

# My Life in Ruins

*Down on life lately? Dissatisfied with love? Nia Vardalos knows what you're feeling in the new Grecian romcom "My Life in Ruins." Now a svelte, sexier version of the woman who catapulted to fame with 2002's "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," Vardalos gives us a tale of lost passion found in this Mediterranean gambol. Starring as Georgia, a Greek-American college professor working as a gloomy Athenian tour guide, Vardalos felt an immediate connection with this character penned for her by "The Simpsons" writer Mike Reiss.*

Stuck in Athens, Georgia hates her job. She hasn't had sex in a year - a fact she unsuspectingly announces to an audience of ragtag tourists, Athenian cafe workers and her oddball bus driver Poupi (played by Greek heartthrob Alexis Georgoulis). "She's unhappy. She's unfulfilled. I've lived that experience," Vardalos told CTV.ca this week from her home in Los Angeles.	nom success of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." Thanks to Rita Wilson and Tom Hanks, who backed the sleeper hit, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" grossed more than US\$240 million at the domestic box office.
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The Hollywood royals also helped transform the one-time improv comic from Winnipeg, Man. into an international sensation. "It was wonderful. I loved it. I am so grateful for it. But it was slightly hollow," says Vardalos. Struggling with infertility issues, the career misses that followed with Vardalos' short-lived TV series, "My Big Fat Greek Life," and the 2004 flick "Connie and Carla" paled by comparison. "I was personally pursuing becoming a parent and getting pregnant. Fate prevented that. I didn't have the personal hap-	piness to go along with the career happiness," says the 46-year-old actress, who withdrew into her work to process her emotions. "Let me be clear," says Vardalos. "It wasn't depression. That's a serious word and should be reserved for those who have clinical depression. I lost my spark. The best way I could get through it was to go through it." After adopting a little girl in 2008, however, Vardalos found her "kefi," or life's passion, again. And just like Georgia, she believes it shows in "My Life in Ruins."
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NIA VARDALOS

MY LIFE IN RUINS

RICHARD DREYFUSS

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Mild sexual references and coarse language

26 film

FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

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