

**“Annika<sup>1</sup>” puts an end to her acting career. Role in “Who Pays the Ferryman?” demands heavy toll.**

*“Who Pays the Ferryman?” the Greek television series aired in most European countries is to be repeated. Betty Arvaniti, who plays the part of Annika will be seen for the last time as an actress. After her breakthrough in Europe the Greek actress has decided to end her career in show business.*

“You could say that “Who Pays the Ferryman” has literally come at a very expensive price: a broken marriage and a huge financial catastrophe” states Betty Arvaniti, who has become well known throughout the whole of Europe thanks to the series. “Every time I think back on my English manager I still feel aggressive. Thanks to him I lost thousands. In Greece we are used to handling our own affairs, we do not work with a manager. But I was advised to leave things to an expert so that I would have more time to make money and less to worry about. But now I worry even more because the losses he made are irreplaceable. He played it very cleverly.

Naturally my marriage problems were even worse. My husband couldn't accept the fact that I was suddenly working so hard. Greeks are very jealous by nature and it gets worse when one gets a lot of attention from other people especially Europeans. He was accusing me of having an affair with practically every Englishman. Perhaps it was partly my own fault because I did not hide my admiration for the English. Their mentality is totally different from the Greeks. We are rather hypocritical.

After filming was completed, Betty's life was empty. When we talk to her in her delightful apartment in one of Athens most expensive suburbs, she looks tired but when we ask if this is due to all the hard work she says “Oh no, I have been refurbishing my house. Something I love doing. It relaxes me. I look tired because I have taken on a new lifestyle. Too many late nights and I like to get up early in the mornings so I can go for a nice, quiet swim.”

For the remaining part of the day, Betty works for emancipation of Greek women. She is very fanatical about it and gives lectures as well as visiting many women in their homes who in turn regard her suspiciously.

“I would like to shake them at times but of course I realise I cannot push them because then I would be interfering with age old traditions. These traditions are rooted to the tips of their toes.”

Betty was in our country recently to form an impression of women's rights in the Netherlands.

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<sup>1</sup> Anna Pereboom says: “I have taken the liberty of changing “Melina” to Annika. I wish the people who write this stuff would at least take the trouble to get their facts straight. Obviously this person has never seen one single episode!”

“Incredible, such a difference. If we could achieve only a third of what you have here we would be well on the way. I am hoping that joining the European common market will bring about a positive change to our situation.”

Betty has absolutely no regrets about ending her acting career. Only recently she resolutely declined a major film role.

“I am very happy with my new boyfriend. I do not wish to spoil that by taking on too much work again. I am not going to tell you who he is, just that he is very well known in Greece.

She smiles in the mysterious way we remember from “Annika”.

**Translated from Dutch to English by Anna Pereboom  
for the Michael J Bird Tribute Website**

<http://www.mjbird.org.uk>