

PARENTS URGED TO REMOVE TOY BALL AFTER RECALL

Fair Trading Minister Virginia Judge today warned parents to immediately remove a children's toy – the Maui Toys Water Bouncer / Dazzler Water ball - from direct exposure to sunlight. Ms Judge said the ball is subject to a national recall by its Australian distributor, Funtastic Ltd, following a report to Fair Trading of property damage caused by the ball.

"Parents should immediately remove the ball from exposure to direct sunlight and return it to the place of purchase for a full refund," Ms Judge said. The report to Fair Trading revealed that on three separate occasions the ball left burn marks, two on a trampoline mat and another on a carpet rug after exposure to the sun for a period of time.

"I am concerned by this report, and that at certain angles, the ball may act as a kind of magnifying glass, scorching some surfaces," Ms Judge said.

Funtastic Ltd has received two other reports, both from Victoria, of the ball causing scorching incidents to soft furniture. On notification of the NSW incident, it agreed to conduct a voluntary national recall. "A similar version of the Maui Toys Water Bouncer ball called Notabene High Bounce ball was recently recalled in Norway following concerns that the product may cause fires," Ms Judge said. The Maui Toys Water Bouncer/Dazzler Water ball is a flexible, smooth surfaced, transparent rubber ball approximately 100mm in diameter filled with clear water and containing glitter. It has the words Maui Toys Water Bouncer embossed on the ball. Since January 2009, Funtastic Ltd has supplied approximately 11,000 balls to outlets such as Kmart, Target, Big W, Toys R Us, Mr Toy and independent retailers nationally. "The ball has also been directly imported from Maui Toys and distributed by Target Australia (64,008), Toys R Us (594) and Mr Toy (7,320)," Ms Judge said. Funtastic Ltd has entered into an agreement with Maui toys to coordinate the recall of all of the balls supplied in Australia including those directly imported.

Greek is the word for Aussie Thomas

THOMAS Papathanassiou sets an ambitious task for himself as he jumps between 18 characters in his one man show.

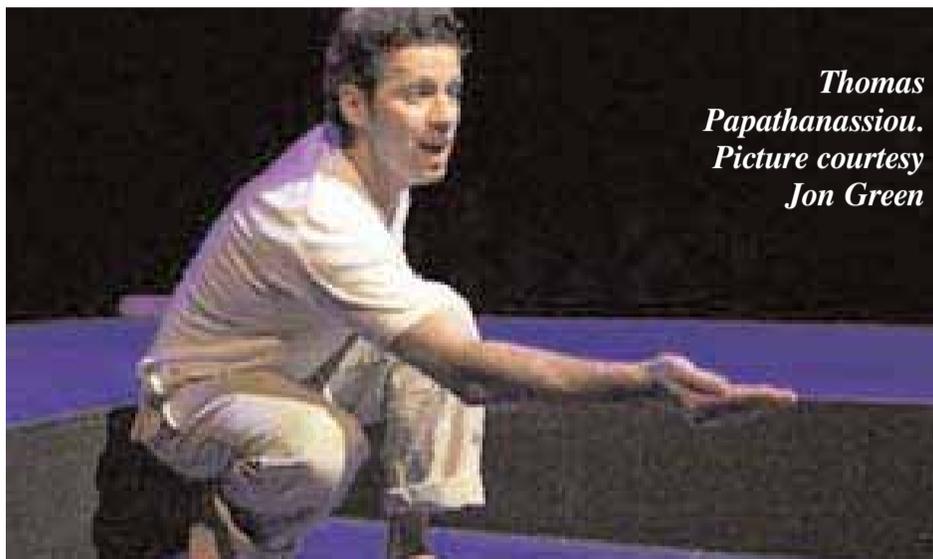
The first generation Australian of Greek immigrant parents will be bringing his show to town this weekend as part of the Darwin Festival.

Papathanassiou said the semi-autobiographical story connects with his childhood and close connection with his grandma in a small village in Greece, through to growing up in Australia and feeling torn between the two countries. He depended on the play to revitalise his career, but never realised that it was the one which would catapult him in to the limelight.

"It was a last ditch attempt to stay in the industry," he said.

"It became the greatest thing for my career." Papathanassiou said he wasn't always so confident about taking to the stage and delving in to his heritage.

"There was a time when I felt (being



Thomas Papathanassiou. Picture courtesy Jon Green

Greek) would impede me," he said.

"I would try and shorten my name to fit in.

"I became very unhappy because I was stifling myself."

Even though he has come to terms with his shared background, he said it was a lot harder for everyone else.

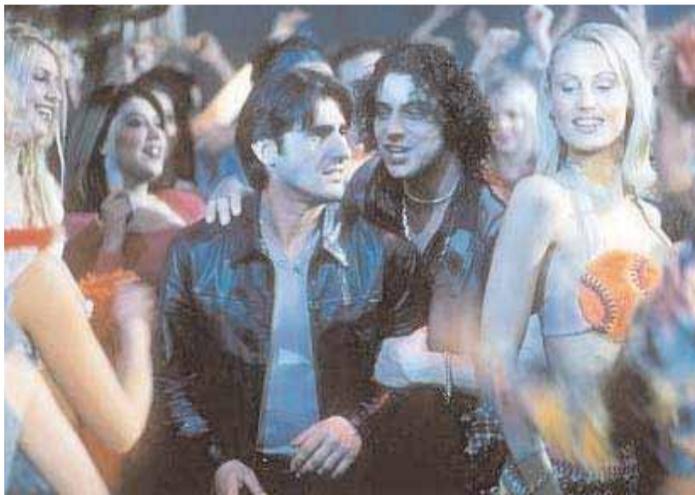
"I have that ongoing problem where when I go to Greece I am the

Australian, and when I am in Australia, I am the Greek," he said.

"I still think we are very far behind."

Papathanassiou said he is looking forward to performing in the Territory for the first time, and especially in front of the large Greek community. "For the Greek community, it is another voice," he said.

Wog Boy sequel set to start shooting in Melbourne



A sequel to highly successful Australian comedy The Wog Boy goes into production next week in Melbourne. It will be distributed by the Transmission/Paramount joint venture with Arclight Films handling international sales.

Wog Boy 2, The Kings Of Mykonos will again star Nick Giannopoulos and Vince Colosimo (Lantana) as best mates Steve and Frank. The story follows them from the streets of Melbourne's western suburbs to the villages of sunny Mykonos after Steve discovers he has inherited a beach on the island worth millions, from an uncle he has never met.

A wog is now an affectionate term used for European immigrants in Australia and this film taps into Greek culture for its

comedy, just as the last one did. A Valiant car that featured in the last film gets to reprise its role.

The original grossed \$9.64m (A\$11.45m) when it was released in Australia by Twentieth Century Fox in 2000. The popularity of the film gave birth to a live show.

Giannopoulos and Chris Anastassiades, who wrote the first film, have also written this sequel, but director Peter Andrikidis, who is known as an exemplary director of television drama, has taken over from Aleksis Vellis. Giannopoulos is producing with Emile Sherman of See-Saw Films, which has a joint venture with Transmission. G.O Films is the other production company.

With many Australian films being shown in art-house cinemas rather than multiplexes, Wog Boy 2, The Kings Of Mykonos is an example of the Australian industry trying to reignite commercial hits.

V8 Race Car Driving Experience to be Won at Wenty

Wentworth Park race goes on Mondays will have the chance to win a V8 Race Car Driving Experience by entering into a special promotion being conducted at the track by the NSW GBOTA over five Mondays from August 24 to September 28. GBOTA Deputy Executive Officer Jeff Browne said this promotion offers the winner a novel prize and an exciting experience.

"Patrons at each of the five Monday night meetings involved will receive a free entry coupon and the winner will be drawn after race 6 at the final meeting of the promotion on Monday September 28. "As an added attraction there's a \$100 cash bonus if the winner is on course," Browne concluded.

The Prize: The V8 Race Car Driving Experience - 5 Laps Eastern Creek

Morning Session Sunday October 4 · Your V8 race car drive Your own race suit and helmet Choose an automatic or manual, Ford or Holden to drive! You are then strapped in behind the wheel and introduced to your personal in-car coach Off you go for your drive of a lifetime!

Enquiries concerning this promotion should be directed to either Chris McKay on 8737 5902 or Jeff Browne on 8737 5903 at the NSW GBOTA