

# Athens<sup>+</sup>Plus

European  
Newspaper  
AWARD  
Europe's Best Design  
Weekly Newspaper



Weekly newspaper published by The International Herald Tribune & Kathimerini SA • No 69 • Friday, October 9, 2009 • €2.50

## Redesigning space Nowhere

The multitalented Dimitris Papaioannou speaks about his special inauguration show for the National Theater. **Pages 24-25**



## Last chance Goal in sight

Greece must win its final two World Cup qualifiers to keep its South Africa 2010 dream alive. **Page 18**



## On the catwalk Greek talent abroad

From New York to Paris, via London, Milan and Barcelona, designers with Greek roots show their spring/summer 2010 collections. **Page 23**

# New government, fresh hope

After a resounding victory in the October 4 elections, PASOK leader George Papandreou has named a largely untested Cabinet which has the task of taking Greece out of the doldrums and making life easier for citizens



[Iron Press]

**A new government** got down to work this week after PASOK's emphatic election victory over New Democracy on October 4. Prime Minister George Papandreou unveiled a relatively youthful Cabinet, which also contains nine women (photo) – a record number for Greece. Addressing his new team, Pa-

pandreou emphasized that the PASOK government must focus its attention on stamping out corruption, reviving the economy, reforming the public sector and protecting the environment. In a rarely observed spirit of cooperation, the new ministers were welcomed to their departments by outgoing

New Democracy officials, who managed to put aside any bitterness at their more than 10 percent defeat in the polls. The loss has sparked a leadership contest in the conservative party, after outgoing Premier Costas Karamanlis stepped down from the post. **Pages 2, 4-5, 7, 8 & 11**



## Sweet Pick-me-up

Three desserts from master confectioner Stelios Parliaros, all made with coffee. **Page 33**



## Berlin Wall to wall

A series of films at the Goethe Institute pays tribute to the German capital, from division to reunification. **Page 35**

## Road to Denmark Global warning

European Commissioner for the Environment Stavros Dimas talks to Athens Plus about the challenges facing participants ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in early December. **Page 15**



## Flu Restoring health

European Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou tells Athens Plus about next week's crucial talks on the H1N1 virus. **Page 13**

**Transition** National Theater revisits two previous hits, debuts a children's play by Eugene Trivizas **Page 28**



9 771791 550005

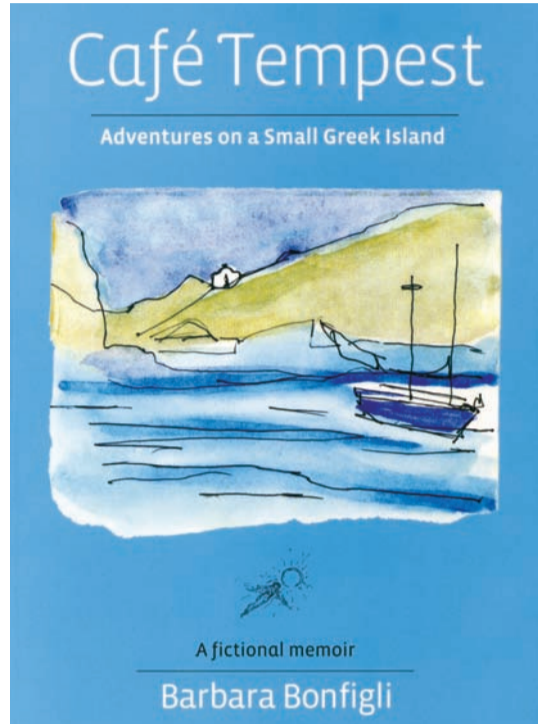
# Fictional memoir plays with amour and theater on mythic isle

**Sojourns** in the Mediterranean have inspired some gems of travel literature. Robert Louis Stevenson's 1879 classic, "Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes," and Gerald Durrell's enduringly popular accounts of his idyllic boyhood on Corfu are prime examples.

Since mass tourism has burgeoned, spurred on in part by such books, the genre has expanded accordingly, though quality has sometimes suffered. Entire bookstore departments overflow with almost indistinguishable volumes in the vein of "my week/month/year in Provence/Tuscany/the Algarve." The sameness and blandness are occasionally punctured by out-of-the-box triumphs like James Hamilton-Paterson's wickedly funny trilogy featuring the acid-tongued Gerry Samper, celebrity ghostwriter and culinary saboteur.

A writer hoping to make an impact in the increasingly crowded field needs to offer something original. Barbara Bonfigli's fictional memoir, "Cafe Tempest: Adventures on a Small Greek Island," published by Tell Me Press, offers snappy dialogue, a satisfying narrative arc and lots of humor.

When Sarah, an American-born, London-based theatrical produc-



**Embracing the surreal**  
'The whole country's got a poetic license. That's why I love it'

er, is invited to direct a cast of Greeks on the fictional island of Pharos in an amateur production of Shakespeare's "Tempest," the stage is set for a light-hearted comedy of manners.

Bonfigli is not the first to use a theater production as a plot device but

she is probably the first to set one in a deconsecrated church on a Greek island. As local rivalries intensify the jockeying for parts in the play and feasts disrupt rehearsals – the delicacies supplied by aspiring actresses – Sarah learns to relax and enjoy the food while making

strategic compromises. She deftly avoids confrontations with those who wield real power – not just the police chief and the mayor but also the woman who issues tickets to the sole ferry serving the Pharos route. A seeker of serenity, Sarah embraces the surreal elements of her adopted island. As she says: "The whole country's got a poetic license. That's why I love it."

A local woman takes to her husband with a frying pan in punishment for an infidelity she had ignored until she became lonely when her dog died, while the outsiders experiment with looser, less conventional ties that prove to be just as emotionally complex.

Along the way there are idyllic boat trips to deserted beaches, delicious meals washed down with retsina that could double as paint stripper, amusing dalliances and the serial disappearances of a Volvo.

Evocative little illustrations by Gaiia Franchetti, recipes of foods mentioned in the book and remastered by Ana Espinosa and instructions for the Cafe Tempestini cocktail, a challenging combination of retsina, Samos wine, cranberry juice and triple sec, add the finishing touches to an enjoyable romp.

## Seven itineraries in Athens

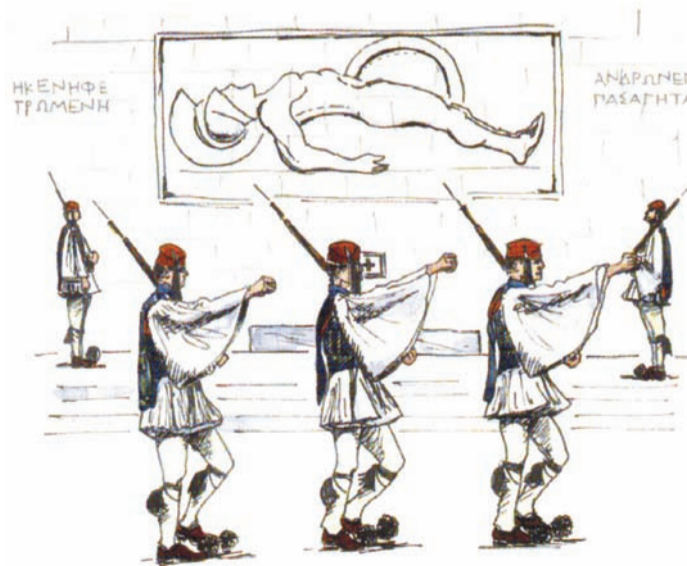
**Unlike scores** of other authors of guidebooks on Athens, Mariza Decastro is a native Athenian. She deploys that insider's knowledge in "I Athina se 7 diadromes: Enas odigos gia mikrous kai megalous" (Athens in 7 Itineraries: A Guide for Young and Old), a new publication from Metaichmio.

With the aid of attractive illustrations and maps by Stamatis Bonatsos, Decastro guides us along routes that reveal the city's varied treasures.

A brief introduction explains the symbols used in the book to indicate basics such as the duration and starting point of each itinerary as well as hints on how to use a map and a few lines on the history of Athens.

Pausanias is the guide on the first route, which starts at the ancient city wall on the banks of the Iridanos River in Kerameikos, goes through the City Gate from which Iera Odos led to Elefsina and continues to the Ancient Agora, and the Acropolis, then on to Hadrian's Gate, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and the Panathenaic Stadium.

The text provides enough information to assist appreciation with-



**The Tomb** of the Unknown Soldier in Syntagma Square.

out forcing us to keep our noses in the book instead of gazing at the sights.

Other routes take in the beautiful Byzantine churches, Athens, architectural remnants of the Ottoman era, picturesque Plaka and Anafiotika, major boulevards, the bustling city market and Monastiraki, the National Garden and Parliament. Extras include sugges-

tions for daytrips to the Byzantine monasteries of Kaisariani and Dafni, the archaeological site of Vravra, whose temple is dedicated to Artemis, the three harbors of Piraeus and Lavrio, Greece's first industrial city.

This modest, informative guide targets locals and visitors, adults and children, and is likely to please them all.

**The Choragic Monument** of Lysicrates.



## LIT-BITS

### New book club

**Floral Books + Coffee** is starting a book club that will meet once a month, starting Monday, October 12, at 7 p.m. The first meeting will focus on the subjects and genres the club will discuss.

80 Themistocleous, Exarchia Sq, tel 210.380.0070, www.floralcafe.gr

### Diavazo celebrates

**Diavazo** literary review invites you to celebrate its 500th issue at Metropolis Live Stage, at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 12. In its 33 years of existence, the periodical has become a staple of Greek literary life, and its prestigious annual awards are a fixture on the cultural calendar. The evening is also dedicated to poet Titos Patrikios, as is the 500th issue.

54 Panepistimiou & E. Benaki, 3rd floor, tel 211.600.9766

### Love and hope

**The Apopeira** publishing house presents Lucia Rikaki's new book "Paramythia tis agapis kai tis elpidas" (Stories of Love and Hope) at the Ianos bookstore, Monday, October 12, at 6 p.m. Writers Titsa Pipinou, Vassilis Rouvalis, Marietta Pepelasi, writer-psychologist Constantinos Constantopoulos and actor-director Stavros Benos will discuss the book.

24 Stadiou, tel 210.321.7917

### Lafcadio Hearn

**The American College** of Greece's Deree College will mark the 110th anniversary of friendship between Greece and Japan with a tribute to Lafcadio Hearn at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13. Born in Lefkada in 1850, Hearn traveled to Dublin and the United States before settling in Japan where he is renowned as writer of essays and narratives. Japanese Ambassador Takanori Kitamura will unveil a monumental work by artist Masaaki Noda, "The Open Mind of Lafcadio Hearn," and Hearn scholars will speak.

6 Gravias, Aghia Paraksevi

### GET IN TOUCH

Readers are invited to send their views and comments to [books@athensplus.gr](mailto:books@athensplus.gr).