

ENTERTAINMENT ART &amp; DESIGN

## Memories and dreams of an artist

By Philippa Hawker  
11 August 2011 – 12:00am

FILMMAKER Anna Kannava, who died on May 5 this year at the age of 51, leaves a creative legacy that is not purely cinematic.



Apart from her documentaries, features and short films, there is also her fiction: her first novel, *Stefanos of Limassol*, is to be published at the end of this year, and a Deakin University arts scholarship has been set up in her name, to support young migrant women who want to study arts and film.



Anna Kannava.

Photo: Philippa Hawker

A two-part retrospective of her work screens at Cinema Nova tonight and tomorrow, and proceeds from the event will go towards the scholarship.

Kannava was born in Cyprus in 1959, but left at the age of 15, when her parents split up and her mother decided to take her and her family to a new life in Australia.

In Melbourne, she studied education and the arts, and as she described it, found herself "falling in love, for real" with filmmaking and its ability to bring together so many forms of expression. Her documentary *Ten Years After, Ten Years Older*, shot with a 16 millimetre camera she bought after graduation, explores her return to Cyprus and her life as part of two countries.

It is strongly personal, yet has wider resonances, as does her heartfelt 1997 AFI-nominated documentary *The Butler*, the story of her brother, Nino, and her family's broader experiences.

*Dreams For Life* (2004), her first feature, is a beautifully composed evocation of the city, the seasons, and the world of its central character. It's a film punctuated with contemplative, effortlessly placed invocations of painting, dance, music, photography, books, music, fabrics, domestic objects and the creative life of the everyday.

It is also the portrait of a yearning, solitary woman, played with quiet assurance by Maria Mercedes, who after a dream returns to her old neighbourhood and runs into a young man whom she knew when he was a child, the much younger brother of a former lover.

*Kissing Paris*, which she filmed in the City of Light, was shot on the fly, on a low budget, but it's an often playful account of the immediate experience of place, underscored by a voice of correspondence - its central character, played by Natalie Vella, is a restless young woman making a journey that in some way echoes the past, part of the baggage she takes with her is a cache of letters to her mother, written by an unknown man.

There's a reflection in this film, that echoes, in an intriguing fashion, something the filmmaker asked herself many years earlier in *Ten Years After, Ten Years Older* - what choices would I have made in the past, if I knew then what I know now?

These features and documentaries will be part of the retrospective. There will also be a screening of several of her experimental short films, none of which have been shown for years. Kannava suffered for many years from scleroderma, a condition with many debilitating complications. But she continued her creative life to the end. Ilura Press's Christopher Lappas, who is publishing *Stefanos of Limassol*, believes that the book will prove her to be a powerful and engaging author. A second novel is being considered for publication.

Anna Kannava Retrospective

[www.cinemanova.com.au](http://www.cinemanova.com.au)



[License this article](#)

---

Comments are not open on this article



**MORNING & AFTERNOON  
NEWSLETTER**


Delivered Mon–Fri.

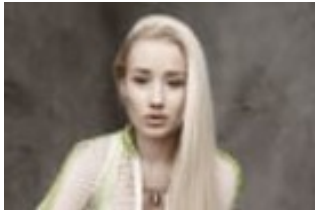
Your email address

SIGN UP

By signing up you accept our [privacy policy](#) and [conditions of use](#)

**RECOMMENDED**

 powered by plista



**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Iggy Azalea  
slammed after  
saying she grew up  
without privilege**



**DOMAIN.COM.AU**

**The types of homes  
that Sydneysiders  
want most**



**DOMAIN.COM.AU**

**'Sydney has been  
overexposed':  
House prices take  
biggest quarterly hit  
since...**



**WORLD**

**Do serial killers just  
stop? Yes,  
sometimes**

FROM THE WEB

**OUR SITES**



The Sydney Morning Herald

The Age

Brisbane Times

The Canberra Times

[WAtoday](#)

[The Australian Financial Review](#)

[Domain](#)

[Traveller](#)

[Good Food](#)

[Executive Style](#)

[The Store by Fairfax](#)

[Drive](#)

[Adzuna](#)

[RSVP](#)

[Essential Baby](#)

[Essential Kids](#)

[Weatherzone](#)

---

## **CLASSIFIEDS**



[Tributes](#)

[Celebrations](#)

[Place your ad](#)

[Commercial Real Estate](#)

[Oneflare](#)

[Nabo](#)

---

## **THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD**



[Contact & support](#)

[Advertise with us](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Accessibility guide](#)

[Sitemap](#)

---

## **PRODUCTS & SERVICES**



[Subscription packages](#)

[Subscriber benefits](#)

[My account](#)

[Subscriptions FAQs](#)

Today's Paper

---

**FAIRFAX MEDIA**



Photo sales

Purchase front pages

Fairfax syndication

Fairfax events

Fairfax careers

Conditions of use

Privacy policy

Press Council

---

Copyright © 2018

**Fairfax**