

The Greeks behind "Avatar"

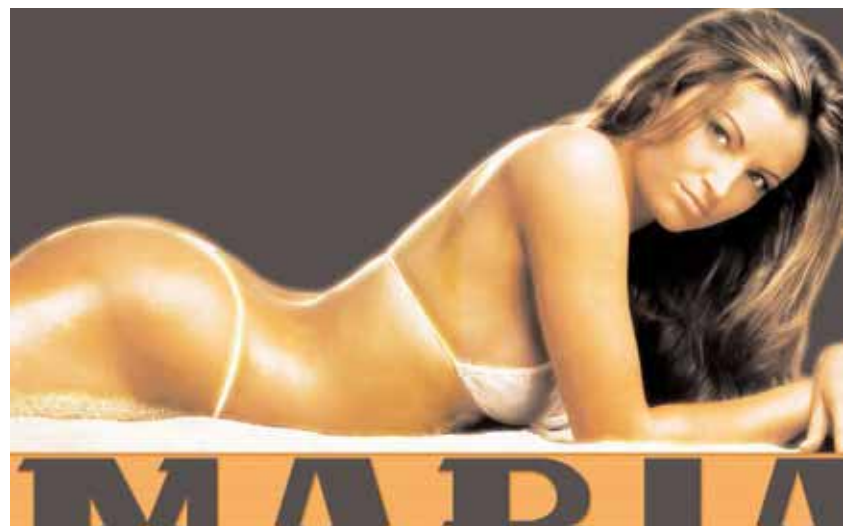


James Cameron has just won the Golden Globe for Best Director, but if it wasn't for two Greeks the movie may have never come to life. Greek American President and CEO of 20th Century Fox took the

risk to fund the huge production. In addition, Laeta Kalogridis had collaborated on the script of the movie with James Cameron. Kalogridis who is also an executive producer of "Avatar" has written scripts for Alexander (2004), Night Watch (2006 in U.S.), Pathfinder (2007) and Shutter Island (2010). She has also served as an executive producer for the television series Birds of Prey and Bionic Woman. She is also the founder of the pro-union website Hollywood United and was involved as a peacemaker in the 2007-2008 Writers Guild of America strike.

NSW encouraged by increase in organ donors in 2009

NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service (OTDS) were encouraged by the increase in organ donors in NSW in 2009. Commenting on the ANZOD data for the year, Medical Director Dr Deepak Bhonagiri said that the increase from 57 donors in 2008 to 69 in 2009 was the highest recorded level since 1994. "Organ donor rates have returned to the figures we were achieving in the early 1990s and we are pleased to have sustained an increase in organ donors for the last two years. "I congratulate the staff who have worked very hard and the wonderful support they have given to families who have agreed to organ donation. "We have also been working with the community to help people get access to information to make informed choices about donation. "At the end of last year we made a significant change by employing 10 new hospital based medical directors and 12 new senior nurse positions to ensure organ donation is both identified and well supported in hospitals. "We will work with the National Organ and Tissue Authority to ensure that both community engagement is improved and donor families are well informed and supported through the organ donation process. "Whilst the opportunity for organ donation is rare, we need to ensure that those families who have generously agreed to donation continue to be well supported," Deepak Bhonagiri said. The need for an increased organ donation rate is evidenced by the 1,770 (1310 for kidney) patients waiting as at 4 January 2010. This compares with 1,716 at the start of 2009. The NSW OTDS Communications Manager, Kerry McKay said: "Australia's current national family consent rate for organ donation to proceed is just 56%. "In launching the DonateLife™ national community education and awareness program in November last year, we are now enabling and empowering Australians to discover the facts about organ and tissue donation, become informed and decide about becoming a donor and discuss their wishes with their family."



Does Maria Kanellis sound Greek?

Maria Kanellis is an American (of Greek descent) professional wrestler and model, signed to World Wrestling Entertainment performing on its RAW brand in 2004. After Ashley Massaro's return in early 2008, Kanellis engaged in backstage segments where Ashley suggested Maria should be on the cover of Playboy. On the February 18 edition of RAW Maria defeated Beth Phoenix to earn the right to be on the cover of Playboy. Maria had been asked to follow in the footsteps of other WWE Divas and pose for Playboy, but she initially refused because she did not wish to embarrass her sister, who was still in high school at the time. However, she eventually posed for the cover of the April 2008 issue with accompanying nude pictorial. For the pictorial, Maria chose her own wardrobe and had sewn the black hooded jacket she wore in one of the photos.



A few words about Maria

Maria Louise Kanellis is an American professional wrestler and model, currently signed to World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) performing on its SmackDown brand as Maria. Kanellis was a contestant on the reality show Outback Jack in 2004. In the same year, she placed fifth in the Raw Diva Search, but was later hired by WWE as a backstage interviewer.

Marella. As a result, she received more air time and began winning more matches than she had previously. She also posed for the April 2008 cover of Playboy magazine, which was incorporated into a storyline on Raw.

Maria Kanellis is of Greek heritage, was born on February 25, 1982 in Ottawa, Illinois. She grew up with an interest in playing sports, particularly volleyball, basketball, and softball and graduated from Ottawa Township High School in 2000, before spending some time as a student at Northern Illinois University.

Maria was first asked to pose for Playboy when she was nineteen years old, but she turned down the offer in fear of embarrassing



Kanellis began competing in the ring as a wrestler in 2005. It was not until 2007, however, that she received her greatest push in the company, as the on-screen love interest of Santino

her sister, Janny Kanellis. In 2004, she was a contestant on the reality show, Outback Jack. She made it to the final three before being eliminated. Before her career in wrestling began, Kanellis also regularly competed in beauty pageants.

Illegal immigrant blows cover

IT was a cunning hiding place, but this stowaway gave himself up – when he SNEEZED.

The 15-year-old illegal immigrant was curled up in the foetal position in a suitcase (foto) and stashed in the back of a Peugeot 207.

His 17-year-old brother was hidden in the foot well under some blankets.

The Afghan pair were trying to get into Italy when the immigration police stopped the Greek driver of the car, Alexandros Lepesiotis.

He had just got off the Sea Trade ferry from Greece which had docked at the Adriatic port of Bari.

Cops were searching the car when they made the startling discovery.

They later charged the 42-year-old with illegally smuggling people into the country.

A Bari police spokesman said: "We get thousands of people passing through the port every day and like any other immigration authority we do spot checks.

"We have found in the past people hiding in the boot or hiding in the foot well but we have never found anyone curled up and hidden in a suitcase. The poor boy looked so frightened when we found him.

"It just goes to show the desperate measures and the high prices people are willing to pay to be smuggled into Italy.

"This is just one success story but for this there are probably dozens who get through."

(source: the sun)

