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### **A Touch of Spice at local film festival**

FEW FILMS ABOUT DISPLACED PEOPLE and political turbulence can put a smile on your face, entice your tastebuds and warm your heart, but 'A Touch of Spice' does just that. In a magical fusion of food, family and history, Greek director Tassos Boulmetis has touched audiences around the world with the story of returning to his childhood home of Istanbul (once Constantinople) from where he was exiled as a seven-year-old.

'A Touch of Spice', Greece's biggest-ever box office hit, is a promising contender for the 2005 'Best Foreign Language' Oscar and has already bagged an array of significant international awards. Audiences in Canberra will have the opportunity to sample his nostalgic tale first hand when it opens the 2004 Greek Film Festival of Canberra on September 16 at the Electric Shadows cinema.

Made partly in Turkey, the film explores the hardships of the 30,000 minority Greeks of Istanbul deported to mainland Greece in 1964. While this could have been a harsh snapshot of two countries on the verge of war, Boulmetis treats the relationship between Greeks and Turks with sensitivity and compassion: such an exchange of cooking tips, which could be interpreted a metaphor for peace.

The Greek Film Festival of Canberra will also screen some classics as well as show contemporary Greek cinema, running from September 16 to 22 at Electric Shadows, Canberra City.