



'Get Your Face On' With Napoleon Perdis

This February, 12 talented make up artists will wield their brushes and compete to be the protégé of top Australian makeup artist, Napoleon Perdis on **Discovery Home & Health's new series Get Your Face On with Napoleon Perdis, premiering every Wednesday at 8.30pm, starting February 3.**

Twelve contestants wield their brushes and compete to be the protégé of top Australian make-up artist, Napoleon Perdis.

"It's an elimination show based on creating my own protégé to take over the US part of my business," says Perdis. "It's about me as an international makeup artist coming in to America and expanding my business."

Just like good makeup, the challenge for the artists is staying power. Each week, someone will be dismissed. There will be tension, tantrums, tears and soiled mascara, and truck loads of bronzer. Handpicked across the US by the make-up mogul himself, contestants attend Napoleon's Master Class each week that focuses on a particular technique or style, from retail, bridal, drag, runway, music video to restorative make-up (for cancer survivors). Contestants then compete in a pop quiz, and then a test, which often takes them into real life situations such as a wedding and a fashion photo shoot. Each week, mascara will be soiled as a contestant is dismissed, until one is crowned the reigning make-up champion.

A few words about Napoleon Perdis

Napoleon Perdis is an Australian makeup artist and businessman. Napoleon Perdis created a line of cosmetic products which he sold through his own concept store in the trendy Sydney suburb of Paddington in 1995 and later through major department stores. When the company celebrated 10 years in the industry (in 2005) his name was firmly established; by 2007 the "empire" operated 59 concept stores across Australia and New Zealand and sold its cosmetics from a total of 800 locations. In recent years, his business has expanded to the United States where he has a number of own concept stores and his products are also stocked by Ulta beauty product stores and independent retailers throughout the country. Napoleon has also set up The Napoleon Perdis Makeup Academy in those countries which provides makeup education by professional trainers for people who want to pursue a career in makeup.

Article from Marie Claire

The human cost of war

When I hear the tale it's as if I'm watching a clichéd film that follows the basic formula we all know so well: a sad story turns good and the protagonist ends up following his dreams. And when it comes to this particular male character, it was his grandfather's dying wish that led to his eventual success.

"Whatever you do, Anthony, don't be an idiot. Make this film." It might sound a bit too much like a scene from a cheesy script but that's exactly what **Anthony Maras** went on to do; he made movies, really good movies for that matter. And here's the really sad twist to the whole tale: Anthony's grandfather died due to complications post hip operation, a body part he smashed while trying to reach for the phone when Anthony was calling to talk about his career.

Now 28 years old, this young Australian Greek talent can be proud of a whole list of achievements. He started off with a production of *Azadi* - the story of an Afghan family in Australia that was partially shot at the Baxter Detention Centre and created a swirl of interest and important nominations.

Then came *Spike Up* in 2007, a searing noir drama starring famous American actors and scoring Maras an AFI Award for Best Short Fiction film. Maras then recently undertook a role as associate producer of *Last Ride*, a \$4 million independent feature film starring Hugo Weaving and local Australian actor, Tom Russell. The gritty road movie scored rave reviews at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival and won the Best New Director Award at the Middle Eastern International Film Festival in Dubai.

But his talents will soon be used for a matter much closer to his heart as he draws international attention to the Cyprus Problem. Now busy developing *The Palace Project*, it's a human rights



themed film and online media project that will raise global awareness of the tragedy of the 1974 invasion and the human cost of war.

"I was interviewing a number of migrants here in Australia who fled Cyprus in 1974 and their stories hit me in the guts," says Anthony. "I'd obviously heard a lot about the invasion before, but the more I found out about it, the more universal a story I saw that it was." The upcoming filming process is twofold and will include a world-class, high-standard 15-minute short film and a 45-minute 'Justice for Cyprus' documentary delving into the invasion and its aftermath. The films are being developed in collaboration with Athens based production company, Top Cut, and the Australian Cyanfilms.

It's worth noting that the cinematographer for these films will be Haris Zambarloukos, the Cypriot who recently worked on *Mamma Mia!* among a number of other high profile films.

Having received half the funding for the project thus far, Maras is hoping that enough money will be raised to kick off intense work in May with the two films to be shot concurrently. "The documentary can go onto television and the short film will be shown on the internet and film festivals; a really compelling short film can reach millions of people."

"It's a subject that the vast majority of people in the world don't know about and as a filmmaker I think that means you can get closer to the emotional truth," he says. "We want this to reach people across the world. No one can deny that people in Cyprus have gone through a lot of hardship and there is still obviously a lot of pain there. But the truth must be heard - Cyprus was illegally invaded but news stories and numbers only take you so far into the story."

The 15-minute short follows a family's story in real time, with the screenplay stemming from a tale Maras heard from someone who had lived through the troubles.

Amid the chaos of the 1974 invasion, a young Greek Cypriot family flee their village in terror and take refuge in the plush ballroom of an abandoned country mansion. As a band of Anatolian troops sweep through the estate on a looting spree, a crisis of conscience emerges for a young Turkish Cypriot soldier who discovers the family and comes to see that their similarities outweigh their differences.

"We haven't finalised the casting details yet but we'll be using a mix of Cypriot and international crew," says Anthony. And where exactly will the film be shot? "Research involved spending last August and September in Cyprus and we went through countless villages in the north but still haven't decided on the specific spot as yet."

What Maras is sure about is that the whole thing is not a propaganda effort, but a strong anti-war story that promotes peace and inclusiveness. "I don't want to push a specific agenda. It will inevitably have a political thread but I want people to sit back and think 'how would I feel if I was there in those people's shoes'. It's about how life can change from one second to the next; from then on people can make their own judgements."

As Anthony prepares to come over to Cyprus with a full crew in the near future, we end up speaking about all his favourite haunts here on the island. From a restaurant with a view across the Green Line in Nicosia to the "most amazing place" for fish, I guess the old saying that the 'world is your oyster' really does ring true for a filmmaker with ties so far from home.

Article from the Cyprus Mail

Celebrating Greek Letter's Day

Greek Letters Day is the celebration of the Three Hierarchs of the Orthodox Church: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom. The Orthodox Church considers the Three Hierarchs the most important Teachers and Fathers for the development and growth of the church.

The Three Hierarchs have been credited with working diligently to see the development of Greek literature and education. Greek Letter Day celebrates the use and promotion of the Greek language abroad.

