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Toronto Greektown resident pens, produces third play in Greek

'Oi Erosyilies' runs Nov. 22 to Dec. 2 at Alumnae Theatre

WHATSON NOV 22, 2018 | BY [BAMBANG SADEWO](#) | TORONTO.COM



George Scandalis is an east-end writer producing a play all in Greek entitled *Oi Erosyilies*, which will be the third show produced by his company Ten Tone Productions. - Justin Greaves/Metroland

In his own words, east-end Toronto resident George Scandalis is indescribable.

An actor, writer, director, radio host – the list portrays one who’s embedded in the Greek artistic community in Toronto.

“Just when you think you get to know me, there’s another facet that comes out that I haven’t explored,” Scandalis said recently in a Greektown café. “As people we’re constantly learning about ourselves. I like to constantly get creative and work on stuff.”

Scandalis is a first-generation Greek. His parents barely spoke any English when they came to Canada – a country that “accepted and allowed them to work very hard.”

They also worked to ensure he understood where he came from; and instilled the beliefs and ethics of their heritage in him.

Growing up, he went to a Greek language school on the weekends and learned folkloric Greek dances. His passion for the language and desire to showcase the Greek arts led to the creation of Ten Tone Productions, which have produced three plays written and directed by him – all performed in Greek.

“I wanted to do something that can enrich the Greek experience for so many of us living here,” Scandalis said. “There’s an influx of immigrants coming here and it gives them a little bit of home and gives them a little bit of continuation of their culture in their hearts.”

The latest play in the trilogy is [Oi Erosyilies](#).

Set in Patras, Greece, it tells the story of a young female, Erofilii, who has to make a decision when she goes to a taboo party.

While racy in subject matter, in foundation it’s about love and the sacrifices that women have to make between different types of love for family, virtue and other ideals that the society expects of them. Similar to the previous two, it’s based around a strong female character.



The cast of *Oi Erosyilies*, the third Greek theatrical play produced by Ten Tone Productions. Elisseos Kyrillou/photo

Finding professional actors for the play was “ridiculously hard” because “there’s so few of them here.”

“We based it on a few different factors. How well they speak Greek was one of them,” he said, adding that the team provided training for those who were not very fluent.

“If it’s an English show, there’s tons of us,” he said.

In Greece, theatre is a big part of life.

Although there’s been “very great” Greek theatre in Toronto for years, the east-end resident, who worked as professional actor in Greece for about four years, hopes to push it beyond the community and amateur level.

“When you come to one of our shows, you’ll feel like you’re watching something you would have seen in Greece,” he said. “Language is so important to me ... I love being able to hear my language spoken (on stage).”

Scandalis is thankful for the wonderful community support.

“We have so many people advertising in our show, sponsoring us, getting together to say that ‘we get what you’re trying to say,’” he said. “It’s quite remarkable how many people want to give back.”

Oi Erosyilies plays at the Alumnae Theatre, [70 Berkeley St.](#), from Nov. 22 to Dec 2. To purchase the tickets (\$40), go to [www.tentoneproductions.com/store](#) or call [647-345-1164](#).

Bambang Sadewo

Bambang Sadewo is a reporter with toronto.com and Metroland Media Toronto.

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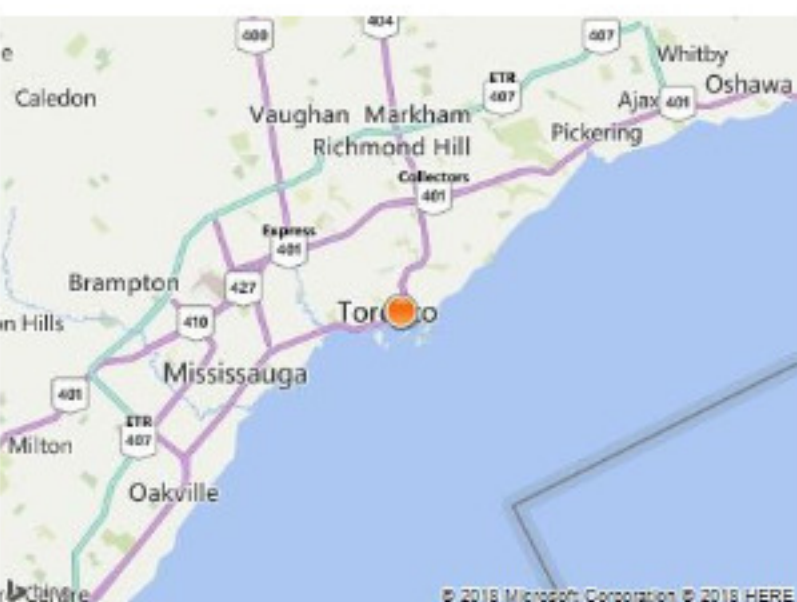
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