



TO  
KOPITC  
ME TA KPINA  
LILYGIRL

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## **BASIC INFO**

**Director's name: Demetrios Poursanidis**

**Software used: TVpaint 11 pro & Filmora**



## SYNOPSIS

Hambos returns to his lost homeland of Pontos, eight years after he fled from it. It is 1931, and the time has finally come. He must take back something he left behind.



## ABOUT THE FILM

Lily Girl is a classical animation film, hand-drawn frame by frame in TVpaint, inspired by the life of Leonidas Iasonides. It took me approximately two months, from scratch to completion, racing against deadlines.

It's a story about Pontos, an ancient Greek colony from Asia Minor.

The film is based on real historical events, majorly inspired by the lives of my grandparents who lived to tell the tales of such harsh times. So, this animation is my effort to raise awareness regarding the Pontian culture.





## DIRECTOR'S BIO

I was born in Breda, the Netherlands, and studied 3D animation in Amsterdam.

I have a passion for telling stories.

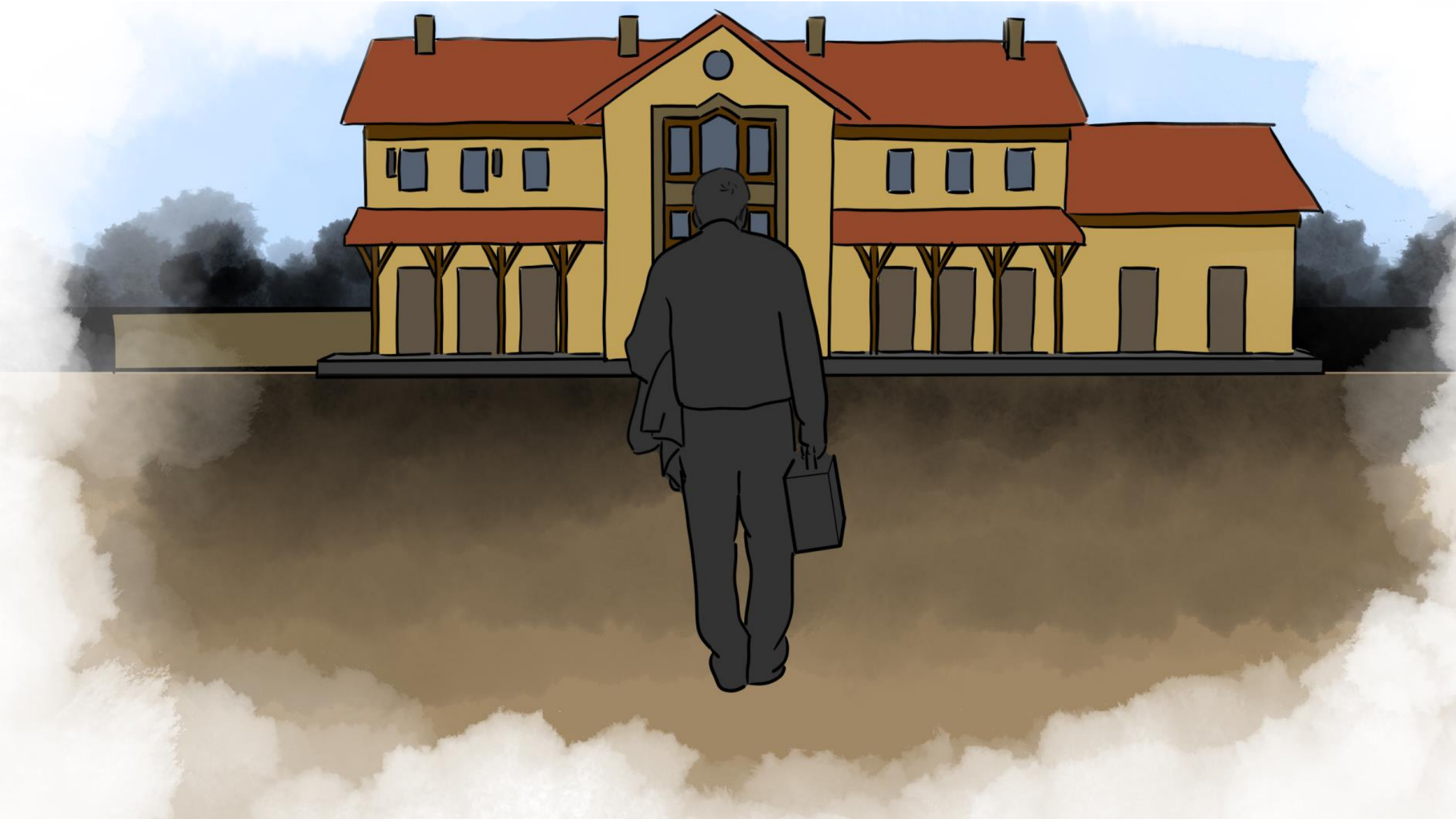
This film is my first attempt in classical animation.

I do believe that the art of animation is a strong ally when trying to inform and educate people.



# LINKS

<https://www.facebook.com/DemetriosPoursanidis/>



# FAQ

## “Spoilers”

Q: What do the Shadows represent?

They are most certainly not referring to a certain group of people. They symbolize misanthropy and bigotry.

Q: What does the lily represent?

Lily is worldwide recognized as the flower of Virgin Mary. In this film it symbolizes Virgin Mary's blessing. It is offered, either following a mass (August 15<sup>th</sup>, Baptism, Wedding) or as a gratitude for a certain virtue.

**Q: Am I a religious person?**

Even though religion is directly involved in this film, I personally have an agnostic life stance. Religion is a significant part of this film because it is an important parameter of the Pontian culture.

**Q: Is this film based on a true story?**

Yes! During the troubled years of the 1920s, the historic byzantine icon of Virgin Mary was fled from the monastery of Panagia Soumela to the Chapel of Saint Barbara (“Agia Varvara”), where it was secretly buried for safe keeping. After almost a decade, it was unearthed and brought safely to Athens, Greece. Six decades later, it was transferred to its new home, The Panagia Soumela Monastery in Mount Vermion.

Q: What does the golden triangle jewel represent?

This jewel is called “tama” (i.e. votive offering) and it is a basic component of the traditional pontian outfit. In the story, it represents the “tama” of the monk before he embraces the holy icon for the last time, wishing for its safe transfer.



## Other Facts

Virgin Mary is represented with her human form whenever Hambos has his eyes closed (either asleep or dead).

The notes Lily holds during the seizure scene, are handwritten worshipers' prayers, a well-practiced tradition in the orthodox dogma.

Lily dress's color represents that of a white lily flower (white petals-gold pistil).

Character movements from Greece to Pontos are always depicted on screen from left to right and vice versa. This is based on their geographical location (Greece-west, Pontos-east).

All landscapes appearing in the film (Thessaloniki Old R.R. Station, Trebizonde, Panagia Soumela monastery in Pontos, Chapel of Agia Varvara) do exist. Based on extensive research, I did my best to accurately visualize them, though I have never been to any of them.

The family name of Hambos is a tribute to Theofilos Halkidis, a Pontian who ended up in my hometown, Katerini. In his diary, Theofilos reported many of the tragic events which occurred during the Asia Minor's catastrophe.

The piano heard in certain parts of the film, is improvisation played by me, based on the following pontian traditional songs:

- Tin patrida'm exasa ( "Lost homeland")
- Militsa (Μηλίτσα)
- Chalai (Χαλάι)



# ANECDOTES

Before creating this film, I had no previous experience either with classical animation or TVpaint software.

As the project started, I experimented with several different styles, some of which I ended up keeping in the final editing, even after I concluded on a distinctive art style.

