



## The Americans choose Greece to be the most hospitable country

The investigation carried out by Zoover.com holiday website concerning hospitality, in the course of which thousands of people have voted, proves in which country tourists are truly treated in the most hospitable way.

From the American results it appears that Greece is chosen to be the country with the most hospitable people. Russia scores worst with 4% of all votes. The participants were able to choose from countries spread over the whole world.

From the selection of countries spread over the world, the Americans have shown their favor for the Greek people when it comes to hospitality.

Greece took a large lead over the other countries. The country has been declared winner by 20% of the voters, while Thailand and Australia were left behind with "only" 17% and 13% of the votes.

### Russia scores badly

From the American results can be concluded that, compared to the Greek hospitality, the hospitality of the Russians is not good at all.

With 4% of the votes the conclusion can be drawn that the Americans think of the Russians as the least hospitable people when visiting their country.

France and Mexico are not known for their hospitality either with a score of 5% in the American results of the investigation.

- The results
- Greece 20%
- Thailand 17%
- Australia 13%
- Great Britain 12%
- Croatia 10%
- Turkey 8%
- Egypt 7%
- France 5%
- Mexico 5%
- Russia 4%

1,467 people voted on the poll in the USA. The total number of votes of all international polls is 24,301.

The results of the investigation carried out in sixteen countries in total, reveal that Thailand, with a large majority of the votes, has been chosen to be the holiday destination with the most hospitable people.

In more than half of all investigations it scores first place and an average of 26% of the votes. Turkey and Greece follow at quite a distance. They received 19% and 14% of the votes respectively.

The country that is considered to be the holiday destination with the least hospitable people is France. It received 4% of the votes. Russia is not known for its hospitable people either. It scored second last, with 5% of the votes.

# Shorts Film festival review: Opening night

*Founded in Adelaide in 2003, the C Coffee's Shorts Film Festival now receives more than 240 entries, with the top 60 films screened over one week.*

The opening night was spectacular, with board members going all out to create an indie-come-Hollywood premiere atmosphere at the historic Queens Theatre. The venue was reminiscent of a converted warehouse, with sheer strips of material curtaining off the sides to create a cosy space, completed by tables set with tealight candles.

Nine films were screened: eight from Australia and one from the Soho Film Festival, which enjoys an arrangement with the Australian Festival.

**Bombshell tells the story of two Greek Australian brothers forced to deal with the revelation that their father is gay when he's hospitalised following an assault. It is told very much in the style of our most recent Commonwealth Writers' Award winner, Christos Tsiolkas.**

Jackie's Spring Palace is a comedy about a pirate and his love affair with spring rolls (let's just say explosive diarrhoea waits for



no man!), while Bare is a graphic portrayal of how parents' fighting causes a young boy to snap.

Multiple Choice was my pick of a very good bunch. Three hapless engineering students lie about how they came to miss their final exam, only to be found out by their lecturer despite an elaborate plot to convince him of their sincerity.

Transit is the Soho Film Festival special and a stark social commentary on the political savageries of life, and the black comedy After Birth looks at a hypothetical question about aborting adults who were unwanted pregnancies.

Also showing was Lapse, which portrays a scary situation when an on-call agency cleaning lady loses her ID and becomes trapped

inside a high-security institution; Man Makes History, an animated comedy; and Being Carl Williams, which was a standout at Tropfest earlier this year and still packs a good punch as actor Gyton Grantley is mistaken for the real Carl Williams and his "perfect weekend" takes a turn for the worse.

The festival runs nightly at the Queens Theatre until December 11, and is well worth a look for anyone who enjoys film and seeing something a little out of the ordinary.

As founding director David Lightfoot summarised: "It's the story that counts."

Article by SAMANTHA BOND  
The Independent Weekly

## Child abduction? Polish court decides Sydney boy's fate

THEIR marriage had become marred by arguments, but when his wife wanted to travel overseas after her grandmother died, **Dimitrios Laskos** did not object.

Neither did he oppose her taking their 11-month-old son Panagiotis to her native Poland for a few weeks.

But when she did not return for his first birthday, Mr Laskos became concerned. Two years later, he is still waiting. This week, a Polish court is to decide whether Panagiotis, an Australian citizen, should be returned to Sydney.

Since he was taken by his mother, Panagiotis has been renamed Piotr and been baptised a Catholic even though the couple had agreed on a Greek-Orthodox baptism. Mr Laskos has only seen him for a few minutes. "For Greeks always the first son of the family is very important," he explains.

Imagine the outrage, says Mr Laskos, if a Greek or Lebanese father abducted his child and changed his name and religion. "Always the fathers are the victims. They give too much power to the woman in this country. Why don't they make [it] a crime, this situation?"

Under the Hague Convention on child abduction, which Australia and Poland have signed, the removal of a child is wrong if it breaches custody orders or parenting was exercised jointly. But it is no crime in Australia to remove your child where no orders exist.

When the convention was drawn up in 1980, 70 per cent of child abductions were committed by fathers, said Waldemar Drexler, the lawyer for Mr Laskos's wife, Malgorzata Muchowska.

Now 87 per cent of abducted children are taken by mothers, says the federal Attorney-General's Department, which helps parents enforce the convention. A spokesman said there was no plan to make child abduction a crime.

In the first 11 months of this year 88 children were abducted from Australia, and 77 were taken from their usual residence to Australia.

Mr Drexler, who thinks the convention is outdated, says: "The mothers are taking the children overseas to the country where they lived before. We can't say the child suffers harm because the child is more in touch with the mother who spends much more time with the child."

The battle over Panagiotis has been nasty with both sides accusing each other of lying to the Polish court. Mr Laskos says his wife made false accusations that he had mistreated her. He says his only criminal record is for driving matters.

Mr Drexler says Mr Laskos has lied in court about owning a property, and has been forced to admit it belonged to his aunt. "My client says the child's father does not have any resources to support the child," he said. "It's not fair for her to take a child from a good environment ... the family [in Poland] is well-to-do ... then to bring him back to Australia where everything is foreign to him, language, culture, father. He won't recognise anything."

But a family centre in Catholic Poland concluded after a psychological assessment: "A solution favourable for the child would be the mother's return with him to Australia."

Mr Laskos says he would financially support his wife and child if they returned. Then they could sort out divorce and custody arrangements "here in Australia where we started our lives together".

"Slowly, slowly I want him to get to know me. After six to seven years I will take him full time. He does not know English. He does not know Greek," Mr Laskos says.

Article from Sydney Morning Herald