



**TIME:**

**The Greeks on Zama Street**

“Ubuntu with Tzatziki”

**GENRE:**

Comedy - Drama

**FORMAT:**

6 x 45 minute episodes

**TOINE:**

Warm, colourful, sharp-witted, satirical with heart

**logline:**

When Athena Sfakialakis - queen bee of the Little Paros Residents Association - sees her once Greek-exclusive neighbourhood filling up with *xeni* (non-Greeks), she wages a comedic crusade to “protect” her family, her culture, and her carefully controlled life... only to discover that the people she *feared* most are the ones she *needs* the most.





**THE GREEKS ON ZAMA STREET** is a warm, sharp-witted comedy-drama about what happens when a tight-knit Greek community in South Africa collides with a wave of new *xeni* (non-Greek) neighbours.

**ATHENA SFAKIALAKIS** - glamorous, formidable, and president of the Little Paros Residents Association - has spent decades trying to keep her estate "properly Greek". But now, her Afrikaans, Zulu, Indian, and Coloured neighbours are here to stay, and they have no interest in playing by her rules.

As Athena's control over her family - especially her rebellious daughter **SOFIA** - slips through her fingers, petty squabbles, gossip, and culture-clash disasters turn Zama Street into a powder keg. But when stereotypes are flipped, secrets are exposed and unexpected alliances form, Athena is forced to concede that the people *she feared most* might be the ones who show her the true meaning of *philotimo* - honour, generosity and doing right by others.

**THE GREEKS ON ZAMA STREET** is a love letter to South Africa's diversity, a satire of our quirks, and a reminder that "us vs them" only disappears when we start laughing... and eating... together.



THE SFAKIALAKIS FAMILY

# THE STORY



Keeping up with appearances has become her life's work.

At the heart of The Greeks on Zama Street lies **ATHENA SFAKIALAKIS** — formidable, glamorous, and utterly convinced she knows what's best for her family and community.

For decades, Athena has been the unofficial mayor of **LITTLE PAROS**, a housing estate founded by a Greek mogul to be a haven for expatriate Greeks in South Africa.

But times have changed. South Africa has changed. And so has Little Paros. The tidy, all-Greek enclave Athena once ruled is now home to a colourful mix of *xeni* families:



## THE MOODLEYS

... a multi-generational Indian household whose womenfolk never miss a chance to lob a cheeky comment at Athena or any other Greek within earshot.



## COLTE & NOLAN

... a proudly out, mixed-race gay couple still grieving Morsel, their dearly-departed chihuahua, and determined to sniff out the culprit behind his mysterious "un-aliving."



Morsel (R.I.P.)



## CAROL

... a Francophile estate agent - a quintessential South African "WASP" - determined to rebrand "Little Paros" as "Little Paris."



## THE VILJOENS

... a blunt and boisterous “new-money” Afrikaans clan and proud custodians of “Boer-bilia” (Afrikaner collectibles, including Bles Bridges’ beloved hi-fi and Gerrie Coetzee’s vintage car).

## DORIS & The Pavement Press

... the feared-but-loved gossip network of Zama Street. Doris, Athena’s own domestic worker and a force of nature in her own right, knows everything worth knowing (and plenty that the Greeks would prefer her *not* to know). Even Athena won’t mess with her.



And finally, to add insult to injury: **THE MASUKUS** ... a wealthy Zulu couple who move in right next door to Athena.



Athena fears that her daughter **SOPIA** — already rebellious and fresh out of a marriage to golden-boy Greek son-in-law **ORESTI** — appears to be sneaking around, doing naughty things with the dangerously sexy new neighbour, **NHLANHLA**, while his wife is at work. Athena and her clan of Greek conspiracy-theorists are convinced he’s trouble... possibly even a drug-dealing criminal.

Only much later — after Athena has blown up her life, her reputation, and half the neighbourhood — do we learn the far more innocent truth: Nhlanhla is a lawyer, quietly helping Sofia navigate her divorce.





As Athena frantically schemes to maintain control over Little Paros (and everyone who lives there), the *xeni* form unlikely alliances against her meddling and manipulation — from the Afrikaans Viljoens to the Zulu Masukus — discovering they have far more in common with each other than they ever expected.

Along the way, Athena's own assumptions are tested, her secrets exposed (including a scandalous past as an exotic dancer), and her carefully ordered world turns upside down.

**In the end, Athena discovers there's no "us" versus "them" ... it's just "us."** And if there's laughter on our lips and food on the table, the only thing left to argue about is... who gets to eat the fish eye.

## Why this is a **SOUTH AFRICAN STORY**

**On the surface**, this is a fast-paced, laugh-out-loud family dramedy about a Greek matriarch who's doing her level best to maintain control of her family and her neighbourhood.

**At its heart, this story is about South Africa's greatest treasure: OUR DIVERSITY** - and the wonderful things that can happen when we learn to *embrace* and *celebrate* that diversity... (rather than *fear* it).

In a country still nativating the scars of division, **THE GREEKS ON ZAMA STREET** uses comedy and cultural clash to celebrate the quirks, contradictions, and richness of our differences - while showing that the "us vs them" mindset is never about race alone. Athena doesn't dislike the *xeni* because they're Black, Indian, Coloured, or Afrikaans - she dislikes them because they're not Greek! And therein lies the fun: prejudice without the heavy politics, **allowing us to unite South African audiences in laughing at ourselves.**

By setting our conflict safely within the eccentricities of Greek culture, we create space for every South African to see themselves, to laugh at their own assumptions, and to cheer when tired old stereotypes are gleefully flipped on their heads!



 LEAD CAST: THE GREEKS



**ATHENA**  
Fiery Greek Matriarch

**DIMITRI**  
The Peacekeeper Husband

**SOFIA**  
Good Greek Daughter

**PANAYIOTI**  
The Bachelor Son

**ORESTI**  
Perfect Son-in-Law

**EFFIE**  
Rebellious Granddaughter

**DESPINA**  
Athena's Sister

**SANDRA**  
Athena's Niece

**HARIKLIA**  
Athena's Woo-Monger

**MARIA**  
Athena's Role Model

Adrienne Pearce

Nicky Rebelo

Sharon Spiegel

Emmanuel Castis

Nico Panagio

Isabella Doherty

Louise St Claire

Berenice Barbier

Aurelie Stratton

Wendy Cooke-Tonnesen

Berenice Barbier

## LEAD CAST: THE XENI



**JABEEN**  
Fed up & fiery

Jailoshni Naidoo

**JASH**  
Fed up & passive

Koobeshen Naidoo

**AYA**  
Not to be trifled with

Mariam Bassa

**CAROL**  
Plotting a coup

Anel Alexander

**DORIS**  
The Insider

Gugu Togara

**EUNIKE**  
Pavement Press

Zinhle Mzelemu

**NOMSA**  
Pavement Press

Pumzile Putting

**KOOS**  
'n bietjie gatvol

Zak Hendrikz

**KARIEN**  
Baie gatvol

Cindy Swanepoel

**KOLTE**  
Tired of the drama

Byron McNeil

**NOLAN**  
Triggered

Zahir Bassa

**NHLANHLA**  
The Mystery

Mnqobi Kunene

**THULI**  
Underestimated

Fezeka Mchunu



# THE WORLD OF LITTLE PAROS

Athena and her family live just outside of Durban - a multi-cultural, diverse African city (see: "the world of the xeni"). The conservative Greeks are uneasy with Durban's colourful multi-culturalism. They feel threatened by it. So - instead of building bridges, they've built walls to insulate and isolate themselves from *The Other*.

Little Paros (a gated security estate in an upmarket Durban suburb) began its life as a place where South Africa's Greeks could cocoon themselves amongst other Greeks. A place where things are more "safe"... "clean and tidy"... "respectable" and, of course, Greek.

However, over the years, more and more xeni (*non-Greeks*) have also made Little Paros their home. Athena reluctantly tolerates her xeni neighbours but worries that they're multiplying in number. Soon, there may be more xeni than Greeks in Little Paros! So - when she hears that the "Matsouka" family are moving in next door, she's delighted: finally more *Greeks*! However, her first face-to-face with the new neighbours marks the beginning of a series of crises that threatens everything she holds dear.



