



## The Book of Vilah

Dramatic monologue with Alex Sideratos.

Script and original music: Valerios Calocerinos

A story told in words, music and painting, inspired by the rich history of the island of Kythera at the time of the infamous corsair Hayr-ed-din Barbarossa.

Vilah, Barbarossa's illegitimate son, tells his story from a jail cell, where he has been wrongly imprisoned for his lover's murder. With his mind now free he is able to explore his emotions and immortalise them on canvas.

The Book of Vilah embodies the spirit of classical tragedy in an innovative and gripping manner.

Support act: Opos Opos

Date Thursday 27 May Time Doors open 6.30 pm

Venue The Vanguard

42 King Street, Newtown

Cost Adults \$20, Concession \$16, (Booking Fees Apply)

Contact 02 9020 6959

## Pre-loved Books for Sale

Book lovers will enjoy browsing the bargains at Marrickville Library's book sale at Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville.

The sale takes place on Wednesday 26 May from 10.00am - 4.00pm and Thursday 27 May, 10.00am - 7.00pm.

An extensive range of pre-loved library items covering many individual interests or hobby areas will be available for sale.

Biographies, novels by popular authors, reference books will be on sale for bargain prices, as well as materials in Greek, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese or Vietnamese.

Qualified library staff will be available to provide assistance and answer any questions.

Thousands of books will be available, according to Library staff. The sale of old and worn books, or items not being used by the community, will make more room at the Libraries to accommodate new stock.

Marrickville Council's library service consists of four branch libraries at Dulwich Hill, St Peters/Sydenham, Stanmore and Marrickville.

For more information phone Marrickville Library on 9335 2173

## COSTAS SOCRATOUS

# 'I was given large amounts of cash'

CONFESSED branchstacker-turned-whistleblower Costas Socratous says prominent ALP figures used to visit his home in the late 1990s, among them Theo Theophanous and Telmo Languiller.

**M**r Socratous says they had an ulterior motive: in politics, numbers equals power, and they believed he could deliver them extra numbers.

"They knew that I would be able to recruit and retain a large number of new members to the ALP because of my standing in the Greek community."

As Mr Socratous tells it, the MPs wanted him to "take over" local branches for their Right faction, "in order to control delegate numbers and influence within the ALP".

He says he joined the Albion branch, quickly gained the confidence of most members and duly grabbed control. "I started putting people into the Albion branch. These people were not ALP members but people who I knew in the community," he tells *The Age*.

"I would ask them to join the ALP and they would not have to pay membership fees.

"We were recruiting so many people that we started to put them into other branches. I then recruited many members in the Ardeer East branch.

"By 2009, we had taken the membership from 27 to 107 in the Albion branch and 47 in the Ardeer East branch. Of those members, 90 per cent did not pay membership fees - the payments were arranged by my-



self, Telmo Languiller and Theo Theophanous, with ALP funds."

His claims - angrily denied by his former bosses - are stark: "Whilst working for Mr Languiller and Mr Theophanous it was my job to recruit members, renew their memberships every year and arrange payment of membership fees for the members we recruited. I was regularly given large amounts of cash to pay these new memberships and also their renewals."

Mr Socratous says he was busiest each year between February and May - when annual fees ranging from about \$31.50 up to \$210 came due.

He says he would visit members at their homes, to get their signatures on renewal forms. "By 2009 we were paying the memberships for at least 180 people, which cost approximately \$5500," he says.

Funds from the ALP's Derrimot electorate account, held at Commonwealth Bank's RMIT branch,

were used, Mr Socratous says.

"On occasion, the money came from the accounts of members of parliament. On other occasions, there were payments or donations that came into the account from other people or businesses," he says.

"I was instructed to use these funds to pay for ALP membership renewals."

The account was "essentially used to launder money", Mr Socratous says.

To disguise these activities, the money withdrawn was falsely recorded as payments for pamphlets or consultancy services, he says.

"To further disguise the withdrawal of funds as cash to pay membership fees, we also produced our own invoices and receipts. I also occasionally used other people's ABN numbers to fake invoices for services. We would create an example of a political flyer, attach a false invoice to it and then we could say the funds withdrawn were to be used for the printing or distribution of printed material.

"The cash that I withdrew I collected together and then took to the post office to purchase postal cheques. We would then attach the postal cheques to the ALP membership payment summary and take them all in to ALP headquarters to pay for batches of membership renewals, sometimes as many as 100 members at a time."

Mr Socratous says the branch stacking takes power from the rank-and-file and delivers it to the factional warlords. "Because they are paying for the memberships, they have the say. That's how it works."

*Article from The Age*

## Awards in Greek singers at 1st Balkan Music Awards in Bulgaria

Serbian singer Jelko Yoksimovich won the top prize of the first Balkan Music Awards presented in the Bulgarian capital Sofia late Sunday night.

The Balkan Music Awards are organized by the Bulgarian-owned Balkanika Music Television, a cable and satellite television showing music from all Balkan states.

The award ceremony was actually a concert open to the public which took place on the Alexander Battenberg Square in downtown Sofia, which attracted thousands of spectators despite the pouring rain.

Serbian performer Jelko Yoksimovich received the 2009 Best Song of the Balkans award for his song Ljubavi. He also won the prize for Balkan Singer of the Year.

The songs which competed for the support of the viewers in 11 Balkan countries through SMS Text Messages and phone calls included Play Back by Flori (Albania); Med by Dino Merlin and Emina Jahovich (Bosnia and Herzegovina); You Know Nothing by E-

manuela and Krum (Bulgaria); Lazu Oci Moje by Colonia (Croatia); Spase to Hrono by Sakis Ruvas (Greece); Kraj by Karolina ft. Sky Wikluh (FYROM); Suzama Kupices Me by Nenad Cheranich (Montenegro); That's My Name by Akcent (Romania); S Tabo by Tanya Jagar (Slovenia); Ljubavi by Jelko Yoksimovich (Serbia); Fast Life by Hadise (Turkey).

The songs of Albania, Romania, and Bulgaria came in second, third, and fourth, respectively.

The Best Balkan Music Videoclip Award went to Greek star Anna Vissi for her song Stin Pira, who also carried the award for "Overall Contribution to the Development of Balkan Music.

Romania's Akcent grabbed the prize for Best Balkan Group/Duet of the year. Hadise from Turkey won the award in the category for Best Female Actress of the Balkans.

Bulgarian Eurovision participant Miro performed for the spectators the song "Angel" with which he will be running in the 2010 European song contest.