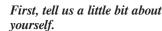
Ο Κόσμος

### IRINI LANTIS

# Aims to keep Greek dancing alive and burning

Interview: ANNA ARSENIS



• I am studying Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Medical Science degrees at The University of Technology Sydney. I am in my third year of a five year course. I am 20 years old.

• I have a strong commitment to keeping my cultural identity alive and relevant. I believe Greek dancing and the Greek language are two very significant ways of keeping it

• I became President of the UTS Hellenic Society in 2008 in the hope of continuing the promotion of Hellenism with my fellow university students. We achieve through hosting events that celebrate who we are with pagos, kardia

and of course with KEFI. We also need to continue to have Modern Greek as a language offered at oppose the closure of the University of NSW Modern Greek Department as it will erode knowledge and formal qualifi-

outh Oceania - World Council many years. tion Officer on the first New dancing. Greek dancing is the lene Club at Brighton Le South Wales Youth Network ultimate form of expression Sands. I am the choreographer

questioning and feeling siding Board. everything about me that is Greek, it is an exhilarating expression of my identity. I started my Dance perfor-

mance group in late 2006

called FOTIA, to represent the

fire and passion I have for

Greek Dance. It then devel-

oped into a dance school due

to the numerous requests by

our audiences to learn to

dance and perform with us. I

have amazing sponsors and

supporters in the Cypriot

**Community of the Cyprus Hel-**

Another form of expression I have universities and vehemently found as an outlet for my culture is through acting. I am currently vice president of the 'Takeaway Theatre Company'. our opportunities to obtain I performed in a retrospective play about the history of the cations in our most prized as- Greek Australian theatre pect of our identity, our lan- company that has brought so much enjoyment and thought • I also joined the SAE Y- to audiences in Sydney for

Pre-

of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) in My greatest passion above 2008 and was elected Educa- all has always been Greek





News in English



about Greek Dances.

An influence of mine is Dora Stratou, I love the precision and technique of the dancers. I am also a great admirer of her attention to historical detail in how the dances are performed, the costumes and the instruments.

I started Greek dancing when I was three at my local dance school, as well as many years of Ballet, Tap and more recently Salsa.

List five adjectives that accurately describe yourself. Exuberant, Passionate, Innovative, Sincere, Exacting

and head instructor and I also

perform. My brother Michael

Lantis helps me run the school

by teaching and performing

moment in your life?

a dance teacher?

Dancers.

Describe your experiences.

Some of our performances include:

"ZAMBETOLOGIES" Out of The Blue Productions - Life Muse Events

formance REMBETIKA- A Night of vears Constant Presence On Greek Blues.- Factory The-

atre- Out of The Blue Production- Muse Events OUZO 88 - NEO-TAVER-

NA, Wolloomooloo Restaurant Launch. -'A

Taste of Greece Kogarah Council Bedrace Charity Event

Greek Australian Professionals Association- GAPA Function

Greek Orthodox Archdio-

cese -St George Monastery **Springwood Charity Dinner** Greek Festival 2008 & 2009

Variety the Children's Charty -The SPARTAN'S Car 800 Saint George Church Rose Bay- Ladies Auxiliary

NUGAS CONVENTION-National Union Of Greek Ausralia Students Ball 2008 Mel-

AUSTRALIA DAY CELE-**BRATIONS 2009 Carrs Park** 

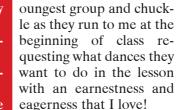
**HELLENIC WRITERS &** ARTISTS ASSOCIATION OF

Cancer Council Relay for

Muse Events
SUNRISE Channel 7 PerGeorge Tserdanis Radio
Program GREEKS TODAY, Salt & Pepper, Celebrates 20

Tell us about your experiences dancing with students at differ-

I teach students from the age of 5 through to adults. I have classes just for ladies, private essons and I choreograph and teach the Cyprus Hellene Debutants. I most look forward to my first class on a Monday night with my y-



The young adults class is always exciting and expanding and turns into a social gathering after class. I am amazed at how many young people want to learn to dance Greek and to perform on a regu-

Interview continues





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