



17th February 14, 2006

Re: 24th Greek Festival of Sydney 2006, HOMER DAY, Aril the 1st at the Mint.

HOMER DAY

The Father of Western Civilisation?

Music, Performance, Discussion, Lecture.

To take place as an annual event tied into the Greek Festival of Sydney program. With thanks to The Historic Houses Trust for providing the amazing MINT as the venue.

Hosted by [Associate Professor Vrasidas Karalis](#)

Vrasidas is the Associate Professor in the Department of Modern Greek at the University of Sydney. He teaches Nineteenth and Twentieth-century Greek Prose, Theory of Prose, Comparative Literature and Greek-Australian Literature. An extremely active researcher, Vrasidas's most recent publications include 'Papadiamandis: The Novelist' in *History and Nihilism in Gyftopula* (2003) and his book entitled *For Andrea Aggelakis* (2003).

Homer is the father of European literature and culture. His poems the Iliad and the Odyssey have nurtured generations of people for almost the last three thousand years and represent the basis of humanistic education during the last five hundred years. Homer is also a great poet who has influenced all great European writers and has established the literary tradition of the West.

The myths of Helen of Troy and of Ulysses are to this day the most powerful expressions of human beauty and human frailty. James Joyce, Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, N. Kazantzakis and many modern writers have brought Homer's message to the late modernity and post modernity: from Homer Simpson to Brad Pitt, Hollywood represents Homer's world in a fascinating manner that reaches the wider audiences and creates a new Perception about his presence.

This presentation wants to discuss who was Homer and what kind of world he lived in through a brief description of his life, readings from his work and the performance of music from classical Greece. It is an attempt to reconstruct Homer's world for modern audiences and offer a new way of looking at the father