



Tribeca to end with Greek comedy

New York's Tribeca Film Festival is to close with a special screening of the comedy *My Life In Ruins*.

The film stars Nia Vardalos, of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* fame, as a tourist guide leading a rag-tag group of tourists around Greece.

Director Donald Petrie said he was "thrilled" that the film had been chosen to end the festival.

The light comedy sees Nia's character rediscover her mojo as she guides the foreigners through her beautiful homeland.

Among the film's other stars are Richard Dreyfuss and Maria Adanez.

Jane Rosenthal, co-founder of the Tribeca Film Festival, said: "This year's festival has a number of fun and light-hearted films for our audience to enjoy. We are delighted to bring them another crowd-pleasing film to celebrate our closing night."

Petrie added: "We are excited and thrilled that *My Life In Ruins* is receiving the honour of being the closing night event at the Tribeca Fest. I can't think of a better launching pad for our film."

Greek Embassy donates book on Khayyam to Iran National Library

TEHRAN -- The Greek ambassador to Tehran, Nicolas Greelidis, donated a collection of Khayyam's poetry in English and Greek to the Iran National Library and Archive.

In a meeting with (INLA) director Ali-Akbar Ash'ari on Monday, they both discussed enhancing the cultural relationship and emphasized introducing the historical background of both countries to the younger generation of Iran and Greece.

Ash'ari said that the education centers and universities could make a deeper impression on relations between the two countries.

"There are several research institutions in Iran that specialize in philosophy and cultural fields that could help increase knowledge of the history and culture of both countries," Ash'ari continued.

Nicolas Greelidis also donated a collection of Greek books on art, history, and philosophy and several more Greek books on Khayyam.

The Greece embassy has previously donated a collection of books to Iran National Library and Archive.

Stelios helping to break down barriers

SIR STELIOS Haji-Ioannou, the serial entrepreneur and founder of easyGroup, is putting up 1 million euro of his own money to promote island-wide, bi-communal business co-operation between entrepreneurs.

Haji-Ioannou – who prefers to be known as Stelios, – has created the Stelios Award for Business Cooperation in Cyprus, and has pledged to give away up to 1 million euro over the next 4 years to businessmen from the north and south of the island who co-operate on new ventures. Haji-Ioannou, whose parents were born in Cyprus, told the British press that he wants to "break down the barriers" between the country's north and south, saying: "When money talks, people set aside their differences."

Applications are being invited from

"young, dynamic businesses in need of growth funding" which will have "demonstrated entrepreneurial activity island-wide by the end of Summer 2009". An important criterion is that applicants should have formed or are willing to form "an entrepreneurial business team that includes at least one Greek-Cypriot and one Turkish-Cypriot, each born on the island of Cyprus".

According to easyGroup, "Stelios will review applications personally and select the winning teams best able to demonstrate effective teamwork, mutual trust and the best prospects for business viability in the future."

Up to four winning teams per year will each be presented a personal cheque for 50,000 euro per team by Haji-Ioannou himself in a ceremony in

Nicosia at the end of 2009, and each year thereafter for up to four years, depending on the calibre of applicants.

Haji-Ioannou is best known for creating easyJet in 1995, at the age of 28. Today, he owns and runs easyGroup, a holding company that operates the "no frills" low-cost business model under several "easy" brands in sectors such as car rental, internet cafts, hotels, cinemas, and cruise ships. He is said to be worth £1.3 billion.

The Business Co-operation Award is not Stelios's first initiative in Cyprus. In 1992, he co-founded the Cyprus Marine Environment Protection Association (CYMEPA), a not-for-profit association dedicated to preserving the marine environment which works closely with partner associations in Greece, Turkey and Australia.

Australian Hellenic Council (VIC) Inc

A coordinating body for the Australian Hellenic community

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A community delegation comprised of , Patricia Drivas Australian Hellenic Council co-ordinator , Nicholas Katris, Aust Greek Welfare, D Tsubakos , Greek Community of Melbourne & Vic, D. Kanellakos, World Council of Hellenes Abroad and G. Liavas , Australian Macedonian Advisory Council met with officials from the Department of Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Centrelink to discuss issues arising from the implementation of the new social security agreement between Australia and the Hellenic Republic.

The meeting was held in a friendly manner where officials reported that there had been an overwhelmingly positive response from the 56,000 Greek-Australian Age pensioners Centrelink has written to, with about 99 per cent having responded.

The Australian Hellenic Council expressed an appreciation with the steps taken by the Department in granting an extension for the return of documentation from three weeks to seven weeks and the decision to instruct Centrelink to defer taking any further action to suspend the pensions of those people who are yet to respond until 31st March 2009.

Following earlier meetings with Minister Macklin, the AHC welcomed the flexibility and sensitivity shown by Centrelink in modifying their processes, given the size of the community, and taking into account that many people were elderly and frail.

Ms Drivas/ AHC Co-ordinator and spokesperson

said she was pleased with the overwhelming response from the community and almost one in three Greek-Australian Age Pensioners have

now claimed a Greek old-age pension. "I am pleased that so many Greek-Australians expect to receive extra income from their homeland, in recognition of their work and contributions in Greece" the spokesperson said.

Over 1,200 people in Greece have also claimed an Australian Age Pension.

Of the 56,000 people contacted, less than 300 in Australia have yet to respond to Centrelink's letters. Officials urged these people to contact Centrelink as soon as possible so that Centrelink can help them fulfil their responsibilities and to avoid hav-

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As for all Australian pensioners, when a person is paid more than they should have been, Centrelink will seek repayment but is able to negotiate reasonable repayment arrangements to avoid financial hardship. It was indicated that those people would not be prosecuted. Review and appeal rights are available if people disagree with Centrelink's decisions.

Enquiries can be directed to Centrelink International Services on 13 1673 (within Australia) or 0800 0611 26209 (international direct dial from Greece – cost of a local call). Information in languages other than English is available on 13 1202.

For further inquiries - Contact Patricia Drivas - 0416202491, Australian Hellenic Council Inc.



link of previously undeclared Greek pensions.

Many Australians 'prolonging back pain'

Many Australians with lower back pain ignore official advice on how to treat it and instead pursue remedies that unnecessarily prolong the pain, an expert says.

Professor Andrew McLachlan says sufferers often wrongly rely on endless hours of bed rest.

And many rely on anti-inflammatory drugs as their first choice, despite the fact they can cause other problems.

"Since about 2004 there have been Australian treatment guidelines for lower back pain and they offer some fairly simple and straight forward advice, which is supported by very good evidence," said Prof McLachlan, of the University of Sydney's Faculty of Pharmacy and Concord Hospital.

"The first thing is that you should try and stay as active as possible and avoid bed rest.