

# The Language of Film

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**Film:** In The Strange Pursuit of Laura Durand

**Director:** Dimitris Bavellas

**Stars:** Makis Papadimitriou, Michalis Sarantis, Anna Kalaitzidou

**Genre:** Comedy, action

**Run time:** 1hr 38min

**Rated:** 15

**Rating:** 3/5

## In The Strange Pursuit of Laura Durand



*In The Strange Pursuit of Laura Durand* is an award winning Greek road trip comedy about two guys, Antonis and Christos, and their obsession with a 90s porn star Laura Durand who disappeared in mysterious circumstances.

**Down on their luck**, they're unemployed and their only escape is performing with their ageing synth rock band, playing to similarly ageing crowds. Antonis has discovered he has a serious health condition after having had an MRI scan, so when their **infatuation** leads them to look through the memorabilia of their favourite porn star they discover, amongst the newspaper **clippings** and magazines, an old VHS tape with a secret message from Laura asking for help, and they are **compelled** to act upon it.

Realising they don't have much to lose (except for Christos' collection of old vinyl, which he is rather emotionally attached to), they decide to **pack up** everything and **hit the road** in their camper van on a mission to **track down** their favourite porn star.

Their online research leads them to a meeting with the head of Laura's film production company. Even though the boys have two very different approaches to the meeting they eventually get the result they are looking for as they are handed a

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map of all the places Laura was last seen at. So with their very **cryptic** map they get back on the road in search of her.

Filmed in Greek with questionable English subtitles, the sound track is a nice eclectic mix of tracks from 70s disco and synth rock to traditional Greek folk guitar, and the places they discover get **wackier** and wackier from desert discos, to hippie retreats and haunted houses.

It's a feel good comedy with lots of goofy gags, like their mispronunciation of 'photometer'. They use some classic film cliches to comedic effect too, which is all very **tongue in cheek** but amongst all the silliness and stupidity there is a heartfelt message and call to action.

## Similar films:

Dumb and Dumber (1994): Dir: Peter Farrelly; Stars: Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels

21 Jump Street (2012): Dir: Phil Lord; Stars: Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum

## Exercises:

### A. Questions True or False:

1. Laura Durand was seen in Greece recently? T/F?
2. Antonis and Christos are in a famous synth rock band? T/F?
3. Antonis has found out he has a health problem? T/F?
4. They find a message from Laura who needs help? T/F?
5. On the map they discover where Laura is living? T/F?
6. The locations they visit get stranger and stranger? T/F?

### B. Vocabulary / Phrases Match

- |                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. down on their luck | a. puzzling                   |
| 2. infatuation        | b. cut from something         |
| 3. clippings          | c. take everything            |
| 4. compelled          | d. search for someone         |
| 5. pack up            | e. in a bad situation         |
| 6. hit the road       | f. weirder                    |
| 7. track down         | g. driven to                  |
| 8. cryptic            | h. jokingly                   |
| 9. wackier            | i. set off on a journey       |
| 10. tongue in cheek   | j. a strong liking of someone |

### C. Discussion Questions:

1. What can you see in the picture?
2. Were you a fan of any celebrities in your childhood?
3. Would you pack up home and leave to go somewhere? Why / why not?
4. If somebody went missing how would you try to find them?
5. What music do you like? What music is traditional in your country?

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### D. Pronunciation & Listening Exercise:

a. Listen & practise your pronunciation (see webpage for download links).

1. Realising they don't have much to lose, except for Christos' collection of old vinyl.
2. Their online research leads them to a meeting with the head of Laura's film production company.
3. It's a feel good comedy with lots of goofy gags like their mispronunciation of 'photometer'.

b. Listen to the text and fill the missing gaps (see webpage for download links).

### E. Writing tasks:

1. Write an essay on whether you think having a celebrity idol when you are young is a good or a bad thing

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

### Answers:

### A. True or False Questions:

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. T 5. F 6. T

### B. Vocabulary Definitions:

1e, 2j, 3b, 4g, 5c, 6i, 7d, 8a, 9f, 10h

### C. Listening Gap Fill

1. mysterious 2. memorabilia 3. camper van 4. map 5. haunted houses

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## Listening Gap Fill

### In The Strange Pursuit of Laura Durand

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Down on their luck, they're unemployed and their only escape is performing with their ageing synth rock band, playing to similarly ageing crowds. Antonis has discovered he has a serious health condition after having had an MRI scan, so when their infatuation leads them to look through the 2. \_\_\_\_\_ of their favourite porn star they discover, amongst the newspaper clippings and magazines, an old VHS tape with a secret message from Laura asking for help, and they are compelled to act upon it.

Realising they don't have much to lose (except for Christos' collection of old vinyl, which he is rather emotionally attached to), they decide to pack up everything and hit the road in their 3. \_\_\_\_\_ on a mission to track down their favourite porn star.

Their online research leads them to a meeting with the head of Laura's film production company. Even though the boys have two very different approaches to the meeting they eventually get the result they are looking for as they are handed a 4. \_\_\_\_\_ of all the places Laura was last seen at. So with their very cryptic map they get back on the road in search of her.

Filmed in Greek with questionable English subtitles, the sound track is a nice eclectic mix of tracks from 70s disco and synth rock to traditional Greek folk guitar, and the places they discover get wackier and wackier from desert discos, to hippie retreats and 5. \_\_\_\_\_.

It's a feel good comedy with lots of goofy gags, like their mispronunciation of 'photometer'. They use some classic film cliches to comedic effect too, which is all very tongue in cheek but amongst all the silliness and stupidity there is a heartfelt message and call to action.