

# Scene cut from Athens museum film after protests

ATHENS, Greece —

A scene from an animated film shown to visitors at the new Acropolis Museum that depicts Christian priests destroying parts of the Parthenon has been deleted following protests by the Greek Orthodox Church. The creator of the segment, Greek-born French filmmaker Constantin Costa-Gavras, has demanded that his name be taken off the film credits in protest. "The priests used to destroy ancient temples. Now they want to remove scenes from a film," Costa-Gavras told Greece's Mega TV channel. "This is the kind (of censorship) that used to happen in the former Soviet Union."

Costa-Gavras, known mainly for French-language films with political themes, such as "Z" and "State of Siege", shared an Academy Award in 1983 for best screenplay adaptation for the English-language film "Missing," starring Jack Lemmon, a film Costa-Gavras also directed.

Costa-Gavras' 1-minute, 40-second segment depicting the damage done to Parthenon over the centuries — from marauding Germanic warriors in 267 A.D. to the removal of a large part of the frieze by British diplomat Lord Elgin in early 19th century — was part of a larger piece produced for

the 2004 Athens Olympics and had been incorporated into a 13-minute film shown to museum visitors, narrating the history of the Parthenon from its inception to the present day. The animated segment showed figures clad in black climbing up ladders and destroying part of the Parthenon frieze; the scene referred to well-documented episodes of destruction that took place in the early Byzantine period (5th-8th centuries A.D.), when Christians often demolished monuments and temples belonging to the old pagan era. Many parts from those temples were used to build churches. The Parthenon itself suffered some damage but was spared a worse fate by being converted into a church. Church officials contended the film misrepresented the attitude of the Greek Orthodox Church toward Greece's ancient heritage.

Greek media reported the segment was excised after the intervention of Culture Minister Antonis Samaras. A Church of Greece spokesman denied there was any "formal or informal" protest lodged with the Culture ministry but said that the church's Holy Synod took up the matter at its latest meeting on July 21.

"The issue was discussed at the meeting, but no

protest was made, either in writing or orally," said press officer Haris Konidaris.

The Holy Synod's press release mentions that the church will "finance the research and writing of a study on the Church's contribution to preserving the Ancient Greek heritage (monuments, texts)."

Museum director Dimitris Pantermalis acknowledged the Greek Church's displeasure and, while he tried to minimize the importance of the episode, appeared irritated at those who objected.

"The segment that was cut was no more than 12 seconds long and the accompanying narration has been left intact," he told the Associated Press. "The film depicted a historical fact — that some early Christians destroyed, or tried to destroy, ancient monuments, and this fact remains. ... I cannot understand those who said that (in) showing figures clad in black robes, we depicted priests. That's what people were wearing in the Byzantine period, not trousers," he said. Pantermalis later released a statement defending the cuts in the film as "an effort to eliminate misunderstanding and not censorship at all."

The Acropolis Museum, which opened on June 20, now receives an average of 11,000 visitors daily, Pantermalis said.



## Peter Andre's family urge him to find a 'nice Cypriot girl'

Peter Andre's family have warned him to avoid another celebrity romance following his split from Katie Price.

His mother and father are urging him to find a nice Cypriot girlfriend to date, according to a report in the Daily Express. Both of the singer's parents, Thea and Savva, were born on the Mediterranean island which he visited following his split from the glamour model.

A source revealed: "Pete has been through hell and back and his mother is devastated."

"She's told him that when he's ready, he should find a woman from a similar cultural and ideological background to his."

The insider added: "Pete already loves Greek food and music and his mother keeps telling him the women are the most beautiful thing about the country."

"His siblings agree that after Jordan he should date someone completely different and outside of showbiz."

The 36-year-old has lost a lot of weight since he split from Katie in May and has said that he wants to be fit again.

In his diary for Now magazine he said: "I'm going to take up kung fu."

"I used to teach the ancient martial art wing chun 15 years ago and I enjoyed it."

"It gives you discipline, and is brilliant for stress."

"I am hoping it will help me on my mission to be ripped again."

# New twist in Theo Theophanous case

A MAN close to cleared MP Theo Theophanous could face charges over allegations he manufactured evidence.

In a strange twist to the dismissed rape case, the man has confirmed that police are investigating him in relation to fake documents.

The documents surfaced as part of a bizarre conspiracy theory alleging that a former minister, the woman who accused Mr Theophanous of rape, two mystery Greek police officers and a petty criminal plotted to bring Mr Theophanous down.



Mr Theophanous said that the man close to him had sold him dud documents.

"He constructed this elab-

orate conspiracy (theory) so he could ask us for money," Mr Theophanous said.

Mr Theophanous took the documents to Greek and Australian police, who, it is believed, have labelled them fakes. Following a police investigation the conspiracy theory was dismissed as "ridiculous fantasy". Meanwhile, Mr Theophanous's daughter, Katerina, said she never doubted her father over the rape allegations and was proud to have stood by his side throughout the ordeal.

"I believed my dad was innocent and my belief never wavered," she said.

She felt both anger and pity for the woman who accused her father of the crime.

"I know that each of us are responsible for our own

actions and she will have to take responsibility for what she did," she said.

"She is obviously very sick and I hope she gets help before she hurts someone else."

Mr Theophanous said he was philosophical about whether he would be able to return to Cabinet.

The allegedly false documents, which the man is claimed to have sold to Mr Theophanous, included:

A STATEMENT from a fictional Greek police officer, which alleged the accuser's father said no rape occurred.

A FAX claiming to be from the former minister to one of two crooked Athens police officers.

A GREEK police logbook with the former minister's name in it implying he visited one of the crooked Greek police.

FIVE Western Union money transfers, sent from Australia, as supposed payments to the rape complainant.

Mr Theophanous said he was still recovering after a magistrate on Friday dismissed the rape case against him, in which it was alleged that he attacked a woman on a couch in his Parliament House office in 1998.



## The icon of Agia Markella

Photo of icon of Agia Markella taken during the artoclasia held at the Holy Trinity Church by the Association of Chios. 22 of July is the date that Chian people, celebrate the name -day of Saint Markella. Very often, stories are told about the miracles that Agia Markella had done when she was a young woman.