

Sister forgives boat driver

THE sister of a Sans Souci woman killed in a boat crash two years ago said she shook hands with the man convicted on Friday November 5 over the death of Georgina Kalergis, 34.

"I told him [Adnan Safwan] that I wasn't angry with him, I didn't want him to suffer," Katrina Loukas said.

A jury of eight men and four women found Safwan guilty on Friday of culpable navigation causing death at a speed greater than the posted limit. Sydney District Court had earlier heard the speed limit at the place where the accident occurred just after midnight on October 21, 2007, was 10 knots.

The father of four and Ms Kalergis, a mother of one, were the only occupants of the boat.

Mrs Loukas said she attended the two-week court hearing to represent her sister.

"I told him (Safwan) that I was there for my sister and she was a beautiful person," Mrs Loukas said. The court heard Safwan was driving the fibreglass runabout boat when it crashed into a pylon of Captain Cook Bridge at Taren Point at a speed of up to 30 knots. Safwan suffered two broken legs and other injuries in the crash. During the trial, which began on October 19, the defence questioned whether Safwan was the driver at the time of the crash. The jury's guilty verdict was an acceptance that he was the one behind the wheel.

Experts called by the Crown Prosecutor Richard Herps and Safwan's defence counsel Wayne Flynn SC gave evidence about the injuries which Safwan and Ms Kalergis suffered to ascertain their positions in the boat when it crashed and to determine who was driving the boat. During the closing hours of the trial, before the jury delivered the verdict, Safwan, dressed in a grey suit with a mauve shirt and striped tie, took tissues from a box near the dock. A cousin of Ms Kalergis, Matthew Dimaris, also attended the trial. He said he heard news of his cousin's death just hours before his young son's christening, and initially had not wanted to go ahead with the ceremony, but had done so at the urging of the priest.

He said Ms Kalergis, a mother of one, was a "lovely girl ... we were very close, we saw each other every day". Judge Anthony Blackmore said presentencing reports would be heard before Safwan's sentencing on February 12 next year.

From the Leader



Sophia Ragavelas

Do you come from a theatrical family? Were the arts always a part of your household growing up?

Arts and music have always been a huge part of our family. I grew up listening to my parents and brother singing and my Dad is an awesome Greek Dancer! SO it was a natural progression for me to be on the stage.

What's your earliest theatre/film memory?

Singing in the Rain

Was a career as an actor always on the cards?

100% I never dreamed of doing anything else!

How do you think your training it has prepared you for the industry...

Extremely well and working in the industry has supported this and taught me even more.

First job as an actor?

Jesus Christ Super Star - International Tour - Soul Girl

How did you come to be cast in Love Bites? What made you want to be involved in the production?

I was approached after singing at The Show Queens Caberet in Taylors Square. I was delighted to be asked to join the cast and having heard wonderful things about the writers it was easy to say YES!

How do you approach a role - are you a method girl etc - is the text king?

The text certainly is King! I approach each role accordingly, gut feeling and instinct is key for me. Using my own experiences and talking to relevant people always helps to develop the role.

What place do you think musical theatre holds in 21st century theatre?

It is becoming a lot more popular, the cross over to main stream cinema has really made a difference.



What are the challenges in doing a musical theatre role as opposed to straight theatre apart from the aforementioned bursting into song?

Keeping the audience involved while you are singing is a challenge, but I approach this like I would approach text in a straight play and let the vocals speak for themselves therefore keeping the audience engaged at all times.

What is the best thing about doing a musical like Love Bites?

The cast and the fantastic new material I get to work with.

Why do you think Love Bites will resonate for an audience?

People will recognise so many of the relationships and different types of love that we all experience at some point in our lives.

What do you hope the audience take away with them from this production?

They will have a fantastic evening of fun and laughs.

...the success of films like Mamma Mia! High School Musical and Fame have reignited the love for musical theatre.

Bursting into song is not the most natural thing to do - how do you overcome this dichotomy on stage?

For me it is just so natural - I don't even really think about it!



LOVEBITES

Starring **AMELIA CORMACK** **DAVID HARRIS** **JAMES MILLAR** **SOPHIA RAGAVELAS**

Directed by **Kim Hardwick**

Book and Lyrics by **James Millar** Music by **Peter Rutherford**

Musical Director **Chris Cartner** Design by **Martin Kinnane**

"Millar's lyrics are beautifully observed, insightful and truthful... LoveBites has you laughing one minute and wiping away a tear the next" **The Sunday Telegraph**

"light-hearted, funny and quirky." **The Daily Telegraph**

"The songs are fresh and witty... LoveBites seduces with ease." **The Sun Herald**

After a highly successful 2008 season and being nominated for a 2009 Sydney Theatre Award, **LoveBites** - the mad-cap song cycle about loving, leaving and leaping into the joyful (or not so joyful) world of falling in love - returns to the Seymour Centre as the final installment in the **2009 BITE** (Best of Independent Theatre) SEASON.

LoveBites - a series of short stories about falling in love - is told through song by one half of each couple in the instant that love strikes; this is followed by the other half's rendition of how it all ended up.

Their stories are based on situations observed and situations experienced. Plus there's even an urban legend thrown in for good measure by the show's writers, the immensely talented lyricist **James Millar** and composer **Peter Rutherford**, the team that created the musical **The Hatpin**. **LoveBites 2009** will be performed by a stellar troupe of musical theatre talent including **Amelia Cormack** (*Priscilla Queen of the Desert*); **David Harris** (*Miss Saigon*, *Mamma Mia!*); **James Millar** (*Jerry Springer: the Opera*) and direct from the UK **Sophia Ragavelas** (*Mamma Mia*, *West End*).

With all actors playing multiple roles plus a wide range of song styles you will meet an absent minded young lady who leaves behind more than she intended from a one night stand; a pair of Eric Satie fanatics who discover each other in an elevator. An A-list celebrity who joins the Mile High Club; a worry wart panics about the romantic unknown as she dangles precariously from a rock face; a book group with only two members develops into something much greater than an innocent discussion about the latest Helen Garner novel and a florist...is sent flowers.

Seymour Centre
LOVEBITES
Performances:
Tickets:
Bookings:

Cnr Cleveland Street & City Road, Chippendale
Wednesday 11 November - Saturday 5 December 2009
Tuesday 6.30pm; Wednesday - Saturday 8pm
Adult \$34; Concession \$25; Tight Arse Tuesdays \$20; Groups \$19
02 9351 7940 or online: www.seymourcentre.com.au

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"Κυπριακή Κοινότητα"

με την Έλλη Κάμπος,

"Greeks Today"

με τον Γιώργο Τσερδάνη,

"Κέφι και μπάλλα"

με τον Γιάννη Σπανέλλη,

"Κοινότητα και κοινοτικά"

και μουσικά

προγράμματα με εκφωνητές.

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"Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Κοινότητα Σύδνεϋ & NNO",

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