

A tale of two cultures

WILL they or won't they? Will Alex and Eve get married?

There are several question marks in Alex Lykos' sequel to his hit play Alex and Eve.

In the first play, Alex, a Greek Orthodox teacher meets Eve, a Lebanese Muslim girl.

They become very fond of each other, but history and family are against a union.

Neither family wants to accept the other, and while the play is a comedy, there are poignant overtones as the script hits cultural sore spots.

At the end, the audience is left with the possibility of a permanent union despite the odds.

For the sequel, Alex and Eve: The Wedding, Lykos, from a Greek background, went back into multicultural Australia to further explore the attitudes of communities who cling to the old ways.

We know that Alex and Eve reunite and plan to get married. But how will they do that given both

want to keep their culture and religion and that their parents are dead against it?

The play is produced by the Bulldog Theatre Company in association with the Greek Festival of Sydney and performed at The Factory Theatre Enmore.

It has a multicultural cast including St George and Sutherland Shire actors Helena Stamoulis, Chloe LaKiss, Sylvia Dritsakis, each of whom understand the delicate balancing act required to maintain harmony when cultures mix.

Dritsakis, of Kogarah, also a member of the Greek Centre of the Arts, plays Alex's mum.

Stamoulis, of Earlwood is Eve's best friend, and Alex's aunt.

LaKiss, 16, of Cronulla, is a talented performer who attends Brent Street Talent Development High School at Fox Studios.

In the play she is a Muslim student in Alex's class,



and a girl in a bar.

Alex and Eve: The Wedding is from May 21 to May 31, Thursday to Saturday at 8pm, 5pm on Sundays.

Tickets are \$27.90/\$21. The Factory Theatre, 105 Victoria Road, Enmore: 95503666 www.factorytheatre.com.au.



National Geographic diver dies from 'the bends' while filming in Greece

The 37-year-old Briton is believed to have died from decompression sickness - the bends - according to the country's merchant marine ministry.

The man, who has not been named, was part of a 17-member crew commissioned by the magazine to film the wreck of HMHS Britannic.

The British World War I hospital ship, and sister ship of the Titanic, sank off the Greek Aegean island of Kea in 1916 after hitting a mine, with the loss of 30 lives.

"A Super Puma rescue helicopter was dispatched to collect the diver who was unconscious with decompression sickness symptoms," a ministry spokeswoman said.

"He did not regain consciousness and was pronounced dead on arrival at the Athens Navy hospital."

The National Geographic team had secured permission to film the wreck of the Britannic from May 19 to 31, she added.

No one from National Geographic was available to immediate comment.

Decompression sickness is caused by surfacing too quickly after a deep dive.

The condition can cause rashes, joint pain, headaches, and paralysis.

Death only occurs in extreme cases.

It can take hours or even days after a dive before sufferers become aware that they have decompression sickness.

There are around 300 cases in the UK every year.

Greek Court Rules Against Daimler On Chinese Smart Fortwo Imitator

Some of the cars from China's rapidly growing auto industry look like nothing else. Some, however, create a rather overwhelming feeling of... well... dijü vu. To say the least.

Daimler, parent company of Mercedes-Benz and Smart, had that funny feeling of familiarity when it laid its eyes on Shuanghuan Automobile's Noble.

With the Noble going on sale in a number of European countries, Daimler decided to intervene, claiming that the Noble looked uncomfortably similar to the Smart Fortwo. Greek courts ruled against Daimler however, declaring that "an informed buyer would not confuse the Noble with the Smart Fortwo".

According to the Greek courts, if a vehicle varies in its technical specification, then any external similarities are irrelevant. To that end, China Motors, the company which imports the Noble in Europe, claims that the front-engined, front-wheel-drive Noble with seating for four in no way



imitates the rear engined, rear-wheel-drive, two-seater Fortwo.

When it comes to the rather blatant styling similarities between the two, the court put that down to the pair belonging to the same minicar class of vehicles. Apparently as a "result of their common nature" it is

acceptable, even unavoidable, for a newcomer to be styled similar to an established model.

With Australia due to see its first Chinese cars lauched here later this year, we should see an intriguing mix of unique cars as well as those which look strangely reminiscent of other models. Lifan's LF 320 should be the first look-alike seen here, bearing more than a passing resemblance to the current MINI range.

Already, Chinese auto makers have 'borrowed' inspiration from BMW's X5, Daewoo's Matiz and the Mercedes-Benz SLK. Various legal challenges have been mounted, some successfully and others less so.

So the question remains, are the Chinese clones good enough to fool your neighbours into thinking you've shelled out for a top-shelf European car, or will they always carry the 'copy-cat' stigma?

Greek church enters the new millenium

ROCKDALE Council has approved a 21 year licence agreement which will allow the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia to take up residence in the Millenium Centre at Brighton Le Sands. A separate agreement has yet to come to the council to formalise the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol's use of the Brighton Baths building it shares with the athletics club. The council agreed to a \$480,000 relocation of the archdiocese's Greek Sports Hall of Fame and coastal patrol from the southern end of the baths building, which was demolished to make way for the expansion of the centre and Le Sands Pavilion restaurants. The Council resumed the southern end of the restaurant building as part of the expansion and granted owners, the Antonopoulos family, a northern portion of the building to extend the restaurants. The archdiocese will pay yearly rent of \$4925 on the condition it not be used for commercial activities and is shared with community groups.