

GREEK CAFE EXHIBITION BREAKING ATTENDANCE RECORDS

The exhibition *Selling an American Dream: Australia's Greek Cafe* is continuing its successful tour across the country and in the process is breaking attendance records at host venues.

At the National Museum of Australia in Canberra last year the exhibition attracted some 70,000 people and was applauded by the Museum as one of its most successful visiting exhibitions. Now, after only 3 months on display at the Migration Museum in Adelaide, over 20,000 more people have been attracted to the exhibition.

Staff at the Migration Museum are thrilled with the exhibition's phenomenal success, as are the show's curators, photographer Effy Alexakis and histo-



rian Leonard Janiszewski. Alexakis stated that "the exhibition has certainly drawn much broad public attention to the key role that Greeks have played in developing the Australia of today".

Janiszewski agrees and adds "that not only should Greek-Australians be proud of their achievements in this country, but all Australians, most of whom have benefited in some way be-

cause of Greek involvement".

Both curators consider that the exhibition's success has been built on a mix of "nostalgia, revelation and inclusiveness: the public's nostalgia for the golden era of milk bars and Greek cafes; revelation that Greeks played a key role in the Americanisation of Australian popular culture; and the inclusion of not only Greek-Australia voices in the exhibition, but also of those who frequented the Greek cafes and milk bars – the Australian public."

Attendance of the exhibition will not doubt collectively total 100,000 during its stay at Adelaide's Migration Museum, which will end on 28 September. The next city eagerly awaiting the exhibition's visit is Darwin. With five more years of touring, the final projected attendance figures for the show look to be headed towards astronomical heights. This is without contradiction an exhibition which is not to be missed and one that audiences are rapidly being drawn to.

THE AUSTRALIAN SINGING COMPETITION

Panayiota Kalatzis among 10 contestants to perform at the 2009 Semi Finals Concert

The Australian Singing Competition is the richest and most recognised competition of its kind in Australia. Over 2,500 singers have participated and many have shared in over \$2 million worth of prizes in the Competition's 28 year history.

This year 76 singers from across Australia entered the elimination Heats, which were held in each State in July. Of this 10 contestants have been chosen to perform at the Semi-Finals Concert on Wednesday 2 September in the Independent Theatre, 269 Miller Street, North Sydney.

- **Panayiota Kalatzis**
Mezzo soprano, 23, QLD
- **Hadleigh Adams**
Bass baritone, 24, NZ
- **Stacey Alleaume**
Soprano, 23, VIC
- **Angela Edwards**
Soprano, 25, NSW

- **Louise Fenbury**
Mezzo soprano, 25, WA

- **Stuart Laing**
Tenor, 25, WA

- **Jade Moffat**
Mezzo soprano, 19, QLD

- **Sam Roberts-Smith**
Baritone, 23, NSW

- **Samuel Sakker**
Tenor, 24, NSW

- **Lachlan Scott**
Bass, 24, SA

The National Adjudicator is acclaimed Australian singer and star of the opera stage, Donald Shanks AO OBE, who will be assisted by Stephen Mould and Richard Wenn.

From the Semi-Finals five singers will be chosen to perform at the Finals Concert at

His Majesty's Theatre, Perth, on Monday 2 November. This is a highly prestigious event with each singer accompanied by The West Australian Symphony Orchestra conducted by Aldo Salvagno. Over \$180,000 worth of prizes will be awarded at the Finals Concert.

Semi-Finals Concert

Independent Theatre 269 Miller Street, North Sydney
 When: Wednesday 2 September at 7pm
 Prices: \$32 Adult - \$25 Concession & Groups
 Bookings: www.theindependent.org.au - 02 9955 6580
 Information: www.mostlyopera.org.au • ph:02 9231 4293

Greek tourism holding up in global downturn: minister

ATHENS — Greece's vital tourism industry is holding up in "satisfactory fashion" against fears of serious losses due to the global economic downturn, the Greek tourism minister said on Monday. "Despite the economic situation things are proceeding in satisfactory fashion... the disaster scenarios fortunately have not been fulfilled," Tourism Minister Costas Markopoulos told reporters after briefing Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis. Economic slowdown and job losses in the United States, Britain and Germany, which generate the bulk of Greece's tourism income, had alarmed local operators with one prominent association warning in April that the industry stood to lose five billion euros (7.1 billion dollars) this year and thousands of jobs. At the time, the association of Greek tourism enterprises (SETE) said early bookings indicated a 20-percent drop in arrivals and cruise ship demand. Markopoulos on Monday said the latest figures pointed to a drop "between one and two digits." The Bank of Greece recently reported that tourism proceeds in the first five months of the year fell 17.9 percent -- or 1.7 billion euros -



- compared with the same period last year.