, inclusive social structures in a fun way. The day will close with networking drinks and music.

The festival is curated by [Parenthesis](#) together with the [British Council](#) and will take place at [Ypsilon](#) in Thessaloniki and [Technopolis City of Athens](#) in Athens. Participation in the festival is free and open to all.

Thessaloniki Programme – Ypsilon, Edessis 5

Thursday 21 March

19.30 Exhibition launch, [[KERKIS](#)] by Dimitris Tairis*

** The exhibition will remain open to the public until Sunday 24 March.*

20.45 Screening of the documentary [AKOE/AMFI: The story of a revolution \(*Sleeping on his chest...\)](#) by Iosif Vardakis

21.45 [Five Films for Freedom](#) screening of short films throughout the evening

22.00 DJ set, OLIA & SATANAKEY | Networking

Friday 22 March

13.00–18.00 Film screening [Five Films for Freedom](#)

14.00–18.00 [Stronger Together for Gender Equality: the transformative power of female leadership](#) with Stella Elmatzoglou, Adult and Youth Trainer, Gender Programmes Co-ordinator and Stalo Lesta, Facilitator, Researcher and Consultant, Gender Expert, Human Rights Activist, Youth Worker

18.15–18.30 Welcome Remarks

18.30–20.00 Provocation by Aris Demokidis, Director – [mikropragmata LiFO](#) followed by a Panel Discussion moderated by Giorgos Mantzouranidis, Brand Narrator, Storyteller

Guests:

- Melanie Hoyes (she/her), Director of Inclusion, Inclusion / CEO Office, [British Film Institute](#)
- Anna Smith (she/her), Film Critic and Broadcaster, [Girls On Film](#)
- Konstantinos Maragos, Director, member of the [Thessaloniki Pride](#) organising team, [Europride](#)
- Maria Nefeli Chatziioannidou, Founder of [Υπέροχες Γυναίκες](#) and [Code it Like a Girl](#), [Alumni UK](#) British Council Greece, Politician

20.00 Film screening [Five Films for Freedom](#) throughout the evening

21.00 DJ set, BELLAS & FRENCH BEACH | Networking

Athens Programme – Technopolis City of Athens, Pireos 100

13.00–18.00 Film screening [Five Films for Freedom](#)

13.00–14.30 [Rainbow Families Greece](#), [*Paramythosalata*] workshop for families and children (aged 4–12) by Stella Belia, Preschool Teacher, MSc Theatre in Education, President of Rainbow Families Greece

15.30–17.00 [Women On Top](#), Cultivating Creativity – Speed Mentoring Session for Women and Femininities in Creative Industries

17.00–18.00 Film screening [Five Films for Freedom](#) throughout the evening

18.15–18.30 Welcome Remarks

18.30–19.20 Panel Discussion moderated by Stella Kasdagli, co-Founder [Women On Top](#) and Gender Expert

Guests:

- Anna Smith (she/her), Film Critic and Broadcaster, [Girls On Film](#)
- Maria Anestopoulou, Artistic Director, [Animasyros](#)
- Filippos Lorandos (they/them), [Athens Pride](#) Spokesperson and Events Manager
- Maria Leonida Director at [Karpos Media](#)
- Maria Mitsopoulou aka Maria F. Dolores (she, they) and Alkistis-Lara Papadaki (she/her) from [AMOQA](#) (Athens Museum of Queer Arts)

19.30–20.00 Fireside Discussion moderated by Stella Kasdagli, co-Founder [Women On Top](#) and Gender Expert

Guests:

- Anna Smith (she/her), Film Critic and Broadcaster, [Girls On Film](#)
- Christina Galanopoulou, Journalist

20.00 Music Lounge Session | Networking

More information: www.loveunbound.gr

Co-organised by the [British Council](#) and [Parenthesis](#) in collaboration with [Technopolis City of Athens](#).

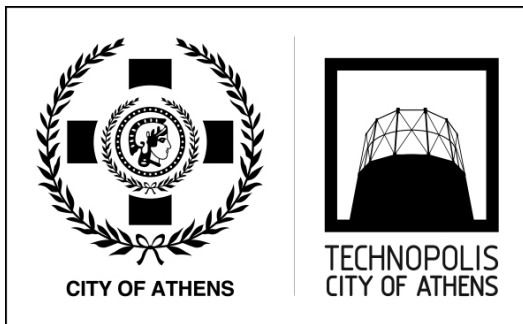
Web: www.loveunbound.gr | Facebook: [Love Unbound](#) | Instagram: [loveunbound_fest](#) | #LoveUnbound | [British Council, Love Unbound: Five Films for Freedom](#)

For further information, please contact: British Council | Dina Ntziora | Cultural Engagement, Arts Co-ordinator | dina.ntziora@gmail.com

Organised by:



Parenthesis)



Under the Auspices:



CITY OF THESSALONIKI

Hospitality Partner – Porto Palace Hotel & Conference Center, Thessaloniki