

# Artin's act earns Hollywood spot

Some students audition over and over again for acting schools like NIDA and WAA-PA, trying year after year for a spot. But Reddam student Artin Tsambazis seems to have skipped all the pain.

In March, he'll fly off to Los Angeles, where he has picked up a full scholarship to the New York Film Academy.

Artin, 17, will spend two years studying for an Associate of Fine Arts, an acting degree at the film school which - despite its name - is located at Universal Studios on the West Coast of the United States.

"I'm very lucky to get it; I guess I worked hard for it," the Rose Bay resident said.

He began looking at acting schools a few years ago while in the US, finding the New York Film Academy appealing because of its location, which allows students to study on a real working film lot.

"I visited the school and had an interview with them, and recently they were in Australia and they recalled the interview, so they said, come and show us what you've got," Artin said.

As it turned out, the audition panel wanted to see him

the next day, so he recycled monologues he'd already had to study for drama at school, a move that paid off. They also wanted to know why he wanted to be an actor.

"I want to move people," Artin answered. "If I can take an audience and in two hours in the cinema get them to forget their world, to go on a journey, get them to forget about their problems for those two hours alone, I think I've accomplished something very special."

Article from *Wentworth Courier*



On the way up: Artin Tsambazis



## Search in Greece for legendary treasure

A Greek-Australian treasure hunter has begun a search in the mountains of central Greece for the treasure of a notorious 19th century Ottoman pasha believed to be enough to plug the country's vast debts, state TV says.

Vangelis Dimas is financing the excavation to locate the hoard of Ali Pasha near the village of Vassiliki, 352km northwest of Athens.

"The sensors show me that there is great treasure hidden below," Dimas told state television NET on Friday as a crew manned a heavy drill on a small hill a few metres from the local road.

According to Dimas, the treasure could be worth millions of euros, NET said.

Vassiliki mayor Vaios Ziakas told AFP the state-approved operation is proceeding slowly and would likely extend into next week.

"So far we have drilled to a depth of 23 metres but the rock is very tough," he said.

"If at 30 metres we have a breakthrough, it will mean that there is an underground chamber below."

A drill has been brought from Athens for the purpose and cameras will be inserted to help locate the chamber believed to hold the treasure. Ali Pasha was an Albanian-born potentate who ruled the area for the Ottoman Empire in the early 19th century, shortly before the Greek revolution that ended the country's four-century Turkish occupation. He was killed in 1822 in an unsuccessful revolt against the Ottoman Sultan but his treasure was never found. Prior attempts to locate it near his stronghold in the northwestern city of Ioannina have been fruitless.

The village of Vassiliki is named after the pasha's Greek-born wife who hailed from the area, and lies on his old tax caravan route to Ioannina. The Greek state is entitled to 50 per cent of the finds and the municipality will also be given a percentage, officials say.

Greece is battling a debt crisis and growing recession after coming close to bankruptcy earlier this year. The Greek debt stands at more than 300 billion euros (\$426 billion).

Article from SMH

# Build it and they will gasp: engineer honoured

Harry Poulos' creations set jaws agape the world over, writes Heath Gilmore.

The world was agog when images first surfaced of tennis greats Andre Agassi and Roger Federer playing on the world's highest tennis court - the helipad of Burj Al Arab, a "seven star" hotel in Dubai.

Photos of the 2005 game from the then-tallest building in the world were relayed internationally and many wondered whether they had been doctored.

In Australia, civil engineer Harry Poulos didn't have to wonder. His work on the Burj Al Arab and other super buildings has allowed man to push the boundaries of human experience and technology.

His ground-breaking research and practice in foundation engineering, especially pile foundation analysis and design, are part of the reason super structures such as Burj Al Arab stand tall and straight.

Now, the American Society of Civil Engineers has recognised Poulos and he will be the first Australian to be named a distinguished member. On Thursday, he will be inducted by the society in Las Vegas. "It is one of the highlights of my career," he says. "It is one of the most influential bodies of engineers on the planet."

Poulos, born in Katoomba in 1940, was the second son of George Poulos (Tzortzopoulos) and Elene (nec Zantiotis), originally of Karavas, Kythira. His father George arrived in Australia from Kythira in the early 1930s and Elene and elder son Theodore arrived in Australia years later, in 1939.

Harry went to school in Katoomba and went on to be dux of the high school in 1956. He entered the University of Sydney in 1957 to do a civil engineering degree and graduated in 1961 with first-class honours. He began research for a PhD at the university in 1961 and was awarded the degree in 1965.

Now Poulos is the person the world's big project managers call to



No fault ... helipad-cum-tennis court atop Burj Al Arab in Dubai.



Vision ... Dr Poulos.

provide the final advice or to make a project happen.

He says one of his most memorable jobs was the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. His team was the peer reviewer for the design of the foundations supporting this 828-metre building. Several site visits and independent checking and approval followed before the 196 foun-

ation piles (1.5 metres in diameter and 45 metres long) that support the huge structure were finally in place.

Despite its huge size and weight, the building has settled into the ground only about 4.5 centimetres, about half the width of a normal coffee cup and well within the estimate made by the design teams.

The emeritus professor from the University of Sydney and senior principal and technical master with consultants Coffey Geotechnics says only one inhibitor will stop ever-increasing building heights - the human condition.

"People may well increasingly resist the psychological and physical challenges that accompany living so far above the Earth's surface and having to cope with such fragile systems of access and escape," he says.

Poulos is now part of an expert panel looking at the impact of urban tunnelling on buildings for Singapore's Housing Development Board. He is also reviewing tunnelling impacts on buildings in Hong Kong for the Hong Kong Mass Transit Rail and is leading a geotechnical engineering and foundation design team for a 151-floor tower in South Korea.

Article from SMH