



### NSW Government help to ease overcrowding at 2009 Sydney Writers' Festival

NSW Premier and Minister for the Arts Nathan Rees tonight announced \$140,000 in additional funding to open up new venues and reduce overcrowding at the Sydney Writers' Festival.

"The Sydney Writers' Festival has become one of the most popular events in Sydney, with more than 80,000 people attending last year, a four-fold increase on numbers that turned up to the first festival in 1998," Mr Rees said.

"The new funding means this great Sydney festival can utilise Pier 2/3 at Walsh Bay, as well as other venues in the Walsh Bay precinct and across Sydney.

"It will enable the festival to meet the public's ever-increasing demand for quality creative arts," the Premier said.

The additional \$140,000 to secure the additional venues takes the NSW Government's support for the Sydney Writers' Festival to \$380,000.

Mr Rees said the festival was one of the world's most important literary events.

"Sydneyiders are often accused of saying everything's bigger and better in Sydney – but when it comes to the Sydney Writers' Festival this is definitely true.

"It is the third largest annual literary festival in the world and is Australia's largest celebration of literature and ideas."

"It will open up new arts tourism opportunities for Sydney and NSW," Mr Rees said.

The Chair of the Sydney Writers' Festival, Sandra Yates, has welcomed the additional funding.

"With attendance figures increasing, the Walsh Bay precinct and its spectacular backdrop provide the perfect setting for one of the world's premier literary festivals.

"It is with thanks to this increased level of support from the Premier that we can continue to provide a vibrant Festival featuring hundreds of events with international and Australian writers in such a beautiful and capacious environment."

Mr Rees made the announcement at the launch of the Sydney Writers' Festival 2009 program.

## the Arts Centre's Mix It Up & FULL TILT in association with \Multicultural Arts Victoria presents

# Cafe Rebetika!

Cabaret, music, theatre and dance unite in this new work, set in the exotic and gutsy sub-culture of Greek rebetika. Often called 'the Greek Blues', Rebetika music and dance was born out of outcast despair in the 20s and 30s slums of urban Greece. With a cast of musicians, anarchists, refugees, communists, prostitutes and mangas, *Cafe Rebetika!* is an original performance that unravels the love story of Areti and Stavrakas. All of the characters connect through their passion for life and defiance to survive, together creating a utopia.

*Cafe Rebetika!* features a cast of 7,

including award-winning actor Tony Nikolakopoulos and is supported by the internationally acclaimed band Rebetiki (Achilles Yiangoulli, Argyris Argyropoulos, Tony Iliou and Takis Dimitriou). The production is conceived and directed by Stephen Helper who has numerous Australian and Broadway credits. The design team is led by Tony Award winning lighting designer, Nigel Levings. Don't miss the world premiere season of *Cafe Rebetika!*

The majority of *Cafe Rebetika!* is performed in English. The production will feature songs in Greek, accompanied



with English surtitles.

When: 22 Apr - 9 May 2009

Pricing: \$30 / \$40 / \$50

Previews \$35 22 & 23 April

Food and Beverage packages:

EQ CAFE BAR Dinner package \$45

CURVE BAR Small plate package

\$23.50 FOYER BARS Pre Interval

Drink \$7.50, Venue: Fairfax Studio

# Chance visit reveals a family's rich legacy

## SYDNEY'S GREEK COMMUNITY HAS DECADES OF STORIES TO SHARE

writes Ann Beveridge

***SYDNEY is a city built on the backs and courage of its thousands of multicultural migrants. Yet many of their original stories remain a mystery to their families – even to this day.***

Until recent years, little was known of the Greek Sarantides family who came to Australia to escape the horrors of war. The story of their lives has only now unfolded due to painstaking research and a chance visit to Sydney's Susannah Place Museum by descendants. It is a tale which highlights the important contribution Greek migrants have made to the city's rich multicultural history.

A fragment of an old Greek-American Tribune newspaper found beneath bedroom floor coverings, and some olive seeds in an old terrace in Gloucester St in The Rocks, were previously the only clues to the existence of the Sarantides family, who lived there in the 1930s and '40s.

They were one of more than 100 families who, between 1844 and 1992, lived in the row of terraced houses at numbers 58 to 64 Gloucester St, which is now the Susannah Place Museum.

The Sarantides family first came to this country 95 years ago, around the start of World War I. Emmanuel Sarantides, 23, and his younger brother Athas (Arthur), 18, arrived by ship from Crete in 1914. According to family folklore, Emmanuel chose to come to Australia instead of America because he was allowed to bring his bicycle. Like his brothers, Emmanuel was a short, good-looking, dark-haired young man. While Athas became a hairdresser, Emmanuel made his living from cooking.

Meanwhile, in war-torn Greece, their mother Dorothea (Rose) had under-



gone untold traumas. In 1922, the family fled to Crete from their home in the ancient Greek port of Smyrna, Asia Minor, when it was seized by the Turkish army (it is now Izmir, Turkey). More than 150,000 died as most of the city was destroyed. Asked by Red Cross workers if she had any relatives, Dorothea said she had a son in Australia.

In 1923, Emmanuel sponsored Dorothea, sister Irini and younger brothers Andrew and Stan to join him in Sydney. The grey-haired Dorothea, then 50, looked careworn beyond her years.

From 1926 to 1935, Emmanuel ran the Colonial Cafe at 139 George St, The Rocks.

The extended family lived above the cafe until 1935 when Dorothea, Emmanuel and Athas moved into 60 Gloucester St, where they stayed until 1946.

Neighbours recalled the existence of "a frail, thin, little old lady who couldn't speak much English, with two grown-up sons". Occasionally she would pass

Greek food over the fence to them.

It is not known why Emmanuel stopped operating his restaurant (the building is still there), but it can be assumed it was due to the 1930s Depression. Rent ledgers of the Sydney Harbour Trust reveal that in 1928 Emmanuel was paying £390 a year, plus rates and insurance. By 1931, the rent had been reduced to £292 and 10 shillings.

By the late 1930s, Emmanuel was a chef at the Trocadero Club in George St, where it appears he was a popular staff member. He was also a keen dancer and, after work, would stay out late at night.

Upon her arrival in Australia, Dorothea had been anxious for her older son to marry. In 1926, Emmanuel applied to bring a bride out from Greece. She never arrived and he tried again in 1947, again with no luck. He finally married a Greek-Australian woman in the early 1950s. Irini met her future husband while she was working in the cafe. Ten years her senior, he was named Euripidis (Peter) Adalis, later changed to Adaley. They lived in Riley St, Darlinghurst.

When Dorothea died in 1946 aged 73, the same year her son Arthur died aged 50, the family's story seemed to die with her.

Among problems for researchers were the many spellings of their name used by the Sarantides family. Also, when Andrew applied for naturalisation in 1947 he had left Greece under the assumed name of Voulgarides, to avoid Greek military service.

However, in 1993, two of Dorothea's grandchildren, both in their 70s, walked into the Susannah Place Museum to relive childhood memories of visits to their grandmother there. It was with their help that the story of the family was brought to life.

Article from the Sydney Morning Herald