

# THE SISTERS KARRAS

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY MICAH STATHIS







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**Family. Legacy. Success. And Greek textiles.**

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## THE SISTERS KARRAS

AWARDS to date

### Chain NYC Film Festival

Best Director  
Best Ensemble

### Greek International Film Festival Tour of Canada

Official Selection

### Show Low Film Festival

Official Selection

### Deep in the Heart Film Festival

Best Director

### London Greek Film Festival

Cosmocinema Award

### San Francisco Greek Film Festival

Honorable Mention - Narrative Feature

# THE SISTERS KARRAS

## LOGLINE

Two estranged half-sisters form a complicated bond as they work together to retrieve their rare and precious inheritance, which their late father inexplicably leaves to the mysterious Marco.







## THE SISTERS KARRAS

Running Time:	87 minutes
Language:	English
Written + Directed by:	Micah Stathis
Produced by:	Clare Louise Frost Micah Stathis
Production Company:	SK Deli Market Productions New York, NY USA
Cinematographer:	Daniel Rodriguez
Editor:	Amir Mosallaie
Original Music:	Stelios Mihas



## THE SISTERS KARRAS

## SYNOPSIS

When their estranged father dies, half sisters HELEN, 36, and MARIA, 28, meet for the first time at his will reading. The will stipulates they share their inheritance - their grandmother's Kefalonian toulitiko rug - forcing the sisters to reckon with each other and their family memories. When Helen - the ambitious owner of an antiques shop in the East Village - has the opportunity to sell the rug to an important client, she must choose between her nascent relationship with Maria and her professional success.



# THE SISTERS KARRAS

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

They say there's nothing as important as family. But people say all sorts of things.

"The Sisters Karras" is about the things that matter. Family. Belonging.

It is also about the need to make something of yourself.

Sometimes these things overlap. In my experience, they often are travelling in opposite directions.

I've spent the majority of my life admiring my family from afar. Most of my family lives in the US, but I grew up in Greece. I loved visiting them. My aunt would buy me Happy Meals. There were no Happy Meals in Greece. As I grew older, I noticed the truth of whispered sentiments not meant for my ears, "Uncle you-know-who is rich, but stingy," "Aunt so-and-so can't get her life together," "My cousin is a real you-know-what" and on and on.

Into this sentimentally acerbic mix enter Helen and Maria Karras: two half-sisters whose gem of a father left them both when they were eight, eight years apart. They've never really known him. And they've learned about one another from afar. Maria, the younger and more sentimental of the two, has always longed to meet her older sister- nothing could be more important. Helen, the responsible and practical sister, doesn't really see the value in family - what good has it done her? The sisters finally meet at the reading of their father's will. He has left them a valuable heirloom. But they have to share it. It's family. It's also financial freedom. Need.

So, is family the most important thing?

I don't know. I like to think so. But how important? This is a question Helen tries to answer throughout the film.

I've always loved movies that ask difficult questions in funny, biting and painful ways. I love to watch people struggle with forces they are powerless to control. Two of my favorite filmmakers are Michael Mann and Nora Ephron. Probably not two filmmakers often paired together, but it's my Netflix queue. While they may seem to exist at opposite ends of the cinephilic spectrum, each seems to be investigating a similar dilemma: the conflicting desire for isolation and connection. Plus, Nora Ephron is really funny. So is Michael Mann- just in a less obvious way.

"The Sisters Karras" is my first feature film. It has been a long time coming. Not wanting it to be just one thing, it is serious, but shot through with human humor. Because life is like that.

I hope you love it as much as I loved making it.

And you'll still love your family at the end. I promise. Maybe even a little more.

Micah Stathis






## THE TOULITIKO: An Introduction

The **jewel in the crown of Ionian rugs**, the rare and highly prized toulitika were made in Touliaata, Kefalonia, for the monks' hard benches in the local monastery.

Their **symmetry** - unseen in any other Ionian rug - is traditionally said to represent the balance between the soul and the eternal.

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Other meaningful motifs - the star, the tree of life, the Greek key, geometric florals, to name a few - are seen more generally across Greek rugs.







## THE TOULITIKO: An Introduction (continued)

Rarely coming onto the market, toulitika are kept by families for generations as highly prized objects of inherent beauty. When these rare pieces do come onto market, their price is indeed commensurate with their beauty...



THE SISTERS KARRAS



You will love this film. You will LOVE this film.  
**Lovely. Kind. Compassionate. Complicated.**  
A character-driven film set in a unique and richly-layered world.

Passion is not an easy path.

Helen dreams of making her passion her career. Easier said than done. All she needs is that one elusive success to tip the balance.

The past is our future.

Love and honor your family. So they say. That's a lot to ask when your father walks out you and your mom when you're eight. They also say: You might be done with the past, but the past is not done with you. Helen works hard to keep her family at bay. But the harder she pushes, the stronger they pull.

Women are asked to prioritize family responsibilities over professional ambitions.

You never know what you don't want til you got it. This reality comes crashing into Helen in the form of a needy half-sister and half a Greek rug. Both require all of her.

Helen's specifics make the story universal.

Greek heritage, a love of textiles and storytelling, New Yorker, shop owner. Daughter. Sister. Woman. Human. Like we said, specifics make the story universal.





## **THE SISTERS KARRAS**

### **WOMEN + CULTURAL LEGACY**

**FAMILY... it's never easy.**

HELEN KARRAS is the daughter of a Greek immigrant, Helen is the bearer of cultural memory, manifesting an innate responsibility to her foremothers. The rug was her grandmother's prized possession, a rare treasure in a modest life. Her *yiayia* Irene was also a small business owner.



Helen feels an immediate responsibility to her half-sister Maria, also a carrier of their joint culture, a link to a joint past, and therefore, their future.





THE SISTERS KARRAS

## THE SISTERS KARRAS

### BEHIND THE SCENES

Who *are* these people, anyway?

The Sisters Karras is told from strong female perspectives, passing the Bechdel Test with flying colors. Three of the four main characters are women, two of color. All have desires, drives, and all bring full characters to the screen.



Authentic, true-to-life, women-centred + unique story.

Written and directed by an Iraq combat veteran.  
Support veterans. Support veterans in the arts.  
Far too rare.

Representative. NYC locals from all over the world in front and behind the camera.

Diverse cast and crew  
People of color, LGBTQ+, immigrants and first generation Americans, veterans, dual citizens, multi-lingual and cultural people make up our world. Our movie reflects reality.

International story - our world is connected.

Broadly appealing story

**Engaged + sold-out audiences at film festivals.**

The Sisters Karras was supported by over 700 individual investors around the world.





THE SISTERS KARRAS

# THE SISTERS KARRAS

## CAST / FEATURING



### CLARE LOUISE FROST

Clare cut her teeth acting in Turkish soap operas and maintains an international work life.

Her first TV role was as Kristen Norton in the world-famous What is Fatmagül's Fault? (¿Qué Culpa Tiene Fatmagül?, Fatmagül'ün Suçu Ne?).

Clare's latest roles include Agatha Christie in Netflix's Midnight at the Pera Palace and a role in M. Night Shymalan's upcoming Knock at the Cabin. She works in Turkey and in the US.



### LAUREN GARCIA KAHN

A native Texan and dual US-Panamanian citizen, Lauren has trained and performed improv and sketch comedy at the world-renown Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre, as well as in dozens of comedy venues around New York City and LA.

Her role models are Madeline Kahn, Kristen Wiig, Allison Janney. And Maria Karras.



## THE SISTERS KARRAS

### CAST / FEATURING



#### FRANCÉS DE LANCEY

A daughter of Trinidad, Francés holds a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of the West Indies. In New York, Francés furthered her training at the New York Film Academy.

Francés has directed musicals, AD'd short films, as well as acted in several international feature films.



#### D. RUBIN GREEN

Actor/writer D. Rubin Green was born and raised in Detroit, MI, and received his MFA from the School of Drama at Yale University.

His first film role was in the horror classic *Jacob's Ladder*. Since then he has appeared in over 40 film, TV, and theater productions. He teaches at the New York Film Academy.

## WRITER + DIRECTOR

Micah Stathis

Camera-shy Micah Stathis was born in the Midwest and raised in Athens, Greece.

He received his Masters in Film Studies at NYU Tisch in 2016. He has written and directed several short films and been director/cinematographer of several music videos and short documentaries.

Humble brag. He has seen all ten episodes of the Decalogue and watched Satantango in one sitting. Just saying.

Micah is a combat veteran, having served with the US Army in Iraq. Support veterans. Support veterans in the arts.

The Sisters Karas is his first feature film.



## PRODUCERS

SK Deli Market Productions

Clare Louise Frost

Micah Stathis

@sk\_deli\_market\_productions

[www.sk-deli-market.com](http://www.sk-deli-market.com)

[info@sk-deli-market.com](mailto:info@sk-deli-market.com)



**SK DELI MARKET PRODUCTIONS** was formed in July 2020 in New York City by **Clare Louise Frost** and **Micah Stathis** to write and produce their independent films.

Their first collaboration was the short film *Zero*, a contemporary homage to Chris Marker's *La Jetée*.

*The Sisters Karras* is their first feature film. Supported by over 700 individual investors from all over the world, SK knows how to reach its audience.

SK Deli Market's second and third and fourth... you get the idea...feature(s) are in development. A short film/POC is currently in post.





## CREDITS

Dan Rodriguez - Director of Photography

Amir Mosallaie - Editor

Stelios Mihas - Composer

Eli Cohn / Nocturnal Sound - Post-production Sound

Pierce Varous / Nice Dissolve - Color

## FULL CAST

Clare Louise Frost

Lauren Garcia Kahn

D. Rubin Green

Francés De Lancey

Gil Charleston

Shanel Dawson

Christine Verleny

Stuart Zamsky

Alastair Boag

Tony Dimurro

Ethan Wayne Smith

Hüseyin Kaplan

Felice Kakalettris

Addie Seiler



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