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NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 6, 2012

Cypriot
composer,
screenwriter
and performer
**Christina
Georgiou**
reveals
the secrets of
her success

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On song



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CHRISTINA GEORGIU

Soundtrack to life

Cypriot composer, screenwriter and performer Christina Georgiou on her secrets for success

I don't like to waste my energy by thinking too far into the future, I'd rather focus on getting my current projects done, because ultimately that's how I got this far: One project has led to another, and to another, and to another... work brings more work and more experience, and it all grows slowly and steadily. The single rule is to always aim higher and never compromise quality."

Christina Georgiou's personal recipe for success is something anyone interested in following in her talented footsteps should pay attention to.

Some of her most recent achievements include being made a member of the European Film Academy and winning the Big Audiovisual Award at the T-Short Screenplay Competition for her short screenplay 'Eternity and a Night.'

As well as enjoying a successful career as a performer, composer and screenwriter, Christina also passes on her love of music as a teacher.

Writing and music have always gone hand in hand for the gifted young woman.

"I've been fascinated with writing since I was little; back when I was six and I got my first piano lessons, I also had my first 'poems' published in the children's corner of Phileleftheros newspaper. I've continued writing since: short stories, novels and poetry, receiving a pancyprian award at the age of 17 and publishing two poetry collections and a few short stories so far. But though I've always liked films, it never occurred to me to write a screenplay, until I met film-makers who encouraged me to do so. Soon, I realised that my knowledge of music and its structure was my guide in structuring stories properly."

Christina's talent and hard work soon began to pay off: "After a few fairly successful projects, the Cinema Advisory Committee funded a short I had written, titled 'Styx'. The production team embraced the project and the days when 'Styx' was shot were amongst the happiest in my life. And it was so exciting to see great actors perform something that I had written and to see the film receive six international awards.

"Naturally, after such an exhilarating experience, I wanted to improve further, so I attended a number of masterclasses on screenwriting, and wrote a few screenplays that got produced, including 'Genesis 2:26,' which recently received the First Prize at the Videominuto International Film Festival in Italy," she continued.

She has also achieved success through the highly acclaimed film 'Fish n' chips.'

Making the most of opportunities has been another factor in Christina's career path.

"I became increasingly interested (in composing for film) in high school, especially after I spent the 'professional week' at a recording studio and participated in recording a TV advertisement. Still, at university I focused on other things, maybe because I felt that the opportunities for



writing for film or television in Cyprus were quite limited. Yet, soon after my return to Cyprus, I was asked to compose music for a feature documentary for the CyBC, called 'The Island of Spies' and for a few advertisements," she revealed.

Christina revealed: "That was when I began to look at composing for the screen as my prospective occupation. But it was really the day that I received the award for the soundtrack of 'Styx' at the Monaco International Film Festival back in 2008 that I was certain that my true calling was in music and story for film. I felt happy and blessed for having discovered where I belong, the place where my personality feels at home - some people never do."

This season Christina performs live at the Blue Wine Bar and Lounge at the Classic Hotel in Nicosia every Saturday. "It's a one-woman piano and voice gig, with covers of old and new music, Greek and beyond, depending on the audience and... on my mood. Other performances are duly announced in the press and online," she said.

Her talents are also channelled into teaching: "Musical education shouldn't just be for those who are talented, it should be for everyone: everyone should be taught to appreciate, enjoy and genuinely love music."

On the film front, Christina was recently made a member of the European Film Academy: "It is a great honour considering that Cyprus has so far been represented by only two film professionals, namely, director Andreas Pantzis and cinematographer Haris Zambaloukos, both internationally accomplished."

She is currently also "juggling" a number of projects: "Rupert's Ship," a short for which I wrote the screenplay and has been directed by Daniel Pace in the USA; a feature screenplay of mine that is currently in pre-production, which means a lot of paperwork... but it is also enjoyable because at this stage we can aim high, 'think big' and visualise the project at its best; there are also new ideas that I'd like to develop, plans for workshops I'd like to attend, plans for this year's teaching... And, if I'm lucky, I'll maybe plan a holiday too!

"What I do fulfils me and the excitement doesn't seem to fade. Sometimes I'd rather work than rest, so that in itself is telling. I can't imagine myself doing anything else," Christina adds.

