

IMMIGRATION IN GREEK CINEMA

*I welcome you, on board,
a cinematic journey through hearlands
within and beyond the borders of Greece...*

Harry Danalis - President Greek Orthodox Community of NSW

The Greek Orthodox Community of NSW representing Greek migrants, is proud to present the retrospective film tribute "Immigration in the Greek Cinema" from the Prestigious Thessaloniki International Film Festival. The theme of the film tribute gains further significance, given that the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW is celebrating its 110th anniversary. The Greek Orthodox Community of NSW is particularly proud of its continuing efforts to fulfil its character by maintaining, fostering and promoting Hellenic culture in all its expressions and manifestations. Furthermore, it has been at the forefront of organising significant community and cultural initiatives, which include major events such as the Greek Film Festival and the Greek Festival of Sydney, amongst others.



...Immigration and its history is a subject that for the majority of Greek-Australians is very close to their heart, as most of their ancestors, relatives and maybe themselves had to leave their beautiful country for a better future in Australia. But what many have done is that they have created a small home away from home.

A home and a community where the Greek ideals, traditions and heritage are evident and are kept alive with great pride. All these are showcased at the Film Festival where the main topic is immigration...

Vasilios M. Tolios
Consul General of Greece in Sydney

"Immigration in Greek Cinema" will no doubt strike a cord with the local Greek Australian community given that it deals with a social issue that many will relate to both directly and indirectly.

However, given that we are a nation of migrants, and there are no language barriers, nor borders in cinema, I am sure this Film Tribute will appeal to the wider Australian community.

I take this opportunity to thank the Thessaloniki International Film Festival for their efforts and support in making this event a reality, the Greek Consulate of Sydney, Century Venues and all our sponsors for their support.

I welcome you then, on board, a cinematic journey through hearlands within and beyond the borders of Greece, telling humanity's most compelling and perennial stories.



Immigration in Greek Cinema: CLOSING NIGHT

Supported by Closing film 'BRIDES'

Wed Sep 10 @ 6.45pm

Adults \$11/ Concessions \$9

Bookings (02) 9550 3666

Mode GA Theatre Mode (No Reserved Seating)

Tickets On sale now @ Factory Theatre

BRIDES: by Pantelis Voulgaris, Executive Producer Martin Scorsese. Starring - Damian Lewis, Victoria Haralabidou, Andria Ferriol, Winner Best Actress, Best Cinematography, Best Music, Best Fiction Film. 2004 Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Nominated for Golden St George 2005 Moscow International Film Festival.

It's not a punishment to remember someone you love. The punishment is to forget him.

Set in 1922, Brides is the story of Niki, a seamstress from Samothrace on her way to America with 700 other mail order brides aboard the



SS King Alexander. On the ship she falls in love with Norman, an American photographer. But Niki is bound for her new husband in New York and Norman is on his way home to a failed marriage.

"Veteran Greek helmer Pantelis Voulgaris' 10th feature, the primarily English-language "Brides," is old-fashioned in both tone and virtues. Among the latter are a novelistic canvas, visual elegance, considerable charm, and romanticism that gains fervor via courtly restraint... production is handsome and appealing enough to attract offshore distributors, especially where older auds can still be enticed to arthouses.

A rare non-multinational plush period piece, "Brides" jumps between continents to establish principal protags. The serious-minded Niki Douka (Victoria Charalabidou), long accustomed to making sacrifices in a family with too many single women, leaves her native island of Samothrace to wed a Greek tailor in Chicago - replacing the younger sister who couldn't cope in the strange New World.

Voulgaris easily manages a quaint, retro atmosphere in which permission to tie a woman's shoe holds great erotic charge." -Variety

Victoria Haralambidou has mentioned for this film:

"...Most people got to know you from "Brides", which was a major production by Greek standards. Tell us a little bit about that. How did you get picked for the lead role by [director] Pantelis Voulgaris?"

Through an audition and then another audition - but this is all such a long time ago. "Brides" was released in 2004, but I had my first audition for it in 1998. It took a long time to make because of the funds that needed to be raised. It is one of those movies that you have to invest in, and I think Pantelis is still sick and still paying off his debts; but it is the movie of his life, something he wanted very much to do and now he is paying for it, and I don't mean only financially. In a way we are all paying for it. It seems like such a nice thing, such a beautiful movie, and so many people were touched by it, not only in Greece, but also in the United States, in Canada, in Australia... But, you know what? It was not a piece of cake; it had another, darker, side and that's what I realized years later: "...everything has another side".

What did it do to you - good and bad?

The good is that I have something to show. In practical terms, it is a significant, serious credit, and of course it is the experience of working with such a director, with a foreign cast, working with director of photography George Arvanitis, with Ioanna Karystiani, Dimitris Katalifos, Eirini Inglesi - and those are just some of the names on my list, and they are all significant.

You have said, though, that although everybody expected your career to open up after such a major movie, that has not been the case...

Yes, and that is the other side. You never know what will happen. I don't know how people think. Sometimes I meet people, especially directors, and they say I've heard of Brides but I've never seen it. So, my career is something I have to fight for. I have to get there and fight for myself. That's what made me go to Australia in the first place, and stay there for a year and a half. I did theater in Australia, I did a short movie and I was supposed to be in a TV series but unfortunately I had to return to Greece for family reasons. Family is at the top of my list of priorities..."

