

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF NSW LTD

## Greek Orthodox Community of New South Wales Fundraising Efforts for the Victorian Bushfire Victims

The Greek Orthodox Community of New South Wales announces that as part of the ongoing assistance efforts of the Federation of Greek Orthodox Communities of Australia to the victims of the recent devastating bushfires in Victoria, it will be holding a fundraising appeal on Saturday 28 February 2009 between 11am and 5pm on the Greek Radio Station 1683AM / Radio Club (Tel: 02 9750 0017).

All members of the Greek community as well as community groups, brotherhoods and associations are invited to assist in the radio appeal, donating funds

towards the relief efforts for fire victims.

The Greek Orthodox Community of NSW also announces that fundraising efforts will be held at the official opening of the Greek Festival of Sydney at Darling Harbour on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 28 and 29 March 2009.

For further information, please contact the Community's administrative offices on (02) 9740 6022.

*On behalf of the Council of the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW*

# 'Exploring the Other: Contemporary Iran,' at the Craft and Folk Art Museum

**British-Greek writer, photographer, political analyst, and television producer Iason Athanasiadis has set out to alter how Westerners perceive Iran with his photo exhibition**

**"Exploring the Other: Contemporary Iran" at Los Angeles' Craft and Folk Art Museum (January 25 through March 29). By approaching Iran from aesthetic and social viewpoints, this groundbreaking display takes the focus off Iran's politicians and realigns it squarely along the country and its people.**

Fascinated by the greater Middle East region Athanasiadis has been working as a journalist since 1999, covering the Middle East, Central Asia and the southeast Mediterranean. One may read an interesting story of his at greekworks.com - Lebanon, Two Months Later (October 2006): "After a year of traipsing around Afghanistan and Iraq while being based in Iran, it was supposed to be a carefree summer in which I would leave the Middle East and its troubles far behind. Leaving monochrome Tehran stewing in its midsummer traffic, I briefly touched down in Dubai and Kuwait before flying through the last dregs of night to swoop over the Aegean as the first glimmer! s of light spilled over the horizon. The Middle East has a way of psychologically entrapping its victims, however. Life in a normal part of the world just doesn't appeal anymore..."

"I wanted to use this opportunity to show how varied Iran is -- what it's really like," said Athanasiadis. "A lot of people don't know that Iran is the birthplace of the most lenient form of Islam."

Now based in Tehran, Athanasiadis was born and raised in Athens. The Oxford graduate and Harvard

Nieman Fellow has spent the last 10 years covering the Mideast as an independent journalist.

When he enrolled in Tehran's School of International Studies, Iran's only graduate program open to foreign nationals, he was shocked when he found the country to be radically different from what he had imagined.

The nearly 60 photos on display capture rituals and customs as well as everyday life. One photo shows multi-colored rowboats lined on the shore of Lake Zarivar in western Iran's Kurdistan Province. What the viewer doesn't see is that Athanasiadis had just finished a tour of villages hit by poison gas two decades earlier by Saddam Hussein during the Iran-Iraq war. The journalist had been talking with people still struggling with the gas' effects when he came upon the lake, with its kitschy plastic swan boats. "It was strange to see all this beauty," he said.

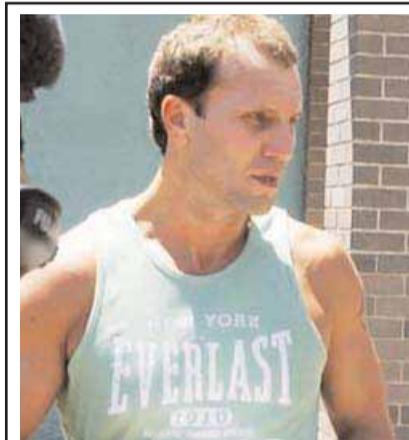
Nearly 70% of Iran's population is under 30, and the majority of subjects in his photos are in the third generation of the Islamic revolution, which marks its 30th anniversary this year.

One photo shows two youths wearing an Iranian flag and a Metallica T-shirt at a Reformist rally during the



country's 2005 election. "It shows that they can be both a heavy-metal fan and fervent Iranian nationalist," said Athanasiadis.

*Los Angeles Times (25.1.2009):  
'Exploring the Other Contemporary Iran,' at the Craft and Folk Art Museum;*



## Police raid nets cash, stun guns

Police have seized stun guns, Viagra, video games and more than \$170,000 in cash from the home of a Sans Souci man who sells sex toys for a living.

John Papadatos 41, of Alice Street appeared in Sutherland Local Court last Friday and was granted conditional bail following the police raid the previous evening.

Police facts tendered to the court said the raid at Mr Papadatos' house found 41 "electric shock weapons" disguised as torches, 160 play station games and 132 nintendo Wii games, five boxes of Viagra and a large amount of cash.

Mr Papadatos was charged with possessing a prohibited weapon and importing prohibited items.

He was granted conditional bail and will appear in Kogarah local Court again.

He must report to Kogarah police station three times a week and will forfeit \$5000 if he does not.

## 'Slumdog' strikes it rich with 8 Oscar wins

*Cast members from the film "Slumdog Millionaire," from right, Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor, Freida Pinto, Irrfan Khan, and Madhur Mittal, at the 81st Academy Awards ceremony at the Kodak Theatre.*



"Slumdog Millionaire" snagged eight Academy Awards, including best picture and best director. This was India's day, a time to revel, to emote and beam with pride as the world's largest democracy swept Oscar gold. "I'm at work, but if I didn't have to be here, I'd be on the street jumping up and down and shouting," said Mohammed Asif, 26, an employee in a coffee bar in New Delhi. "In spite of the weaker economy, 'Slumdog Millionaire' gives us hope. Maybe each of us can go out and win a million dollars too."