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MOVIE REVIEW

**One Small Hitch**

By Derek Zemrak



Photo provided

The 15th Annual California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) will kick off Thursday, November 8 with a VIP reception at 5:30 p.m. at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga. The CAIFF attendees will have a choice of feature films including the romantic comedy *One Small Hitch*.

CAIFF alumni, John Burgess, who previously directed the award winning short film *The Powder Puff Principle* directed *One Small Hitch*. This is Burgess' first feature film, which is a very funny comedy about a young man, Josh (Shane McRae, *Four Kings*) who returns home to Chicago to fake his engagement to please his dying Jewish father, Daniel J. Travanti (*Hill Street Blues*). The only problem arises because the plan was not thought out too well. The fake fiancée, played by Aubrey Dollar (*Women's Murder Club*, *Point Pleasant*) is Catholic. Plus Josh never imagined he would run into his old fling Giselle (Heidi Johanningmeir). What is a poor, young, single stud to do?

Everyone will enjoy the comedic timing of the cast in *One Small Hitch*, which received four California Independent Film Festival Slate Award Nominations, including Best Comedy, Best Actor (Shane McRae), Best Actress (Aubrey Dollar), and Best Music.

Under the direction of the new CAIFF Program Director, Joanne Foy, the 15th Annual festival has many choices, starting with Opening Night. The films start with the hilarious short film *The Procession* starring Lily Tomlin and Jesse Tyler Ferguson (*Modern Family*) that will be a definite audience pleaser.

If you want an entertaining night of laughter see *The Procession* and *One Small Hitch* at the California Independent Festival Opening Night.

Tickets are now on sale at [www.caiff.org](http://www.caiff.org).

Derek Zemrak is a Film Critic, Film Producer and Founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zemrak for the latest Hollywood news.

**It's So Cute It's Scary!**

Submitted by Roslynn Stenzel



Photo Roslynn Stenzel

Lafayette Elementary School moms and students gather at the pumpkin patch getting ready for Westival, a fall family carnival tradition of over 50 years, which was held Saturday, October 13. Bottom row, from left:

Patrick Warburton, Grace Guthrie, Ellie Guthrie, Quinn Guthrie, Grant Gebhardt, Ella Easley, Will Berrien, Ryan Mandell and Colin Stenzel. Back row: Molly Guthrie, Lora Easley, Rene Trujillo and Sandy Berrien.

TEEN SCENE

**Teens Reflect on Elections**

By Caie Kelley

The past few months have been filled with discussions about our presidential candidates. Though most teens can't vote, deciding what party best fits our values is important because many of us will be voting in the next election. Political reform will affect us more as we begin to apply for college and transition to adulthood, and the next President's policies are important for teenagers as much as it is for our parents. So as we each work to establish our own political orientations, what do the teens in Lamorinda think about the election?

Between cramming for the SAT and after-school sports, a couple high school students voiced their opinions on politics. "More than anything else, I feel as though the election is more about hatred and opposing the party in power than actual policy," explained high school junior Simone Britto. "There have been so many commercials openly bashing every candidate. By using religion as a motivation for a public policy, the true meaning of an election is lost. Maybe I'm misinterpreting history, but our Founding Fathers were secular individuals, and representing the wishes of the American people shouldn't be so much about hating

the other side."

Another Lamorinda student agreed that presidents should focus less on religion and general philosophical statements and more on exact plans for reform. She said, "The issues I care most about are ones that will affect me as a student. I hope the government will continue to fund federal grants, student loans, and education in general."

It will still be a couple of years before most of us register to vote. As the new administration moves forward, let's hope they pay attention to teens' views, too.

A junior at Miramonte High School, Caie Kelley is co-host of *Express Yourself!*™ and Secretary of Club BSYA. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, piano, and volunteering.



Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, [Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com](mailto:Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com).

The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.