



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Opa! Bata Shoe Museum welcomes the public to an evening celebrating Greek spirit

-Greek footwear from the Museum's collection on display for this evening only-

TORONTO, ON, September 18, 2006–The Bata Shoe Museum, in a first-time partnership with community cultural group Diaspora Nostrum, will present *Greek Shoes, Greek Spirit!* on Thursday October 12, 2006, from 5 to 9 pm. The event is open to the public, admission is free, and pre-registration is not required.

Museum visitors will be invited to try out some dance steps such as *kalamatiano* and *sirtaki* under the guidance of a community dancing group and hear a new take on traditional Greek music by members of the band “Souxou Mouxou”. A DJ will spin Greek tunes-everything from long-time favourites to hot new pop songs and Eurovision winners. Visitors will also be able to view modern folkloric Greek footwear and foot-shaped vessels from antiquity, brought out from the Museum's collection storerooms for this evening only. **Megas Restaurant/Euro Mediterranean Foods** and **Ioli Sparkling Water** will provide traditional Greek *mezes* (tidbits) and refreshments.

Diaspora Nostrum member and event co-organizer Aspasia Dassios said, “We are excited about collaborating with the Bata Shoe Museum in sharing these aspects of Greek culture with the public and bringing the community to this unique establishment. The Museum is a great metaphor for Toronto: we may all wear different shoes, but we're walking the same path.”

Bata Shoe Museum Public Programs Coordinator Roger Hunziker said, “I'm delighted that we can do this type of event where the Museum can reach out to one of Toronto's cultural communities, and bring together something from us and something from them to create a fun evening for everybody.”

Greek Shoes, Greek Spirit! takes place at the Bata Shoe Museum, 327 Bloor Street West at St. George subway station, on Thursday October 12, 2006, from 5 to 9 pm.

Event Sponsors

Mezes and refreshments sponsor: Megas Restaurant/Euro Mediterranean Foods

Sparkling water sponsor: Ioli Sparkling Water



About Diaspora Nostrum

Diaspora Nostrum is a group of friends dedicated to organizing events, connecting people to artists, and spreading culture. Founding members Aspasia Dassios, Harry Sideropoulos, John Preketes, Maria Antonakos, Steve Germanakos, Tom Haralampidis and Eva Papolis-Vassilakakos are professionals from a variety of fields. As second-generation Hellenes, they are interested in keeping ties to their own origins while creating links with other traditions.

About the Bata Shoe Museum

The Bata Shoe Museum is a centre of knowledge about the role of footwear in the social and cultural life of humanity. The Museum's growing international collection of over 12,000 artifacts touches on 4,500 years of history. A varied program of events and exhibitions lets visitors discover the stories behind footwear from many lands and cultures. Currently on exhibit: *Icons of Elegance: Influential Shoe Designers of the 20th century*; *Watched by Heaven, Tied to Earth: Summoning Animal Protection for Chinese Children*; *The Charm of Rococo: Femininity and Footwear in the 18th century* and *All About Shoes: Footwear Through the Ages*. Opening on November 9, 2006: *Chronicles of Riches: Treasures of the Bata Shoe Museum*. The Bata Shoe Museum is located in downtown Toronto at 327 Bloor Street West, at the southwest corner of Bloor and St. George Streets. For more information about the Museum, please visit www.batashoemuseum.ca.

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