

Film Festival Returns to Lamorinda Theatres

By Laurie Snyder



Lore will screen on Sunday November 11 at the New Rheem Theatre

Twitter has been buzzing for weeks regarding plans to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the California Independent Film Festival. This year's lineup includes programs for children, as well as another dazzling array of touching and thought-provoking films for adults.

The Festival begins November 8 with an opening night reception at The New Rheem Theatre from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. and the premiere of *One Small Hitch*. What will happen when Josh and Molly – friends since childhood pretend to be engaged to make a terminally ill father happy? Get a Festival pass and find out (see review on page B6).

A veteran of 13 film festivals, *Body Complete* will draw viewers into the danger and intrigue of a television journalist hunting for a woman who disappeared while trying to ensure a proper burial for her Muslim father, murdered during ethnic cleansing in Bosnia.

This year's CAIFF closer, *Lore* is a film already humming with Oscar buzz. It is the tale of a young woman who leads her siblings on a journey to their grandmother's home and hope for safety in 1945-era Germany. En route, they learn about life as they uncover what their Nazi parents have done to the world around them.

Slate Awards to Honor Connie Stevens and Dawn Wells

Connie Stevens, the 1960s head turner appearing in such films as *Eighteen and Anxious* with Jim

Backus and *Back to the Beach* with Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon, also kept fans glued to their television screens as Cricket Blake in *Hawaiian Eye*. A co-star with the biggest names in the entertainment industry, she also recorded memorable songs, headlined in Vegas, Atlantic City and New York, and performed for four American Presidents.

Touring with Bob Hope, she became a beloved favorite with active duty service members and veterans, and has become a champion for Native Americans across the United States through Windfeather, her project which awards scholarships and supports summer camp programs.

Stevens will receive CAIFF's Lifetime Achievement Award at 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 10. Fans will also want to be sure to catch her earlier in the day when she dishes about her life and work in her 3 p.m. "Actors Studio" format interview.

Dawn Wells, beloved by boomers for her role as Mary Ann on Gilligan's Island, will receive the 2012 Diamond Award that same evening for her outstanding contribution to the entertainment industry. An actress with more than 150 film, theatre, and television roles in her own right, Wells now heads her own production company, has a new book coming out in 2012 – *A Conversation Between Mary Ann and Dawn*, and also chairs the Terry Lee Wells Foundation which has awarded more than \$7 million in grants to organizations serving the underprivileged in Nevada.

Additional special events and

screenings will be held at the Orinda Theatre and at The New Rheem Theatre in Moraga from November 8 through 11. Check the CAIFF web site for profiles of each film and event, as well as times and venues: www.caiff.org.

Photo provided

Life in LAMORINDA

The New San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge

Orinda Chamber of Commerce Invites you to join us at Orinda Country Club



Nov. 2nd Luncheon 11:30 to 1:30pm Guest Speaker: Amer Bata, California Dept. of Transportation Supervising Bridge Engineer

Cost: \$30

RSVP by Noon Nov 1st 254.3909 or purchase luncheon tickets on line at www.orindachamber.org

trick or treat

Costumed children are invited to Trick or Treat the businesses of Rheem Valley on Halloween, October 31st from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Free* Trick or Treat Bags & Halloween Candy from participating businesses.

rheemvalley.net

Rheem Valley Shopping Center
...a Moraga tradition

Sponsored by Rheem Valley businesses. Children must be accompanied by an adult. *While supplies last. Rheem Blvd. at Moraga Rd. in Moraga

CAIFF Founder to be Honored with the Golden Halo Award

Submitted by Stephanie Kusinski



Derek Zemrak Photo provided

Derek Zemrak, founder and president of the California Independent Film Festival Association (CAIFFA) and owner operator of the Rheem and Orinda Theatres will be honored on October 31 at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga with the Golden Halo Award from the Southern California Motion Picture Council (SCMPC).

SCMPC, a non-profit organization founded in 1936, promotes civic-minded, educational and cultural programs of exceptional merit and presents awards for the best in movies, television, stage plays and the performing arts. The Golden Halo is the SCMPC's highest award. A partial list of past acting honorees includes Bette Davis, James Stewart, Grace

Kelly, Robert Mitchum, Doris Day and Charlton Heston, 2011 recipients were Mickey Rooney and Carol Channing.

The committee voted Zemrak as this year's honoree for his passion to save the beautiful art deco theatres at Rheem and Orinda, his contribution to independent filmmakers by giving them a venue to screen their films for over 15 years, and his production of independent films.

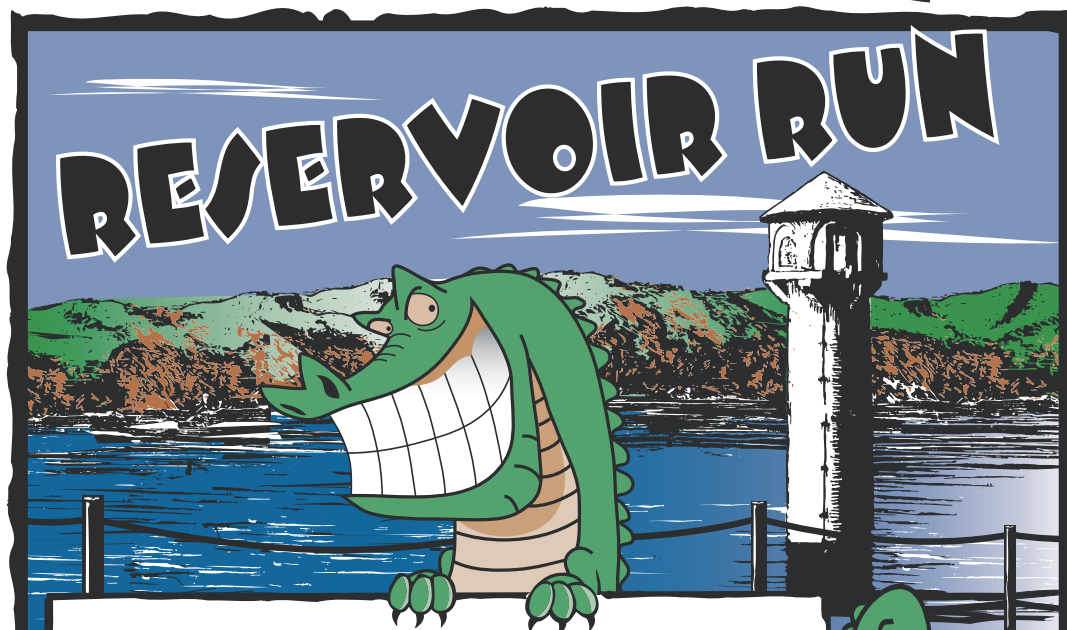
The evening will begin at 8 p.m. at the Rheem Theatre with a wine and food reception in the lobby, followed by a video tribute presentation to Zemrak. The Golden Halo Award will be presented to Zemrak by Hollywood legend and Oscar winner Margaret O'Brien who nominated Zemrak after meeting him at last year's 14th Annual California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF). She was moved by the CAIFF organization, and credited Zemrak for the kindness and passion of the people.

The West Coast Premiere of *Frankenstein Rising* starring O'Brien, Jerry Maren, the lollipop kid from *The Wizard of Oz*, Anita Page, the last great silent film actress in her final role and film star, and Randal Malone as Frankenstein will begin at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and all proceeds will be donated to the Lamorinda Theatre Foundation Digital Fund.

20th Annual

October 28, 2012

LAFAYETTE



RESERVOIR RUN

Sunday, October 28, 2012

8am Downtown Lafayette
Parking available at BART

2 Mile Run/Walk (8am)
5K (8:30am) • 10K (8:45am)

To register, go to www.active.com or www.lafayettechamber.org, or call the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce at 925-284-7404

This event supports local education

