



November 26, 2002

PHOTO NEWS ALERT

**ACTRESS/WRITER NIA VARDALOS INVITES AFI TO SHARE
"MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING" ON DECEMBER 4;
FILM RECENTLY TOPPED \$200 MILLION AND IS HIGHEST GROSSING
INDEPENDENT FILM**

You are invited to attend the Harold Lloyd Master Seminar (HLMS) with actress/writer Nia Vardalos at the American Film Institute (AFI) Conservatory, Wednesday, December 4, beginning with a screening of her film, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," at AFI's Los Angeles campus-2021 N. Western Ave. (north of Franklin).

"My Big Fat Greek Wedding" has become the box office sleeper hit of the year and recently topped the \$200 million mark. It is now the highest grossing independent film in history. Based on Vardalos' original award-winning one-woman show, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" was produced by Playtone, whose partners include Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson. Vardalos penned the screenplay (her first) and also starred in the film. She recently signed a deal with Spyglass Entertainment to produce and star in a new film she wrote, "Connie and Carla Do L.A." She is also developing a half-hour comedy with CBS based on "My Big Fat Greek Wedding."

Rated one of the AFI Conservatory's most popular programs by students and guest speakers, the Harold Lloyd Master Seminar (HLMS) series brings accomplished filmmakers to the Los Angeles campus to share their work and experiences with AFI Fellows. The series constitutes a unique oral history of filmmaking by featuring leaders in the creative community, discussing their craft with new generations of filmmakers. Not only do the seminars promote a dialogue and idea exchange between established and emerging filmmakers, but also the transcripts serve to document how the seminar guests have matured as artists over time.

Past seminar guests have included Robert Altman, Alan Ball, Ingmar Bergman, Francis Ford Coppola, Federico Fellini, Amy Heckerling, Sam Mendes, Philip Noyce, Charlton Heston, Jack Nicholson, Edward Norton, Sidney Plotier, Steven Spielberg, Robert Towne and many others.

Your coverage is invited.

WHEN: "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" screens at 12:30 and 3 P.M., with the Q&A at 4:50 PM.

WHERE: AFI - Los Angeles campus
2021 N. Western Ave. (north of Franklin)

WHAT: Actress/writer Nia Vardalos shares her experiences as part of the Harold Lloyd Master Seminar series.

For press credentials contact: Carla Schalman / Linda Dozoretz
(818) 907-8950 / (323) 656-4499
pr@ldcomm.com