

# "Dust of Time" presentation



World renowned Greek filmmaker Theo Angelopoulos gave a press conference at the "Megaron- Athens Concert Hall on Monday regarding the release of his new movie "The Dust of Time". This is to be screened in Greek cinema theaters today, February 12, as well as in the Berlin International Film Festival. The official avant premiere was held on Feb. 11 at the "Megaron" - where one of the scenes with the lead actor Willem Dafoe have been shot. "We live in a period of closed horizons. A landscape in the mist in a world that has no direction," Angelopoulos said

in the press conference.

"The Dust of Time" tells the story of a 50-year-old filmmaker, who films the story of his parents and their frustrated love during the Cold War, at the same time charting the course of the epic events that marked the second half of the 20th century. The cast also includes Irene Jacob, Michel Piccoli and Bruno Ganz. Angelopoulos' next film has the provisional title "Tomorrow" and will be the conclusion of the trilogy that opened with the "Weeping Meadow" (2004) and "The Dust of Time"

## OFFICER DISCHARGED

### Policeman shot by terrorists last month leaves hospital

Diamantis Mantzounis, the riot police officer seriously injured in an armed terrorist attack in Exarchia on January 5, was discharged from hospital yesterday. Bullets struck the 21-year-old in the chest and thigh in an attack that was claimed by Revolutionary Struggle as a reprisal for the killing of 15-year-old Alexis Grigoropoulos by a police officer one month earlier. Mantzounis underwent two operations and spent two weeks in intensive care.

## LOAN FRAUDSTER

### Woman 'made' 800,000 euros

A 50-year-old woman alleged to have been using forged documents to secure personal loans for third parties, and pocketing between 3,000 and 10,000 euros on each occasion, was arrested in central Athens yesterday. The woman is believed to have sought loans on behalf of civil servants who did not fulfill the prerequisites for the personal loans they wanted. According to sources, the suspect may have swindled some 800,000 euros in loans from various banks.

### Parents lack Web skills to keep children safe

Three in 10 Greek parents never sit with their children when they surf the Internet, according to the results of a survey to be published today to mark Safer Internet Day.

The same Eurobarometer poll, carried out for the European Union, indicates that 35 percent of parents in Greece place no restrictions on their children when they are on the Web. A key reason for parents' apparent lack of supervision is that they are less technologically savvy than their children, according to computer experts.

"Parents are digitally inferior to their children and when they want to help they usually do it in the wrong way; they become overprotective," said Yiannis Larios, vice president of the Observatory for the Information Society.

# Gossiping Greeks stay abreast of the times

University research shows that people in this country are increasingly enjoying an ancient habit in its 21st-century electronic form

**A**iring dirty linen in public is practically a national sport in Greece. Professional and amateur critics gossip with a passion. All secrets come out sooner or later.

The traditional habit of gossip has now become popular in electronic form, according to a recent survey. A study on the values of Greeks aged 17-28 was directed by Efstratios Papanis, assistant professor of sociology at the University of the Aegean.

Researchers asked whom Greeks gossip about, whether their comments were positive or negative, and what role new media such as the Internet play.

The place of gossip in Greece is closely connected with changes that have taken place in Greek society, Papanis told Kathimerini. «Greeks have adopted more individualistic ways,» he said. «Fewer than half of them (39.4 percent) are active in associations, teams and social events, with 33.4 percent stating they don't have time for them and 52.6 percent saying they would get no benefit from them.» At the same time, «trust and solidarity have been replaced by caution (73.2 percent). Only 26.5 percent of young people trust others.»

The survey also shows Greeks only trust their own family and friends. Most say they have two to five close friends that they are involved with and comment on, while 2.9 percent say they have no friends. Fifteen percent of the sample state they feel cut off from other people and 52 percent feel indifferent to others.

Against this rather grim background, gossip has a free rein. «At a time when human activity is becoming increasingly individualized, gossip creates the illusion of participation in the social round,»



explained Papanis. While gossip about friends tends to take the form of social control, commenting on other groups functions like a game that maintains social cohesion.

«Gossip creates symbolic bonds between us and the people who are in the news,» said Papanis, who believes that the information spread by gossiping makes us feel sure we've kept up with what's going on. Gossip is the most ancient method of broadcasting news, but the old sources have dried up now that the neighborhood has lost its former importance.

Of those sampled, 35.1 percent say they would not trust any neighbor, 29.7 percent are cautious of their neighbors, while 34.8 percent trust them.

«For centuries the neighborhood was a transitional stage between home and the city, the family and society. It offered emotional support and security because it was static, permanent and familiar. Now, by contrast, television and the press bombard homes with information. News is personalized, you can access the Internet on a mobile phone, while the neighborhood is becoming complex and chaotic,» Papanis said. «People share cultural capital through the mass media. They meet virtually and comment on TV personalities who feel familiar to them, and get interested in their private lives, just as people used to in the neighborhood.»

He believes that gossip has seen a revival through blogs and social networking sites like Facebook. «Gossip has

become interactive. After all, the big thing about gossip is to spread it quickly. The recipient forwards it, and it is passed on. The source is deleted. The rumor doesn't belong to anybody. It's a collective product of which nobody claims ownership.»

## Titill-tattle may be uplifting

Some studies have linked gossip to relaxation and stress reduction in the workplace, according to Efstratios Papanis, and it helps pupils acquire social roles.

A study by the Oxford Social Issues Research Center showed that gossip had physical and psychological benefits equivalent to those of antidepressants.

But there is a downside. Gossip contains sizable measures of myth and conjecture, and may depress those whose self-image is dependent on the views of others.

A recent study by the Max Planck Institute showed that social comments affect how we make important decisions, our attitude to those around us, and the criteria by which we judge and evaluate others.

Gossip may take the form of a self-fulfilling prophecy.

According to this notion, our attitudes toward someone are influenced not by their behavior but by impressions we have formed on the basis of negative comments other people have made about them.