

MY LIFE IN RUINS (PUBLISHED IN TIME OFF MAGAZINE, BRISBANE)

Director: Donald Petrie

Starring: Nia Vardalos, Richard Dreyfuss, Alexis Georgoulis, Alistair McGowan

Reviewed by: Vicki Englund

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To quote our esteemed PM: "Fair shake of the sauce bottle". If Aussie-isms like that rub you up the wrong way, the two caricatures of Australians in this movie will have you running for the exits. How about this quote? "I'm giving it liquid yawns in the dunny". I kid you not. But the bloody little beaudies from Downunder aren't the only broadly drawn characters in this latest romcom starring Nia Vardalos, who hasn't yet managed to repeat the unexpected success she had with My Big Fat Greek Wedding.

Since then, she's slimmed down and glammed up, to the extent that here she looks like she's in both a shampoo and toothpaste commercial. She's kind of lost that "everywoman" look, which was probably one of the main reasons women initially identified with her.

Vardalos is tour guide, Georgia, who's jaded at showing foreign caricatures around ancient ruins in Greece. Her latest group arrive and get on the bus from hell, with a local bus driver called...wait for it - Poupi Kakas (Georgoulis). Chortle, chortle.

One of the tourists is a wisecracking American widower, played by Dreyfuss who used to do things like win Oscars for Best Lead Actor (The Goodbye Girl, 1978) but who has to settle for these types of roles these days.

The movie isn't that bad but it isn't a laugh a minute either, which it could've been if there'd been a better script, a faster pace and yeah, a few other things. However, many of the preview audience seemed to like it and got several chuckles. So if you want something unchallenging and some gorgeous Greek scenery, you could do worse.