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PREMIERE

Hollywood Stars Warm Chilly Fall Day at 15th Annual California Independent Film Festival

By Laurie Snyder



Film icon Connie Stevens positively sparkled at the 15th Annual California Independent Film Festival. Photos Ohlen Alexander

Orinda theatres recently, but they warmed quickly as they basked in the glow of Hollywood screen legends, Connie Stevens and Dawn Wells, at special California Independent Film Festival events Nov. 10.

Baby boomers and a new generation of fans enjoyed a conversation with Wells Saturday morning at the Rheem Theatre, then a select group of 25 movie lovers dined and dished with the two stars at Michael's Ristorante in Moraga. Afterward, back at the theatre, the thermometer climbed when Stevens relived her steamy kiss with heartthrob, Troy Donahue, in the 1961 film *Parrish*. Noting that Donahue was "the hottest thing in the world at that time," Stevens then let fans in on a secret: "We worked together so many times that we were like brother and sister." They remained devoted friends throughout their lives. Stevens also recalled times with America's first and best moon walker, Neil Armstrong, and comedy giants, George Burns, Bob Hope, and Jerry Lewis. "I got to work with two of my own idols – Eve Arden and Sid Caesar" in the 1982 sequel to *Grease*, she said. Stevens' two newest projects as a director-producer-screen-

writer, are *Prairie Bones* and *Saving Grace B. Jones* (coming this December).

Later that same evening, Stevens and Wells received CAIFF awards honoring their achievements in film and television. To find out how you can become involved in the excitement next year, visit www.caiff.org.



No longer in the shadow of the professor on Gilligan's Island as Maryann, author-actress-film company executive Dawn Wells shares a moment with CAIFF founder, Derek Zemrak, before receiving her SLATE Award.

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Top Three from Iron Filmmaker Contest



Photo Thomas Pappas

After an exhausting 24 hours to complete their three-minute films for the Iron Filmmaker Contest, one of the components of the California Independent Film Festival, teams gathered to watch everyone's finished products at the Rheem Theatre. An amazing range of unique films came from the secret ingredient concept "Trick-or-Treat."

"Congratulations to everyone," said organizer Adam Reeves, explaining 24 teams set out with cameras and imagination, only 22 returned to submit their films. And the top three teams are:

First place – "L.I.F.E."
Second Place – "Done in 23"
Third Place – "i.t.t.y.w.y.b.u.d."
 C. Tyson

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