

Alex & Eve

The wedding

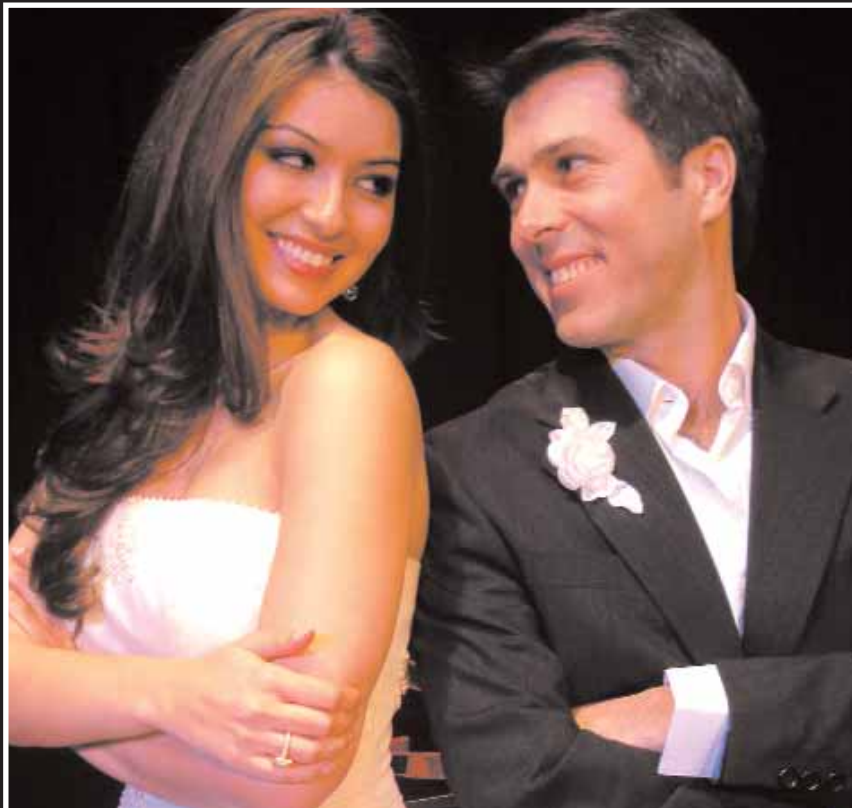


Enmore
theatre

The
response
from the au-

dience was something unbelievable. It is so hard to describe. It was so surreal and now as I look back, it is as if it did not happen — like it was a dream

Interview: Anna Arsenis



Claire Robbins - Helena Stamoulis

Helena started her acting career in 1999 and hasn't looked back since.

During this time she has performed in many stage productions such as *The Grass is Greener*, *Taming of the Strigla*, *An Uninvited Guest* and *Yiros Live* in addition to numerous film and TV productions. Helena has studied at the Actors Pulse and has completed short courses at NIDA and Faith Martin Castings. This is Helena's fourth performance with Bulldog Theatre having originated the role of Claire in the original *Alex & Eve* and is proud to be returning to *Alex and Eve - The Wedding*, "Playing Claire has been a breath of fresh air, a contemporary intelligent and driven

woman is a role I have been waiting for".

Helena has a lovely sense of humour. She is proud of her Greek background and loves the Greek gatherings. Greece is not only about 'bouzoukia'. There is so much culture there!!!

Helena, what is your favourite subject?
Chocolate.

You look great on stage. Do you think there will be an Alex & Eve 3?

You will have to ask Alex about that.

Where are your parents from?
Thessalia.

Would you like to do acting full time?

Absolutely. At the moment, this is my hobby but I am getting involved more and more. I am involved in 'paraskinia' as well... I am just everywhere!

What has been your best moment during Alex & Eve The Wedding?

Well, I can think of the worse, but I will not get into that... The best. When my photo was front page in "Kosmos" newspaper. I didn't expect that...

Do you like acting more than your full time job?

I can't say I love this more. They are two different things.

Have there been any conflicts among the cast?

I will be very diplomatic and say that everyone has been great. There are 12 different people, and everyone has a different character. But we all try to deal with issues in the best possible way.

Adam Hatzimanolis - Actor/Writer

Studied at the Wollongong School of Creative Arts. Since 1985 he has been



associated with Sidetrack as an actor, writer and devisor where his credits include *The Book Keeper*, *Alkestis*, *Parthenon Air*, *The Promised Woman*, *The Uncle from Australia*, *Flight Path Daze*, *The Wound*, *Kin*, *Adios Cha Cha* and *Skitsobumski*. He toured the Edinburgh Festival and London in Mike Leigh's *Greek Tragedy*, and at Belvoir Street in 2002. He has worked with Melbourne's Zeal Theatre and Nightshift Theatre and written for Melbourne Worker's Theatre. He wrote and performed in his one man show *The Paragon Files 2003-4*.

The title, *The Paragon* comes from the Greek word that is used in the phrase "paragon (model) of virtue". But it is also the name of countless Australian fish and chips shops of the kind that Hatzimanolis's parents ran when he grew up in suburbs of Wollongong. In the show, at the Victorian Arts Centre's Blackbox Theatre, Hatz-

imanolis tells a series of true-life stories of himself at different ages. Like the day when, aged 16, and having a cigarette out the back of the fish shop, he nearly burnt the place down; and how, at 38, he bought his dream car, an EJ Holden to tinker with, but it turned out to be a cash-sapping lemon that threatened his marriage.

And he spills the beans on a fleeting encounter with actor Nicole Kidman - "she looked at me and I looked at her" - when he was an extra on the set of the movie *Birthday Girl*, in which Nicole played a Russian mail-order bride.

The Paragon, which has its world premiere in Melbourne, is written and performed by Hatzimanolis. It is produced by the respected Sidetrack Performance Group, based in Marrickville in Sydney's inner west, which specialises in innovative, cross-cultural works.

Adam Hatzimanolis certainly knows how to impress. Even though his role is very small in *Alex & Eve The Wedding* he manages to ...leave his mark making everyone remember his role as the Greek priest!

Adam, have you been to Greece?

Yes. Once in 1993. I am dying to go back.

Where are your parents from?

My father is from Thessaloniki. My mother from a village a bit further from Thessaloniki.

Your part as a Greek priest is very successful.

I try my best.

Are you married?

