

Minister for Fair Trading  
Minister for Citizenship  
Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts

**Virginia Judge MP**



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9 September 2009

## **GREEK FILM FESTIVAL ENTERTAINS SYDNEY**

Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts Virginia Judge will officially open the 16th Greek Film Festival of Sydney at Palace Norton Street Cinemas tonight in Leichhardt.

Ms Judge said the 12 day festival will showcase the world's best contemporary Hellenic cinema.

"I am thrilled to be opening the 16th Greek Film Festival on behalf of the New South Wales Government," Ms Judge said.

"The festival highlights the outstanding contributions Greeks have made to the art of film-making in this country.

"Greek cinema has a rich history in Australia playing an important social role in the lives of Sydney's post-war migrants, especially in the 1960s and 1970s.

"There are now more than 122,000 people with Greek ancestry living in New South Wales – one of the largest populations in any city outside of Greece.

"The Greek community in Australia can be proud of the steps it has taken in bringing its culture to our shores and cultivating its artistic aspirations."

Ms Judge said this year's festival includes 16 feature films, three documentaries and five short films that highlight the traditional themes of Greek society.

"The festival will open tonight with the romantic comedy *Bang Bang Wedding* starring Sydney-based Australian actor Alex Dimitriades," Ms Judge said.

"Another highlight will be the award winning film *PVC-1* directed by Spiros Stathoulopoulos which tells the story of a woman hijacked by an act of terrorism.

"I congratulate the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW for its ongoing support of the creative industries and I look forward to enjoying this year's line-up of movies."

The 16<sup>th</sup> Greek Film Festival of Sydney runs 9 – 20 September 2009. For more information, visit [www.greekfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.greekfilmfestival.com.au).

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