

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 3



When faced with designing the newest instalment of the highly popular franchise, my main objective was to keep the humour of the previous films. However, as our family was going back to the Greek homeland it was to also create an authentic, visually stunning setting for the audience to enjoy.

The script described a remote traditional Greek village on the top of the mountains, but with a faded glory. It was a real hunt for the right village that would work both aesthetically but also practically for a shooting crew. We had to find the perfect locations to showcase Greece but also a village that had enough character to support our amazing cast.

We scoured Greece in search of grand Neo Classical style architecture and faded grandeur. This took us to the Island of Corfu, which doesn't have the stereotypical Greek Island architecture seen in many films.

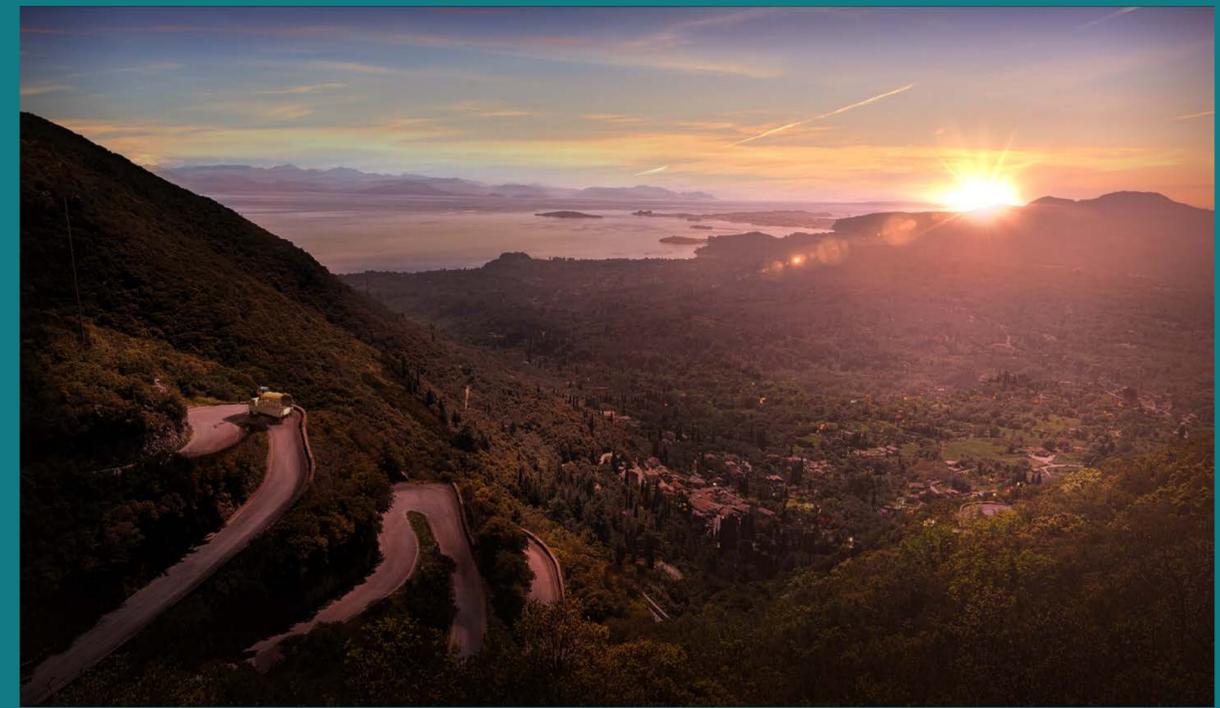
After scouting the Island and visiting every mountain top village, we settled on a combination of three locations- a tiny village called Varipatades for our main village setting and vistas, a neighbouring village Sokraki for the sea views and roads to the village and finally Bouas village in Danilia, (a 1930s style street recreation that had been built in the 1970s) for our main street action and which created a practical base for the Production.

With our limited budget and just three weeks of prep available in the main location we embarked on building a town square, fountain, new houses to block certain views. We created a 360 degree world which meant we could eliminate the need for any VFX extensions. We built the interior of the home on the entrance to the actual location, therefore continuing the ability to shoot anywhere and make the set additions feel as if they were always part of our decaying village. This allowed us to have vistas through all the windows and the full expanse of the main street through the front doors.

MBFGW audiences expect a big wedding party at the end of the film so we wanted to create a truly romantic setting and bring our village back to life with lanterns, banners, candles and tables laden with delicious Greek food. Our engaged characters being both Syrian and Greek meant we could create an multicultural theme.

With a small key UK Art Department, we worked with a talented Athens based team in both Athens and Corfu. We prefabricated our sets on the mainland then shipped them to the Island. The set dressing came from flea markets and antique shops in Athens. We worked closely with local artists to create banners and bespoke dressing for the wedding party scenes.

This project from start to finish was a Production Designer's dream, and it was a privilege to work closely with the Writer/Director to bring her vision to life.



OMONIA VILLAGE



TOWN SQUARE CONCEPT











WEDDING PARTY CONCEPTS



