

MEDIA RELEASE

16TH
GREEK
FILM
FESTIVAL

Melbourne
Sydney
Brisbane
Adelaide

2-13 September 2009
Palace Cinema Como

www.greekfilmfestival.com.au

16TH GREEK FILM FESTIVAL OPENS WITH A BANG AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE OF BANG BANG WEDDING STARRING ALEX DIMITRIADES 2-13 SEPTEMBER AT PALACE COMO

MELBOURNE, 15 July 2009 – Christine Crokos' romantic comedy, *Bang Bang Wedding* will open the 2009 **Greek Film Festival**. When Ilias (Alex Dimitriades) and Marina (Faye Xyla) arrive on the island of Crete to marry, they are eagerly awaited by friends and family. On the way to the reception, however, things start to go wrong... A small, yet important typo on the invitation will send everyone in different directions and send the celebrations into disarray.

Now in its 16th year the festival brings the best of Greek film and culture to the Australian shores as well as celebrating Australian born Greek talent. Over 11 days, the Como will screen a curated program of feature films, documentaries and short films.

Festival highlights include; Winner of the Audience Award and FIPRESCI Prize at the International Thessaloniki Film Festival *PVC-1*, Spiros Stathoulopoulos' gripping directorial debut is inspired by a true story about a pipe bomb improvised explosive device that was placed around the neck of an extortion victim; meanwhile *Strella: A Womans Way* is a drama about an extraordinary and spellbinding relationship, in the glowing nights of Athens; and the disappearance of a girl drives a rather shy boyfriend to despair and evokes confusing delusions in Alexis Alexiou's *Tale 52*.

Lighten-up your days with the Greek comedies on offer, including opening nights *Bang Bang Wedding*; the sprightly romp *Small Crime* which centres on a tightly wound novice cop assigned to a sleepy Greek island where nothing much happens and everyone knows everyone else's business; and what happens when a mother, her teenage son and the 'classic' Greek father all desire the same man?! Find out in the hilarious *Pethaino Gia Sena (I'm Dying for You)*.

The full program will be announced on 3 August when tickets for the opening night and single sessions go on sale through Palace Cinemas www.palacecinemas.com.au

The Greek Film Festival in Melbourne is an event of the Antipodes Festival, and an initiative of the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne & Victoria. For more information visit www.antipodesfestival.com.au

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