



“From Both Sides of the Aegean”, A Saga Springing from Both Shores

New York – Award-winning director Maria Iliou (Smyrna: The Destruction of a Cosmopolitan City; Alexandria) returns to New York City’s Quad Cinema with her new documentary film, *From Both Sides Of The Aegean*, for a two-week run.

With a new perspective on the story, screenwriter/Director Maria Iliou and historical consultant Alexander Kitroeff (Haverford College) turn back to the events that led to the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. They recount the ethnic cleansing and violent expulsion of ethnic Greeks from Asia Minor during the destruction of Smyrna in 1922, as well as the Greco-Turkish “exchange of populations” involving about 1.2 million Christian Greeks from Turkey and about 400,000 Muslims from Greece. This exchange was dictated by war, and sealed by diplomatic treaty in 1923.

Inspired by the belief that the moment has arrived, in Iliou’s words, “for us to recognize that the children and grandchildren of the Greek Orthodox and Muslim refugees can now tell their stories in common, that the moment has arrived to tell the whole story from both sides of the Aegean,” Iliou and Kitroeff focus on the descendants of the displaced populations and their cultures that were forcibly uprooted. Kalliopi Georgiadou the daughter of Greek-Orthodox refugees originally from Cappadocia, and Husnu Karaman, the son of Muslims from Crete tell the stories of their families that were settled in Greece and Turkey respectively. Kalliopi and Husnu recount how

their families retained the memory of their native lands in defiance of the nationalist logic of ethnic cleansing and displacement.

The previously unpublished photographic and film images of the expulsion and the population exchange were found in the archives of the Library of Congress, the Near East Relief Foundation, Princeton University, the American Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, the Save the Children Fund, the Albert Kahn Foundation, the University of Minnesota, and other institutions in Europe and the United States. This rare visual archival material was salvaged and preserved by the non-profit organization PROTEAS & PROTEUS NY, INC. and its sponsors. For the film’s soundtrack, the film and sound editor, Aliko Panagi, used sounds of the period while musician Nikos Platyrachos drew from songs of the era from Asia Minor and Greece for his original musical score. Photography is by the award-winning cinematographer Allen Moore and sound is designed by John Zecca. Audio mixing by George Mikroiannakis.

The film and the preservation of the archival materials were funded by the Bodossakis Foundation, the Nicholas J. & Anna K. Bouras Foundation and the Hellenic Parliament TV station. The film is presented in NYC with the support of the New York City Greek Film Festival. Media sponsorship in the US is provided by ANTENNA SATELLITE. The film has not been rated.

Award Presentation Follows Vasilopita Cutting for Sharpshooting Association

The cutting of the Vasilopita 2014 for the US Hellenic Hunting, Fishing & Sharpshooting Association for Environmental Conservation coincided with the bestowing of the organization’s US Hellenic Heritage Achievement-National & International Public Service Awards. It was held on Sunday, March 2 at the Oasis Café & Bakery on Northern Boulevard, Flushing, NY, gathering members of the association as well as many of its fans.

The event began with the invocation by Peter Doucas, the Federation’s executive director and president of the PanCorinthian Federation Worldwide, after which the president of the USHHFSAEC Steven Manners introduced the honorees to the gathering, who received their

citations after the cutting of the Vasilopita.

Gerasimos Amvrosiatos, president of the Ares Junior Division Club (NRA-CMP-NYSRPA) along with Dr. Christoforatos and other members of the Board aided president Manners in handing out the awards. The long list of honorees included Maria Konstantatos-Christoforatos, Bob Nicolaides, Awilda and Warren Field, George Manikas, Emmanuel Adikimenakis, Eleni Manners-Papaioannou, Georgios Argyros, Jerry and Jerzy Polad, Venetia Manners-Valsamaki, Kenneth Silas and Patroklos Stavrou.

In the category of support of Hellenic Education, the honorees were John Nathenas, MD and Dias Programs.

Syros El Greco Painting On Exhibition in Toledo, Spain

An early painting by old master Domenikos (Kyriakos) Theotokopoulos, a religious icon held on the island of Syros, has been loaned to the Santa Cruz Museum in Toledo, Spain for an exhibit that started March 14. The exhibition, entitled “The Greek of Toledo,” marks the 400th anniversary since the death of the painter - known worldwide as El Greco. This, the largest exhibition ever organized on El Greco’s work, amounting to a collection of 75 paintings borrowed from museums throughout the world, it will run through June 14 as part of events for the ‘El Greco Year’ in both Greece and Spain.

Visitors in Toledo will have the opportunity to admire his works in locations other than the museum, such as the Toledo Cathedral, the San Jose chapel, the Santo Tome Church, the Tavera Hospital and

the monastery of Santo Domingo el Antiguo. The painting borrowed from Syros will only stay in Toledo for one month, returning to Syros on April 14, in time for the April 20th Easter holiday. In fact The exhibition coordinators made the promise that they will protect this painting by enclosing it in a special display case with the right microclimate for its preservation.

The “Dormition of the Virgin” painting was discovered in a namesake church in the island’s main town, Ermoupolis and represents the earliest period of the Renaissance painter’s work, the so-called ‘Cretan’ period, dating back to 1562-1564 when he was still on his home island of Crete. The painting’s origins were discovered in 1983 by the culture ministry’s archaeologist Giorgos Mastoropoulos, who able to authenticate it through the painter’s signature.

Ambassadrix Eleni Kounalakis Recipient of Agapw Award

Surrounded by her peers, in this case all high ranking Ambassadors that filled the well appointed Penthouse Suite at the Century Association on Thursday, March 27th, former US Ambassadrix to Hungary Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis received due honors from the Association of Greek American Professional Women, (A.G.A.P.W.) The honors, in the form of an award, was presented to her by Ambassador Loucas Tsilas, former Ambassador of Greece to the United States, and executive director of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, whose wife, Penelope assumed the duties of an interviewer, asking questions from the honoree, which the petite diplomat answered gracefully and frankly. The first part of the program began with the welcoming remarks by Dr. Olga Alaxakos, founder and president of the Association, after which there were introductory remarks by MC Vaia Trittas, of NY University. Remarks by the Ambassador of Greece to the UN, Michel Spinellis followed, after which was the turn of the Consul General of Cyprus, Ambassador Vassilis Philippou to speak.

After a proclamation by New York City Councilman Costa Constantinides was presented to the organization, Evgenia Soldatos spoke of the “Significance of Women’s History Month and the historical contributions of Greek American Women to our Country and Community,” after which the honoree was introduced to the gathering by Penelope Tsilas and the presented with the Greek American Woman of the Year

award. Part one of the program closed with the presentation of the Excellence Tuition Scholarship to recipient Kristina Bogos of NYU by Dr. Liana Theodoratou, as well as a bouquet of flowers that went with the award.

One of the questions that Penelope Tsilas asked of the honoree was if she cared to share some of her experiences with the audience, to which Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis answered that it “is a very important job we’re doing, by acquiring important information about the status of the host nation and transmitting such information to Washington.” She said that she has been writing a memoir of this experience. She also mentioned that in her important position and the gruelling schedule that involves, she had the full support of her family. For recognition of her services, the Ambassadrix has received the highest lay honor of the Greek Orthodoxy in America, the Medal of St. Paul. Committed to the Hellenic ideals, she and her husband, journalist Markos Kounalakis have endowed chairs at both Georgetown and Stanford Universities dedicated to the study of Athenian Democracy. The Kounalakis family lives in San Francisco.

The second part of the program was an entertaining one with performances of songs by Hadjidakis Theodorakis, Rodgers & Hammerstein with vocals by Flora Kirou, Nana Simopoulos and Caryl Heilman, accompanied by an array of instruments from guitar to sitar and percussion, concluding with the remarks of Dr. Olga Alaxakos.

HarperCollins Publishes The Original Greek Diet, by Chef Maria Loi and Sarah Toland

NEW YORK, NY—(Marketwired - Jan 28, 2014) - Celebrity Chef Maria Loi, owner of LOI Restaurant, New York, is pleased to announce her agent, Alan Morell, has sold *The Original Greek Diet*, a new diet book by Chef Maria Loi and Sarah Toland, to HarperCollins Publishers. Maria will also participate in TV series in connection with the book, along with being licensed for a line of Loi products.

Grounded in the Mediterranean lifestyle and developed by world-renowned Greek Chef Maria Loi, *The Original Greek Diet* combines classic Mediterranean ingredients like olive oil, yogurt, and honey in delicious, healthy recipes that satisfy the soul and the palate. With *The Original Greek Diet*, you eat to enjoy yourself, just like the ancient Greek gods and goddesses, without starving, long, grueling hours at the gym, or restrictive plans eliminating carbs, dairy, caffeine, or alcohol. Structured around the 12 food pillars of the traditional

Greek diet, *The Original Greek Diet* includes 100 healthy, authentic Greek recipes that use delicious unprocessed ingredients that will delight both novice and experienced home cooks. “Sarah and I are very excited to be published by HarperCollins and work with Lisa Sharkey (Senior Vice President of Creative Development), Amy Bendell (Editor), and their team,” said Chef Maria Loi. “My agent, Alan Morell, personally nurtured the relationship between HarperCollins by working with Sarah and myself, along with the Loi team, my chef de cuisine Dara Davenport, senior dietician Georgia Giannopoulos, and two chefs from the Chef’s Club of Greece, Kostantinos Vlachos and Giannis Tompas. This is one of many books we want to author in the U.S., and we already have plans for a developmental pilot, scheduled for this year -- a TV series concept I feel is a winner. We’re also on course to market LOI commercial products on shopping channels, thanks to Alan’s guidance.”

CCJC Hosted Reception for Metropolitan Chrysostom

By Harriette Condes-Zervakis

On Monday, February 24, at Greek Town’s Athena Restaurant, The Chicago Council of Justice for Cyprus (CCJC) hosted a reception that was followed by a dinner in honor of His Eminence Panierotatos Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Kition, who was visiting the Chicago area from Larnaca, Cyprus. His Eminence was warmly welcomed by members of Chicago’s Greek American community and during his brief remarks, he thanked all those who had come to greet him. In response to attendees who had asked questions regarding the current situation in Cyprus, His Eminence acknowledged



Pictured are Tassos Papadakos, Panierotatos Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Kition, Anastasia Papadakos, Petros Mastoris (Masters) (Picture courtesy of Harriette Condes-Zervakis)

that Cypriots were under enormous pressure and going through difficult times, both politically and economically. “Pray for us,” he exhorted the audience, “Pray, pray, pray.” His Eminence indicated that whenever we had the opportunity, we may also want to communicate with our elected representatives and share our perspectives as to what would be a just resolution to the current situation on Cyprus. Those in attendance favored the withdrawal of the Turkish occupying forces from the northern 37% of the island – the armed forces that have been maintained there since 1974- as a starting point for a solution.