

Greek Australian film-maker makes the cut in Los Angeles festival

The world's premier short film festival has officially selected the Australian film "LIGHT" written and directed by Sydney-based writer Kosta Nikas for inclusion in its 2011 programme. With over 1,000 entries submitted to this year's festival, "LIGHT" was selected by the Academy accredited Los Angeles International Short Film Festival, and will be screening in its festival program late July this year.



"LIGHT" was filmed in December last year in Sydney, and is the story of a blind man who slowly regains his vision after a minor accident but decides not to tell his wife.

According to the film's executive producer Mr Bill Giannakouras, "Light" is currently in consideration in over 20 international festivals, and is hopeful it will continue to have this promising run. "I am pleased for the entire cast and crew, and in particular for Kosta, who is known for his artistic integrity, innovation and passion. Above all, his works have always respected the audience's intelligence" said Giannakouras.

The film's cast includes: Magdalena Stamos, Adam Hatzimanolis, Sarah Mawbey and Alex Blias. Cinematography is by Vincent Tay. Associate Producer include: Chris Eliades and Angelo Giakoumatos.



ABOUT THE WRITER/DIRECTOR:

Kosta Nikas has worked as Script Translator and Language Coach on the ABC TV / Matchbox Pictures television series "The Slap", based on the international award winning novel of the same name by celebrated Australian writer Christos Tsoalkas. He is a produced playwright, having written and directed numerous plays including "Caft of Dreams", "Confession to the Angel" and "Proxy", whilst his short films and documentary include "The Submission", "I Wanna Play Hamlet" and "Light". He is also credited with producing Australia's first byzantine music album "Byzantium" through Festival Records. He is currently in development on a feature film.

Greece's centenarian flag-raiser dies at 107

THESSALONIKI, Greece - For nearly half a century, she raised a Greek flag every day at the border with Turkey - a simple act that elevated her to national status.

A funeral service was held on Monday for 107-year-old Vasiliki Lambidou in the village of Marasia, located in the country's remote northeast. She died on Sunday.

Lambidou had lived in the same house a few dozen meters from the Greek-Turkish border along the Evros river since 1962. She raised the flag over her home - the closest one to the border - every day since. She was much loved by generations of army conscripts, for whom she cooked and did laundry while they manned a guard post near her house. Soldiers would reciprocate by giving her food and wood for her fireplace.

Numerous photographs of soldiers who served there hang on the walls of her house.

Lambidou, whose family was among hundreds of thousands who were part of a population exchange with Turkey following a war in 1921, was honored numerous times by Greek regional and national authorities. Greek President Karolos Papoulias had visited Lambidou at her home in January.

Lambidou was buried with full military honors. The Greek flag draping her coffin was handed to her granddaughter.

Senior army staff who attended the funeral praised Lambidou's dedication.

"She was a mother to all soldiers, to all Greeks," said Greece's Army Chief of Staff Frangos Frangoulis.

Area military commander, Colonel Nikolaos Manolakos, said the Greek flag would continue to be raised at Lambidou's home in her memory.

Greece and Turkey have had historically strained relations, but ties have improved drastically over the past decade.



Academy of Athens president Panayiotis Vokotopoulos (R) awards a prize to Vasiliki Lambidou, otherwise known as "Lady of Marasion", for her contribution to army conscripts who served at the Evros border region, 28 December 2007.