

# ekosmos

Hellenic News, Culture & Lifestyle



## Karalis' talk about Gavras an engrossing event

Professor Vrasidas Karalis delivered an engrossing talk on Costa Gavras at Customs House on Wednesday night. Known for merging controversial political issues with the entertainment value of commercial cinema Gavras is an expert of the "statement" picture. 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 explored the profound political character of his cinema in its constant transformations to depict contemporary anxieties and dilemmas.



The 31st Greek Festival of Sydney in conjunction with Randwick City Council proudly presents

### WEST WIND: A MUSICAL JOURNEY FROM SPAIN TO GREECE

Sail with us on the winds that brought music and song around Greece and the Western Mediterranean. Our program includes troubadour songs from France and Catalonia, with the Renaissance Players (Mara Kiek, Llew Kiek, Jehan Kanga, Andrew Lambkin, and their director Winsome Evans); Andalusian Arabic songs with Ghada and Friends; Cretan music with Andonis Petrandonakis and Angelo Goutzios; and dancers from the Cretan Association of Sydney and NSW. Reader: Christine Kanellakis. Co-ordinator and narrator: Alfred Vincent.

#### INFO

DATE: Sunday 14 April

TIME: 5pm

VENUE: The Prince Henry Centre, 2 Coast Hospital Road, Little Bay (turn off Anzac Parade at Pines Avenue)

ENTRY COST: Free

CONTACT: (02 9750 0440 or [greekfestival2@goc.com.au](mailto:greekfestival2@goc.com.au))

LANGUAGE: English narration; English translation provided for songs



## Arrests over Skouries gold mine protests fuel reprisals against police

Two residents of the village of Ierissos in Halkidiki, northern Greece, who are alleged to have been involved in an arson attack on a controversial mining project in the area, were detained on Wednesday amid furious protests by fellow villagers who raided and set fire to their local police precinct, prompting another political clash over the contentious venture.

With tensions in the area over the project showing no signs of abating, Public Order Minister Nikos Dendias insisted that the law would be enforced, issuing a warning to residents of "unruly villages" that attempts to take the law into their own hands would not be tolerated.

For its part, the main leftist opposition SYRIZA

party accused the government of using "heavy-handed and despotic tactics" in a bid to crush local residents' protests against the mine in nearby Skouries which is run by the firm Hellas Gold.

SYRIZA's comments prompted a harsh response from conservative New Democracy, which said the statement "confirms in the most categorical way that it armed those who burned properties and tried to burn fellow citizens alive," a reference to an arson attack on the Skouries mine in February when security guards were tied up and doused with petrol.

The exchange of barbs came several hours after a dawn raid by police on two houses in Ierissos which

led to the arrest of two men, aged 33 and 44, who are alleged to have taken part in the February raid. According to witnesses, the officers broke down the doors of the suspects' homes.

News of the arrests propelled a large group of local residents to gather at the village's central square before heading to the local police precinct, which they raided, dragging out office furniture and computers that they torched in the road. Police had evacuated the precinct earlier, according to sources.

The two suspects were granted an extension to prepare their defense and are to face a magistrate in Thessaloniki on Sunday. They are to remain in custody until then.