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Big Expectations for Small Press Books

by Judith Rosen

This 512-page first novel is the tale of an American woman's personal "marathon" to Greece, which alternates with the Greek legend of Pheidippides and the real-life story of Ion Theodore, who was born a slave in the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century and became author William Winokur's mentor at a New York City private school in the 1970s.

It's also the first book from Kissena Park Press, the new book publishing imprint of Starlight Runner Entertainment, creator of the worlds in which the popular video games *Magic: The Gathering* and *Turok, Dinosaur Hunter* are set. The company moved into publishing because it enables Starlight "to take an ownership" in artistic properties it develops, explains publisher and cofounder Jeff Gomez. Actor Martin Landau and director James Cameron have blurbed *Marathon*, though it hasn't been optioned for film yet (however, Winokur's second novel, to be published by KPP in late 2006, has been). Barnes & Noble has also responded favorably, slating the novel for promotion in its biggest stores. Winokur will do book signings in Los Angeles and New York.

www.MarathonTheBook.com

MARATHON

