



Press release for immediate use (ref: PR 041)

Charity performances of
"ELENI",
a new musical with a Greek flavour written by a local author

A new musical "Eleni" written and composed by local author Lia White will be performed in aid of Cancer Research UK and heart disease on 7th and 8th May 2004 at 7.30 p.m. at Garboldisham village hall.

Eleni is the poignant story of an orphaned Greek girl who comes to live in England with her grandfather. A number of the dance sequences are derived from Greek traditional folklore.

Tickets priced £5
can be ordered by telephone: 01359 251 097 or 01359 251 627

or purchased from:
Botesdale: Post Office & Newsagent,
Bury St Edmunds: Personal Computer Services, 70 St Andrews St. North,
Diss: Tourist Information Centre, Mere Street
Eye: Fabric Shop,
Garboldisham: Garden Centre,
Hopton: Post Office & Rolling Stone,
South Lopham: White Horse Inn,
Thetford: TESCO Supermarket,
Walsham le Willows: Rolfes Butchers Shop,
Wattisfield: Post Office,
Wortham: Post Office

Please support this good cause and give yourself an evening out at the same time - Eleni is suitable for all the family.

For more information, see Internet page www.elmswell.net/eleni.htm

The leading roles:

Eleni (Katie Appadoo), her Grandfather (Charles Redelsperger) and Lady Hamilton (Samantha Foulger).

The dancing:

By the Cast, The Attitude Dancers Academy (Thetford), Dora Konstantinidis' Greek Dancers (London) and "Datsia" Cypriot solo dancer (London).

The story:

Eleni is a thirteen year old Greek girl. She is an orphan and lives with her grandfather Ron who brought her to England from Cyprus when she was eight months old after her mother and father were killed during the invasion of the island in 1974.

Her grandfather looked after her for thirteen years and they lived a normal life together. Then, because of his ill health, the authorities suggest that her elderly grandfather would be unable to look after Eleni and that she must be taken into care. He hates the idea of parting with his granddaughter and Eleni also dreads the prospect of living away from her grandfather.

As a result, they move from place to place, changing addresses. And now they both work in the

market, Eleni selling flowers and her grandfather small souvenirs.

One day, the very rich Lady Hamilton meets the little girl in the market. She likes Eleni so much that she decides to adopt her. She approaches Eleni's grandfather and asks him to let her adopt the child. Although he is opposed to the idea, in the end her grandfather very reluctantly agrees to let Eleni go. Knowing, however, that Eleni would never agree to leave him, her grandfather lies to her, saying that he must go to Cyprus to be cured from the dreadful illness which he has. Eleni accepts his story and goes to live with Lady Hamilton. Then, two months later, having lived in the luxury of Lady Hamilton's household, Eleni discovers the truth and decides to leave the rich house and the luxurious life in it.

The author: Lia Glykiadou White

Lia White is the author of three books for children published in Greece. "The Angels Fly High" and "Alkis Myths for Children" were followed in April 2004 by "Fighting Beasts and Monsters".

Her novel "The Greener Grass" was published in 2002 by Dorrance Publishing Co., Inc., Pittsburgh PA, USA (ISBN: 0-8059-5645-X).

The Greener Grass is the story of a passionate, adventurous Greek woman who leaves her native Athens in search of "greener grass". The novel chronicles the immigrant experience through the character of Sophia, who arrives in America from her native Greece. Sophia realizes the American dream but also some of its harsh realities. She takes comfort in Greek customs and traditions and in her extraordinary friendships. Eventually she establishes an identity all her own and discovers the power of love.

A native of Samos, Greece, Lia now lives in Wattisfield in East Anglia, UK.

"Eleni" is her first musical.

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