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Hellenic News, Culture & Lifestyle



ALEXAKIS & JANISZEWSKI to present public lecture on Australia's Greek cafe

Large crowds have continued to attend Effy Alexakis' and Leonard Janiszewski's exhibition 'Selling an American Dream: Australia's Greek Café' at the Macquarie University Art Gallery. Because of such popular attendance, the Gallery will be open on each Saturday during April 10am-4pm – in addition to Monday to Friday 10am-5pm.

On Thursday 11 April from 1pm-2.30pm, the exhibition's curators will present a detailed public lecture on the history and development of Australia's Greek cafés. The lecture will take place at the Macquarie University Art Gallery (Building E11A – at the northern end of eastern Rd on the North Ryde Campus). Afternoon tea will be served. All guests will receive a free 84 page exhibition catalogue. Bookings are essential: (02) 9850 7437

The lecture will explore the history of both urban and country Greek cafés, as well as the personal stories of those who owned, ran and frequented this 20th century Australian food-catering phenomenon. Beginning with the 1850s Greek

food caterers on the goldfields, Alexakis and Janiszewski will provide stories of enterprise, hardship, inventiveness, loss and success that spanned the last 160 years. What will emerge is that Australia's Greek settlers created businesses that became dynamos of change within Australian popular culture – part of a process of Americanisation affecting Australian eating and social habits, commercial food-catering ideas, products, technology, cinema, architecture and popular music. In 1952, Australian artist Russell Drysdale remarked that the Greek café-keeper had become 'the symbol of the Australian country town' and quite prophetically, that 'these people go to make a nation, they are part of the future'. Indeed, the Greek café firmly influenced the development of that future. Alexakis and Janiszewski will show how.

Photo: Victoria Café, Newcastle, NSW, 1930s, Photo courtesy J. Varvaressos, from the 'In Their Own Image: Greek-Australians' National Project Archives



The 31st Greek Festival of Sydney proudly presents

COSTA GAVRAS AND THE CINEMA OF POLITICAL COMMITMENT A TALK BY PROFESSOR VRASIDAS KARALIS

After leaving Greece in an early age, Costa Gavras (born 1933) became one of the most important French and, later, international filmmakers. His movies criticised political power, social oppression and ideological domination. Especially with *Z* (1968), he reinvented the genre of the political thriller by fusing together fictional and documentary techniques. His style became immediately recognisable and his works received the highest awards throughout the world. Gavras continued his career with several very important films, like *State of Siege* (1973), *Missing* (1982), *Betrayed* (1988), *Amen* (2003) and most recently *The Capital* (2012), which confirmed his ideological confrontation with all political establishments, either of the right or the left. The lecture explores the profound political character of his cinema in its constant transformations to depict contemporary anxieties and dilemmas.

INFO

DATE: Wed 10 April

TIME: 7pm

VENUE: Customs House

ENTRY COST: Free 02 9750 0440 or email

greekfestival2@goc.com.au

CONTACT: 02 9750 0440 or email

greekfestival2@goc.com.au

LANGUAGE: English



Bishop challenges plans for Athens mosque in court

Only a few days after the government issued a tender for the construction of a state-sponsored mosque south of central Athens, the Council of State on Friday heard an appeal against the project by Bishop Seraphim of Piraeus.

Seraphim, who has in the past raised controversy by voicing anti-Semitic remarks, claimed that the plans violate Article 13 of the Constitution, which stipulates freedom of religious conscience. He said the construction of a mosque should be preceded by an impact study on ethics and public order.

Moreover, the bishop told the court, the plans are in

breach of the constitutional principle of equality, as religious minorities wishing to erect a place of worship in Greece have so far had to apply for a building permit from the authorities.

The appeal is backed by a philosophy professor at the University of Athens, two doctors at the Athens Naval Hospital, a cultural association in Votanikos, where the mosque is set to be built, and five residents.

The defense said that the absence of a functioning mosque means the city's Muslims have had to resort to makeshift mosques – often located in basements and other unsuitable premises.

Athens Mayor Giorgos Kaminis also defended the plans to Kathimerini. "It goes without saying, every resident of this city ought to have a place for worship," he said. "There is no room for prejudice. It's a question of common sense, of respecting constitutional order and of complying with our conventional obligations," he added.

The 750-capacity mosque in a converted naval base garage has been budgeted at 846,000 euros. The cost will be covered by the Education Ministry.

It was not clear when the court will issue a ruling on the appeal.