

Adelaide Glendi a roaring success

The Greek Glendi Festival in Adelaide was held for the first time in October, after three decades of being held in March to commemorate Greece's Independence Day.

The move to hold the event on the weekend of October 3-4 was made to distinguish the festival from the "mad month of March", which sees a multitude of festivals and events.

Despite the date change, the Glendi, held at the Wayville Showground still managed to attract more than 10,000 people.

"The highlight was John Katevas's (from Greece) performance, and George Kapiniaris was also good," said festival director, John Chefalachis. "We

were also entertained by local dance groups performances, including two dance groups from Melbourne; Pontiaki Estia and Manassis."

Children enjoyed table wrestling, indoor soccer, and author Bea Julian's reading of her new picture story book, *The Fountain Cat*, which was inspired by her time spent on the beautiful island of Rhodes.

Greek cuisine (Kouzina) was the theme for the Glendi School's Program, which saw children use art and clay to create lifelike Greek dishes.

The real cooking was left to the experts, including a cooking demonstration by chefs from the popular Greek restaurant, Greek on Halifax.



Unusual Greek math comic tops bestseller lists worldwide

The global success of *Logicomix*, a new graphic novel from Greece, wouldn't seem so unusual if it weren't for the comic book's unlikely subject matter: logic and mathematics.

Mathematics theory hardly sounds like a fitting theme for a comic book, but a new graphic novel from Greece about math in early 20th century Europe has become an unlikely hit, topping best-seller lists in the United States and Britain.

"Logicomix: An Epic Search for Truth" follows British philosopher, logician and pacifist Bertrand Russell (1872-1970) in his tortuous quest for the foundations of mathematics, and his search for logic as a shield from the

insanity that consumed other members of his family.

The story uses his relationships with the great thinkers and mathematicians of the era, two of his four marriages and historical events in Europe such as the rise of Nazism as a backdrop for the novel's more abstract and philosophical subject matter.

Unexpected success

Originally published in Greek in the fall of 2008, "Logicomix" was a hit at home. But its authors were unprepared for the reception in the United States and Britain, where it sold out on the first day of its release in September.

The novel received positive reviews from such publications as *The Guardian* and *The New York Times*, which described the story as presented "with real graphic verve" and "delightful sim-



Doxiadis wasn't deterred by the unusual theme

plicity."

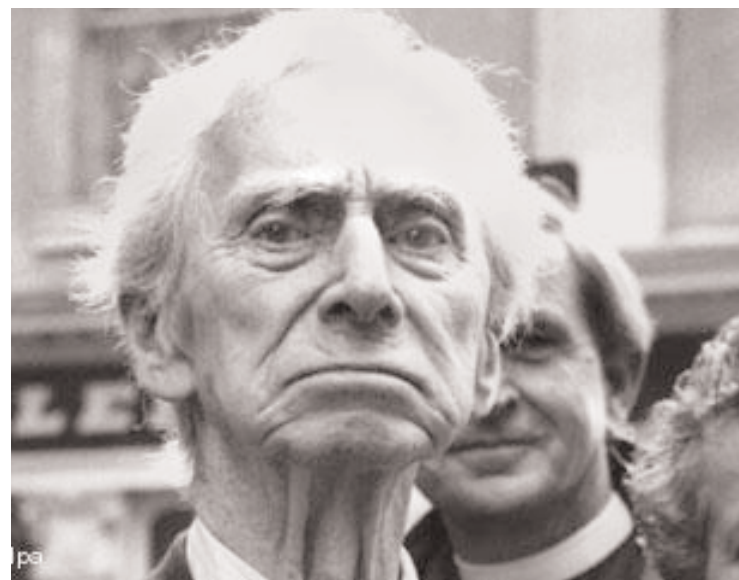
It sped up bestseller lists to occupy top 10 spots in comics, fiction and general book rankings on both Amazon.com and Amazon.co.uk. It also recently hit No. 1 on *The New York Times* paperback graphic book list.

"I think the publishers (Bloomsbury) were shocked," Apostolos Doxiadis, who co-authored the story with computer science professor Christos Papadimitriou at the University of California, Berkeley, told AFP news agency. "I was shocked too."

Bertrand "not a mega-nerd"

In searching for a narrator who would fit the novel's context, Doxiadis said Bertrand Russell was "ideal."

Born into a liberal aristocratic English family and the grandson of a



Russell wasn't a mega-nerd, said Doxiadis

former British prime minister, Russell is considered one of the 20th century's most important philosophers.

He was an early advocate of sexual freedom, he was jailed for pacifism during World War I and later campaigned against nuclear proliferation and the Vietnam War. "He was a political activist, a womanizer, traveler, adventurer, great talker, a wit and a dandy," Doxiadis



told AFP. "He was the only one of these characters who was not a mega-nerd."

The long journey to print

From initial discussions between the creators to scripting, drawing,

inking and coloring, the novel's completion took seven years - which the author called "a super-marathon."

Like many other cartoon books, the album was pieced together like a movie with wall-to-wall story boards and Doxiadis, who has a filmmaking background, acted out the characters.

The aim of "Logicomix" is "to tell a fascinating story about the history of ideas," said Doxiadis, who published a novel in 2001 entitled "Uncle Petros and Goldbach's Conjecture" about a boy's quest for knowledge about his reclusive mathematician uncle.

"The fact that this idea looked like, to put it mildly, not a very likely idea for a comic book, never deterred me," he said. "In 'Logicomix,' the story I think is in some ways emblematic of much of what happened in the 20th century, with its search for certainty, for knowledge, and what often went with it, for power over life."

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