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11th Greek Film Festival of Sydney

COUSTAS AND ZORBA LEAD THE WAY

Two highly respected Greek legends are about to join forces to ensure that the 11th Greek Film Festival of Sydney begins and ends with a touch of Hellenic class. The Greek Festival of Sydney and Palace Cinemas are delighted to announce that Mary Coustas, aka Effie, will be present at the **Palace Norton Street Cinemas** in Leichhardt on 28th August to launch the festival as it enters its second decade as one of Australia's premier foreign language film festivals.

The festival, which runs between August 28 and September 9, at **Palace Norton Street Cinemas** will re-introduce another Greek legend to Sydney screens after a 25-year absence – **Zorba The Greek**.

Logie award winner Coustas, who rose to notoriety with her portrayal of Effie in such hits of stage and screen as *Acropolis Now*, *Waiting for Effie* and *Greeks on the Roof*, said "Greek cinema has such an important place in mainstream Australian culture and it is a great honour to be asked to open such a prestigious event."

As a special closing night event, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the film's original release, the Festival will present a brand new 35mm print of Michael Cacoyannis' Academy Award winning classic **ZORBA THE GREEK**, featuring striking cinematography, a mesmerising score by Mikis Theodorakis and the tour-de-force performance of Anthony Quinn.

"We are so excited to have the first Sydney screening of Zorba for a quarter of a century. I believe it will appeal not only to the older generation who remember Zorba so fondly, but also to a younger generation yet to experience the legend on the big screen." says Film Festival Director, Manolis Plantzos.

Coustas and Zorba are not the only stars of the festival. Film buffs are in for a real treat with the opening night film **HARD GOODBYES: MY FATHER**. This year the film achieved unprecedented recognition for Greek cinema thanks to its child star, 10 year old, Giorgos Karayannis. Karayannis was awarded the prestigious Locarno International Film Festival's Leopard for Best Actor. The award was granted for his lead performance and was even more amazing considering he contended against such movie greats as Matt Damon, Robin Williams and Gerard Depardieu.

The 2003 Festival will showcase a total of 12 feature films and 4 documentaries. Highlights include **ROADBLOCKS**, a moving drama about the plight of Kurdish refugees in Greece; **MY BEST FRIEND**, a racy comedy from Lakis Lazopoulos (who starred in last year's success **BEWARE OF GREEKS BEARING GUNS**); **SCREAMIN' JAY HAWKINS**, the only documentary ever focusing on the legendary blues man, whose last concerts were performed in Greece; and multi award winning **THINK IT OVER** the Greek entry at next years Oscars.

"In bringing these current films from Greece, the 11th Greek Film Festival of Sydney is changing the perception that Australian audiences have of Greece and the Hellenic World." says Plantzos. "This year we are able to explore and showcase a diverse range of contemporary Greek cinema including its representation of varied topics such as illegal immigration." he said.

What: 11th Greek Film Festival of Sydney	When: 28 August – 9 September 2003
Where: Place Norton Street Cinemas Leichhardt	Info: www.greekfilmfestival.com.au
Tickets: Advance tickets on sale from Monday, 11 August through MCA ticketing: 02 9645 1611 / www.mca-tix.com.au or in person from Palace Norton Street Cinemas.	
Opening Night Film and Party (Aug 28, 6.30pm) – all tickets \$25	
Closing Night (Sep 9, 6.30pm and 9.20pm) – all tickets \$16	
All other sessions – Adults \$14; Concession/Movie Club \$11 (5 or more separate sessions \$55)	

For more 11th Greek Film Festival of Sydney information contact Festival Manager James Owen:
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