

A Swedish who sings in Greek

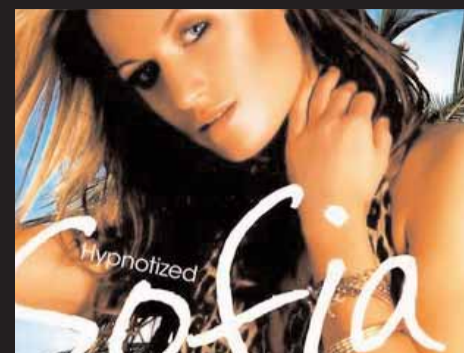
As many of you have already noticed, in the third heat of Melodifestivalen, Sofia Berntsson participated with the song "Alla" in the greek language. Although Sofia was originally eliminated, the international jury picked her as a candidate for the 11th position to the Swedish final.

Sofia comes from Sweden but her love for Greece and greek music is so strong that influences her in her mu-

sic career. After going to Greece, her life changes and upon arrival back in Stockholm, she starts singing and dancing in greek clubs. Sofia herself admits that at a time she wants to represent Greece. It is considered quite remarkable the fact that while Greece sends a song in the English language, Sofia participates in the Swedish final with a greek song.

Last fall, her CD single titles

"Pote" ("Never") was released, while the team behind the single is the same as the one behind "Alla" (Dimi Stassos, Irini Michas, and Nina Karolidou- for "Alla" Henrik Wikström also contributed for the music). The song is a pop ballad. The second song from the single is titled "Toso apla" ("That simple") and for this song Sofia cooperates with the popular greek group Goin' Through.



Ecologists protest fate of burnt Achaia forest

Four months after suspected land-grabbers razed a chunk of the Strofilia forest in western Achaia, in the Peloponnese, authorities have not made good on pledges to regenerate the area, environmentalists have told Kathimerini.

"Nature has been left alone to tend to its own wounds," said Giorgos Kanelis of the Ecological Movement of Patras. He said there has been no follow-up to pledges to designate Strofilia a national park. Kanelis added that the 20-hectare section of razed pine forest has been neither cordoned off nor cleared.

A representative of the local association appointed to manage the forest said two studies have been commissioned: one for the felling and removal of burnt timber from the site and another for regeneration. But local forestry expert Ilias Dress claims these have yet to get off the ground. "They have stalled due to a lack of funding," he said.

New Crete airport to open in 2014

A new airport in Kastelli, on the large island of Crete, is scheduled to open in 2014, Environment, Town Planning and Public Works Minister George Souflias said during a meeting with local administration officials in Irakleio, Crete on Tuesday.

Tenders will be considered in May and a contractor will undertake the 1.2-million-euro project by the end of the year. Construction of a new road linking the airport with the north and south road axes on Crete will be included in related infrastructure projects.

The airport, auxiliary facilities and infrastructure will cover an area of 600 hectares, including a 3.8-km-long runway to accommodate large aircraft and meet the island's needs in air transportation.

Roughly 1,000 jobs are expected to be created during the construction phase, while 2,500 people will be employed as airport staff.

Thirty major projects with a total budget of 500 million euros are currently under scheduled for Crete.



Project Description Youth Support Network

What is the Youth Support Network?

Western Sydney, particularly Auburn and its surrounding areas is defined by its diversity and youthful population. The Auburn Community Development Network (ACDN) has been working closely with young Australians from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds living in or frequenting the Auburn LGA since its inception. In 2007, as part of its youth development programs, ACDN focused on leadership development using interactive and creative workshops and consultations to provide young people with the opportunity to express themselves and have their voices heard on issues they face in Australia today.

The Youth Support Network is an initiative that came out of a youth leadership camp in January 2008 where participants wanted to form a network of young people that will provide a space for them to share their stories of settling into Australia and express their views on different issues they are facing as new arrivals and find ways to improve access to services and participation in community life.

As part of the Network youth ambassadors will be mentored and trained to advocate on issues affecting young people in the area and to engage with other young people, schools, local communities and service providers to be involved in making decisions which affect the lives of young people living in Australia, helping make a difference by making their voices heard.

What will the Network do?

The overall aim of the project is to build a strong and sustainable support network of young people aged twelve to twenty-five years from diverse backgrounds, with a focus on African Australians living in and frequenting the Auburn area. The project will provide them with a platform to share and learn strategies to deal with the various issues they face with living in Australia as new arrivals. More specifically the project will encourage young people to build support networks with one another and with their communities as well as develop young people's skills and knowledge in areas such as leadership, networking (identifying and using support networks), communication skills, negotiation and conflict resolution, stress management, time management, team building skills and resilience.

The main objectives of the Network are to:

Nurture and develop knowledge and skills of participants in areas such as education, training and employment, cultural and social activities

Engage young people in recreational activities and interactive workshops to help facilitate a discussion on a range of issues relevant to their experiences of migration and settlement across cultures

Empower young people to develop and apply individual strategies to deal with challenges presented in their lives including family relations and transitional adjustments in



relation to culture, age and racism

Promote cross-cultural understanding, appreciation of issues and sharing of experiences of young people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, African and non - African Connect young people with relevant service providers by raising awareness and improving access to various services available to them

What is ACDN?

This project forms part of the overall work of ACDN which is a community-based organization established over 30 years ago that aims to empower and build strong communities through the delivery of a broad range of community, arts and youth programs and contribute to the development of sustainable partnerships and networks with other service providers to address current and emerging needs of communities in Auburn LGA and surrounding areas, in particular the marginalized and new and emerging communities. The youth development program at ACDN specifically aims to empower young people between the ages of twelve to twenty-five years to participate in knowledge and skills development activities such as education, training and employment, recreational activities and cultural exchange programs.

The project is funded by the Community Development Support Expenditure Scheme (CDSE) until July 2009 and to ensure the success and continuing long term benefits of this project ACDN is working in partnership with Auburn Youth Centre (AYC), Auburn Council and the Auburn Migrant Resource Centre (AMRC). ACDN will also be working closely with diverse community groups, PCYCs, schools and other local service providers.

This project will ensure that the voices of all young people in Auburn and beyond are heard and count.

For more information or if you would like to be involved please contact: Dor A. Achiek, Youth Support Network Project Officer, ACDN - Phone: (02) 9649 5559

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