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# PRESS RELEASE

## Spice Up Your Life at the 2004 Greek Film Festival!

In a year that has seen the world's attention focused on Athens for the upcoming Olympics, we are proud to add a spicy ingredient to the Hellenic mix by announcing the 12<sup>th</sup> Greek Film Festival, an eclectic celebration of contemporary Greek cinema presented by the Greek Communities of Australia and Palace Cinemas in conjunction with the Greek Film Centre (Athens), that will take place around Australia from early September to early October.

With national attendance figures increasing yearly, the Festival attracts cinema buffs from both within and beyond the Greek community and has emerged as one of the most exciting annual film events in the country.

The 2004 Festival will be launched by the bittersweet epic, ***A Touch of Spice***, courtesy of Roadshow Film Distributors. Acknowledged as one of the most successful Greek movies ever made, ***A Touch of Spice*** tells the story of a young Greek boy growing-up in Constantinoupolis whose grandfather teaches him that both food and life need a little something to give them flavour; they both require...a touch of spice. The film's writer/director, **Tassos Boulmetis**, will be the opening night guest-of-honour in both Sydney and Melbourne.

Other Festival highlights include the controversial dramas ***Hardcore*** and ***Oxygen***, veteran director Michael 'Zorba the Greek' Cacoyannis' lavish adaptation of Chekov's ***The Cherry Orchard*** starring Charlotte Rampling and Alan Bates, the comic ***R20*** from director Lakis Lazopoulos and ***Matchbox***, a searing depiction of family life which serves as an antidote to the domestic cosiness of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*.

The Festival is also delighted to present director Jule's Dassin's timeless ***Never on a Sunday*** featuring Melina Mercouri in her most memorable on-screen role, and the political thriller ***Z*** from renowned director Costa Gavras.

Festival screening dates around Australia are as follows:

<b>Melbourne:</b>	<b>(Sept 8-22)</b>	<b>Palace Cinema Como</b>
<b>Sydney:</b>	<b>(Sept 9-22)</b>	<b>Palace Norton Street Cinemas</b>
<b>Brisbane</b>	<b>(Sept 22-26)</b>	<b>Palace Centro Cinemas</b>
<b>Canberra</b>	<b>(Sept 16 to Sept 22)</b>	<b>Electric Shadows</b>
<b>Perth</b>	<b>(Sept 29 to Oct 3)</b>	<b>Palace Cinema Paradiso</b>
<b>Adelaide</b>	<b>(Sept 29 to Oct 4)</b>	<b>Palace Nova East End Cinemas</b>

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