

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

**Creative Writing Workshop series at Orinda Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** on Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, and Nov. 7 and 14 in Library Gallery Room. This 6-week series led by author and writing instructor, Jessica Barksdale In-clan, is free and open to the public. Preregistration required by visiting cc-lib.org or register at the Orinda Library information desk, (925) 254-2184

**Healthcare Reform discussion presented by: James A. Holt, RHU, REBC.** Free information seminars at the Lafayette Library in October. Topics include: What is Covered California? Grandfathered vs. Non-grandfathered plans; Tax Credits – Individual and Small Business; Changes Starting Jan. 1, 2014; and How Will My Health Plan Be Affected? from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3 and from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 4 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For reservations, call (925) 280-8700.

**Olive Festival for the historic Olive Grove from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6** at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, 350 Camino Pablo and Bear Creek Road (next to Wagner Ranch Elementary) in Orinda. Bring the family for arts, crafts, and games, taste olives and a variety of olive oils and see local chefs demonstrating olive recipes. For more info, visit www.fwrna.org.

**Blessing of the Animals: Celebrating the Feast of Saint Francis** at 11 a.m. after the service in the Saint Mary's College Chapel Plaza on Sunday, Oct. 6. Bring your hamsters, gerbils, dogs, cats, birds, fish, ferrets, lizards, rabbits, horses, and ANY other animal friend for a special Saint Fran-

cis Day blessing hosted by Saint Giles' Episcopal Church, worshipping in Saint Mary's College Chapel, 1928 Saint Mary's Road Moraga. www.stgiles-moraga.org.

**Serbian Food Festival will feature authentic Serbian cuisine** and pastries from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, with a special feature of barbecued ox, music and dancing at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. For info, call (925) 376-6850.

**Join the Oktoberfest celebration from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13** at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. An "oompah" band and authentic German food and beverages will liven up the action at this fundraiser for the Hacienda Foundation. There will be pumpkin painting and games for children. Cost: \$5 per adult; children 12 and under free. Free parking and shuttle from AAAAA Storage on Moraga Road. For info, contact Claire Roth at (925) 376-1686.

**Performers for Progress: BuildOn. Miramonte High School's** fall show at 7 p.m. Oct. 17-18 will benefit BuildOn, an organization aimed at enhancing education and empowering youth in the U.S. to make a positive difference in their communities, while helping people in developing countries increase their self reliance through education. BuildOn is breaking the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and low expectations through service and education.

**Screening of "Speaking in Tongues," an award-winning film** about bilingual education follows four diverse kids on a journey to become bilingual will be shown at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17 at the New Rheem Theatre, Moraga. This charming story

will challenge you to rethink the skills that Americans need to succeed in the 21st century. Panel discussion to follow the film. Tickets: \$12 in advance at www.casabilingue.org/events; \$15 at door, space permitting. Event sponsored by Casa Bilingüe Spanish Immersion School. Questions? Email info@casabilingue.org.

GARDEN


**The Walnut Creek Garden Club (WCGC) will hold its** October general meeting at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 14 at The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Rd., Walnut Creek. The program will be presented by Leslie Bennett and Stephani Bitner, owners of Star Apple: Edible and Fine Gardening, who create aesthetically-designed organic edible gardens, and authors of "The Beautiful Edible Garden" www.starappleediblegardens.com. The meeting is open to the public. Guests and those interested in membership are welcome.



**The Orinda Garden Club invites you to enjoy "A Feast from the Forests & Fields,"** featuring Kevin Feinstein, author, teacher and foraging expert at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 in the Orinda Library Auditorium. Kevin's presentation will focus on Contra Cost County. Coffee will be served at 10 a.m. prior to the program.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorinda weekly.com

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MOVIE REVIEW

**"Prisoners"**

By Derek Zemrak



From left, Hugh Jackman as Keller Dover and Paul Dano as Alex Jones in Alcon Entertainment's dramatic thriller "Prisoners," a Warner Bros. Pictures release. Photo provided

**C**ompelling, terrifying, riveting and a parent's worst nightmare best describes this chilling new thriller from French Canadian director Denis Villeneuve. "Prisoners" was the "talk about film" at both the recent Telluride Film Festival and Toronto International Film Festival. Villeneuve may not be a household name yet but his previous film, "Incendies," was nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 2011. In 2009 the California Independent Film Festival showed his short film, "Next Floor," which won the Best Short Film.

"Next Floor" will be shown at the CAIFF preview night at 7 p.m. Oct. 15 at the Rheem Theatre to showcase the quality of films that will be featured at the festival in November. Kudos to CAIFF Alumni!

After "Prisoners," Villeneuve will be a worldwide household name as a director. He brings out the best in the stellar cast that includes Oscar nominee Hugh Jackman ("Les Miserables") as Keller Dover, a working class dad in rural Pennsylvania whose daughter and her best friend have gone missing. Dover takes matters into his own hands when the only suspect, Alex Jones, played the talented young actor Paul Dano ("Little Miss Sunshine") is released after 48 hours by local Detective Loki, portrayed by Oscar nominee Jake Gyllenhaal ("Brokeback Mountain").

Jackman delivers the performance of his life. You feel all the emotions a parent would go through if their child was suddenly snatched away. You empathize with Dover and then turn

against him, but he reels you back in.

"Prisoners" is not like "Taken," for Dover is not a trained CIA specialist but a common working class man who will do anything for his family. This is not a Hollywood knock-off of "Taken." Villeneuve delivers a very different film that will keep you on the edge of your seat right from the beginning, setting the tone by filming the entire movie with no sunshine, just typical East Coast winter gloom.

The supporting cast includes two-time Oscar nominee Viola Davis ("The Help," "Doubt"), two-time Golden Globe nominee Maria Bello ("A History of Violence," "The Cooler"), Oscar nominee Terrence Howard ("Hustle & Flow") and Oscar winner Melissa Leo ("The Fighter").

Get ready for "Prisoners." It is a movie that takes you into a heartbreaking situation that addresses the emotions of each individual from the parents to the supporters and outward through the entire small town. The twists and turns will keep you mesmerized for the entire 2 hours 19 minutes. Do not give away the ending when talking about this film.

"Prisoners" is rated R for extreme violence, torture scenes and strong language throughout the movie. This is not a film for the young ones.

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. Derek can be heard every Friday on KAH1 950AM on the Pop-poff Show.

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