



Palimpsest

Book Launch

Kathryn Koromilas' first novel *Palimpsest* is a book about high ideals and low obsessions, truth and identity, immigration, nationality and race: about what we believe and what happens when belief degenerates into fanaticism. It is a story about a daughter and a father. Both are philosophers: the father an academic, the daughter an autodidact. When the story opens, the father has died and the daughter travels from Australia to Greece to bury him. Thus begins the unraveling of the death and life of her father, of what he believed and why he called himself "the village philosopher". Academics Vrasidas Karalis and Edward Spence will join Kathryn for the launch of *Palimpsest*.

Date Sat 17 April - **Time** 3.30pm

Venue Gleebooks,

49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe

Cost \$5 donation

(includes refreshments)

Contact 02 9750 0440 - Language English



He Who Must Die

A Film by Jules Dassin (1957),
starring Melina Merkouri

The date: around 1920. Villagers are preparing to stage an Easter play dramatising Jesus' crucifixion and the events that followed. Suddenly, destitute refugees from the Greco-Turkish war arrive in the village. How will the locals react? Will the actors prove worthy of the roles they have undertaken in the play? Based on the novel "Christ Recrucified" by Nikos Kazantzakis, presented by the Society of Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis in association with the Greek Festival.

Date Sun 18 April - **Time** 6.00pm

Venue Greek Community Club,

206-210 Lakemba Street, Lakemba

Cost Free Entry- unsuitable for children under 15 years of age

Contact 02 9750 0440

Language French with Greek sub-titles

Internet child health advice 'wrong'

MANY PEOPLE USE THE INTERNET TO FIND HEALTH INFORMATION

Typing your child's medical problem into Google is unlikely to deliver much in the way of good advice, UK researchers have said. The Nottingham-based team used the search engine to find UK-based advice on five common issues, including breastfeeding and autism.

Only about 200 of 500 sites offered correct information, Archives of Disease in Childhood reports.

Government-run sites were the only completely reliable source, they found.

It is now estimated that 70% of UK households have access to the internet, and increasingly, parents are turning to search engines for a second opinion - or even a sole one - on medical matters.

Many doctors, however, are concerned that the huge quantity of information and advice is at best unreliable, and in some cases misleading or even dangerous.

One earlier study looking at advice for children with a fever found only three out of 22 sites visited gave information which matched current "best practice" guidelines.

The researchers from Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust tested this by typing key words from commonly-asked questions into Google, restricting results to UK-based sites only.

The five chosen were "MMR autism", "HIV breastfeeding", "mastitis breastfeeding", "baby sleeping position" and "green vomit".

They found the quality of advice varied significantly, with half the search results failing to answer the intended question.

In total, 11% of the 500 results gave inaccurate information, and 39% gave the right answer.

The most incorrect replies were given to search results about MMR and autism, and HIV and breastfeeding.

News websites were accurate 55% of the time.

Vaccine sales

Particularly poor at answering the question were "sponsored links" which appeared prominently, even though the information they contained was not closely related to the search terms.

In the case of the "MMR/autism" search, many of the sponsored links offered single vaccination as an alternative to MMR.

However, the accuracy of governmental websites such as NHS Direct or NHS Choices meant that they should be recommended more widely by doctors, the researchers said.

"Healthcare professionals should continue to strive to be the main source of information for patients but we should be aware that most will continue to use the internet to gather information," they wrote in the journal.

"We suggest that in addition to verbal and written information, patients and parents should be signposted to NHS, governmental or other pre-approved websites."

A spokesman for the Department of Health said NHS Choices was now the most popular health website in the UK, receiving nearly nine million hits a month.

He said: "It offers a range of health information on over 800 treatments and conditions, waiting times and survival rates for elective procedures. Patients using the site are also able to post feedback on hospitals and GP surgeries."

Article from BBC news

WHEN FICTIONAL AND REAL WORLDS COLLIDE

..... YOU HAVE REALITY BY PROXY

New Australian stage play *PROXY* ticks all the boxes when it comes to original content, quality local theatre and a unique, suspenseful storyline mixed with a dash of comedy, created by up-and-coming Sydney-based writer Kosta Nikas.

Opening for a three week season from April 14 at the Sidetrack Theatre, *PROXY* is set to reaffirm that independent theatre is alive and kicking, capable of nurturing writers who produce original and innovative productions, with the potential of being lauded by critics worldwide.

Directed by NIDA graduate Subra Velayutham, *PROXY* is the story of a female author, her agent-husband and the imaginary heroine of her novel, Maxine. The three characters are locked in a complicated, intertwined relationship, which is ultimately tested by their individual inner desires for freedom. Says director Velayutham, "PROXY is packed with such sexual vigour.

It employs a unique theatrical device to explore the inner worlds of the protagonists' minds to a level of great effectiveness. It is bound to leave the audience tongue-tied. I had been looking for a new Australian play that was edgy, thought-provoking and could essentially take the audience to another

level in terms of their theatrical experience, and was pleasantly surprised when I first read *PROXY* because it had everything I was looking for", says Velayutham.

PROXY centres on protagonist author Sarah Wehnter, who is encouraged by her ambitious agent-slash-husband to write the third instalment to her 'Maxine' series of books. How-

ever, a very personal and traumatic event affects Sarah's writing and state of mind, and leads to her gradual deterioration. Instead, Sarah finds refuge from reality in the life of her book's protagonist Maxine, and slowly begins a complete rewrite of her own life through her beloved fictional character. Unfortunately, this third tome of Maxine's life is not what her husband was expecting and the struggle that ensues between the couple leads to devastating consequences. Starring Barbara Gouskos (Heartbreak High, All Saints, White Collar Blue) as "Sarah", Pat Brennan (stage-productions of Get Garry and 'Allo, 'Allo) as Sarah's husband "Richard", and Sarah Mawbey (upcoming actor and model, featuring on Discovery Channel and commercials) as "Maxine", plus supporting cast, *PROXY* is choc-full of extraordinary, gripping performances.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

April 14th - May 2nd 2010;

Wed-Sat 8pm/Sun 7pm; preview shows \$14, from Wed 14 April - Sun 18 April

Sidetrack Theatre, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville

Adult: \$28, Concession: \$23;

Bookings: 02 9550 3666 www.proxytheplay.com

