

So will it be tradition? Or Love?

By Paul Sourlos

Alex Lykos's true life experience is evident in his laboriously constructed portrayal, over several years, of the stark reality facing many couples in our modern society: An impossible choice to make between one's personal religious paradigm, and love, with someone of a different culture.

Alex and Eve, the protagonists of Lykos's screenplay of the same name, are initially depicted as being bound to the tribalism upheld in two distinct households: a traditional Greek Orthodox and traditional Lebanese Muslim one. Imme-

diately, however, the distinct religious undertones driving the screenplay's plot are softened, through playful stereotyping of the Greek culture. This reveals Lykos's confidence as a writer, in creating persona's that are somewhat, self-deprecating for the sake of the audi-



(From Left to Right) Helen Chebatte, Kate Ryerson, Helena Stamoulis, Bel Macedone, Chloe La Kiss, Josephyne Oliveri, George Kanaan, Adam Hatz, Paul Miskimmon, Alex Lykos, Anthony Salame, Georgia Kapiniaris

entertainment. The distinct Greek slang



words and body language appeal strongly to individuals who themselves have been found in a similar situation to Alex, over 30, single, and continuing to live in a traditional Greek household, whilst simultaneously, attempting to assimilate into the cultural framework of Australia. However, the equally powerful religious customs of successful 33 year

old lawyer Eve's family, leaders in the local Muslim community of Lakemba, extend the target audience, destroying the perception that this screenplay is anything like My Big Fat Greek Wedding.

Ironically, in creating similar views within both households stigmatizing inter-cultural union, a climactic conflict is created between the two families when Alex and Eve courageously profess their love. However, Alex's comment

that, "[Muslim's] attitude towards marriage is a lot better than Christian's attitude towards marriage," leads to the realisation, that the emotional commonalities of friendship, respect and love, should be what decides ones marital path, rather than religion.

Ultimately, this screenplay raises an important issue amongst the modern residents of the Greek Orthodox and Lebanese Muslim faiths in Sydney. It proves that despite the impermeable barriers that are perceived to exist between religion backgrounds, the undeniable strength of love allows these barriers to become permeable. Through the example of Alex and Eve's journey, Lykos's objective, summed in his own words, is patent, "To give a sense of hope to people who are of different backgrounds that they can get together."

Factory Theatre, June 3rd - June 13th 2010

AUSSIE KARATE KID SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT WESTMEAD

HI! My name is Chris. You may have already seen me on television or recent newspaper articles. If not, you may visit me on my web site to find out more about my life

changing experience and fund raising event for the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Through my seven year Karate journey I have set and achieved many goals by staying focused, training hard and surrounding myself with people who have



helped and supported me along the way.

I now request your help and support in the form of a tax deductible donation for my latest goal and challenge ahead, of raising funds for the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Funds raised will assist The Children's Hospital at Westmead's fundraiser button on my homepage. The Children's Hospital at Westmead is the largest, highly respected paediatric centre in NSW,

providing excellent care for children from NSW, Australia and across the Pacific Rim. Established in 1880, a stand alone public Hospital and registered charity, The Children's Hospital at Westmead serves over 50,000 admitted sick children and their families each year in a family-focused healing environment I'm trying to raise as much money as I can for this great cause. Please click on link to visit my very own fundraising page to find out all about it. Please dig deep to sponsor me. It only takes a few seconds. Spread the word and send to as many people as possible

Stay Safe Tips

Chris' aim is to create awareness and help other kids avoid the situation he faced when travelling home from school on the bus.

- Avoid walking alone whenever possible
- Avoid unlit areas after dark
- Avoid shortcuts after dark
- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Be aware of potential hiding spots for attackers
- If followed by a car or another pedestrian be alert and go to a public place for help
- Avoid people and places which make you feel uneasy
- Do not be afraid to yell out for help if confronted
- Avoid wearing stereo headphones when walking around
- Do not assume that lit areas or daytime areas are safe or that it is less likely to be attacked.



Nia Vardalos Teaches Daughter Greek – in the Kitchen

Nia Vardalos has a special helper in the kitchen for the holidays this year – her 4-year-old daughter. "She's my sous chef," the My Big Fat Greek Wedding star told PEOPLE at the taping of the 11th Annual Home for the Holidays TV special. "I give her a plastic knife and just get her to chop things up. [For] Christmas, I suddenly have a young helper in the kitchen!" Since announcing late last year that she and husband Ian Gomez had adopted a preschooler, Vardalos has started passing on her Greek heritage using her favorite holiday recipes. "She makes something called salt-and-pepper soup," Vardalos explained while backstage at the holiday concert presented by Wendy's Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. "I just give her every ingredient in the house and say it in English and in Greek, and she stirs it up!"

The new mom has also found herself in some seriously sticky situations over the last year. "Becoming a mom to me means you have accepted that for the next 16 years of your life, you will have a sticky purse," she says. "[Mine] is always filled with stuff I didn't put there, from leftover Tootsie Rolls to wet wipes that got squished to the bottom. It makes me laugh every day."

The Greek-Australian manager of BMW



"The Australian" newspaper, in its supplement magazine, "The Deal", has featured BMW Australia managing director Stavros Yallouridis in a full-page report on his career and his relationship with both Greece and Australia. Yallouridis, who was born and schooled in Melbourne, has spent more than half of his life in Europe, where he rose through the ranks at Fiat to run the Alfa Romeo brand, before being lured by BMW to head up its operation in Greece. Before being assigned to Australia, he spent some time in Greece boosting the car market for BMW & Mini and also helped in raising the sales of BMW motorbikes. In total he has worked for 23 years in Europe within the car industry. He was 'brought up in a workshop' as his father was a Porsche car mechanic. That was after his Greek parents had immigrated to Australia to start a family. He attended Burwood Primary and Secondary Schools and then studied automotive/mechanical engineering at what is now Box Hill Institute. He later worked in the family business importing cars and bringing them up to Australian standards.