

Film Clips

Helen Hunt to be honored at the 20th Annual California Independent Film Festival

By Derek Zemrak

MOVIE REVIEW



Helen Hunt Photo provided

The California Independent Film Festival will be celebrating its 20th year Sept. 7 – 13 at the Rheem and Orinda Theatres. Oscar Recipient, four-time Golden Globe winner and four-time Emmy recipient, Helen Hunt, will be the honored guest and will receive the 2017 Diamond Award, given each year to a woman for her contribution to the entertainment industry.

A VIP reception for Hunt will be held at Cine Cuvée Wine Bar and Café at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10. The VIP reception is limited to 25 attendees. “A Conversation with Helen Hunt” will follow the reception at 6:30 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre.

Hunt, an Academy Award-winning actress, has become an accomplished filmmaker as well. She wrote, directed, produced and stars in two films: “Ride” and “Then She Found Me,” which garnered critical acclaim, financial success, and won the Palm Springs Film Festival’s Audience Award. It stars Hunt along with Colin Firth, Matthew Broderick and Bette Midler.

As an actress, Hunt’s extensive and diverse body of work includes roles in film, theater and television. In 2011, she completed two independent film projects – Steven Bernstein’s “Decoding Annie Parker” with Samantha Morton, and Ben Lewin’s “The Sessions” opposite John Hawkes and William H. Macy. “The Sessions” premiered in competition at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival and took home the Audience Award, the jury prize for Best Ensemble. Hunt also received a Supporting Actress Oscar nomination and won the Independent Spirit Award for her performance.

Other film credits include: “Soul Surfer,” “Every Day,” “Bobby,” “As Good As It Gets,” “What Women Want,” “Castaway,” “Good Woman,” “The Curse of the Jade Scorpion,” “Dr. T & the Women,” “Pay It Forward” and “Twister.” Early career film credits include: “The Waterdance,” “Kiss of Death,” “Mr. Saturday Night,” “Peggy Sue Got Married,” “Next of Kin,” “Girls Just Want to Have Fun,” “Project X” and “Miles from Home.”

Some of Hunt’s recent TV work includes “Mad About You” and the critically acclaimed HBO Miniseries “Empire Falls.” For her role as Jamie Buchman in “Mad About You,” Hunt garnered four Emmy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards (three as lead actress and one as Producer for Best Comedy), and a Screen Actors Guild Award. She was also named Best Actress for her role in the film “As Good As It Gets” for which Hunt won a Golden Globe Award, a Screen Actors Guild Award, and an Oscar.

She has also directed television episodes of ABC’s “Revenge,” “Mad About You,” “The Paul Reiser Show,” Showtime’s “Californication” and FX Network “Feud.”

Hunt is equally accomplished as a stage actress who recently reprised the role of ‘Stage Manager’ in David Cromer’s latest production of “Our Town” at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica January and February, 2015. Hunt first played the role of ‘Stage Manager’ in the 2010 New York production of “Our Town” at the Barrow Street Theater. Additional theater credits include “Twelfth Night (Viola)” at Lincoln Center and Life Xs Three at Circle in the Square Theater. Other theater credits are “Taming of the Shrew” at NYSF-Shakespeare in the Park, “Been Taken” at EST, “Much Ado About Nothing (Beatrice)” at the Shakespeare Center L.A., “Methusalem” with the Actor’s Gang, “The Value of Names” at the Skylight Theatre; and “Love Letters” in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Boston.

A Los Angeles native, Hunt grew up in an artistic environment. Her father, Gordon Hunt, is a director and respected acting coach. Hunt currently lives in Los Angeles with her partner, Matthew Carnahan, her daughter Makena Lei and her stepson Emmett.

The California Independent Film Festival is seeking sponsorship for the Helen Hunt event in Orinda. For more information, email derek@caiff.org.

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925-258-4200

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We offer both a relaxed atmosphere and a sports bar, something for families, couples, students and seniors. On the menu you'll see many of Roman Italian specialties, from the classic bruschetta made with melted fontina cheese and sautéed mushrooms to mista and arugula salads, an array of wood-fired pizzas and paninis, and no shortage of primis and seconds. The restaurant has full bar and a generous wine list.

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Service Clubs Announcements

LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary
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We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

July 28	August 4
Our newly installed President, Walter Nelson, will give you a peek through the window of his life with some entertaining stories.	Learn about Camp Venture from the firsthand experience of, Ross Ney, a graduate of the program.

Whoever would have thought the 2017 June/July AARP edition would feature "older buyers trying to simplify travel desires" by scaling back to "head-turning" Teardrop Trailers? We did!

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

SENIORS

The ninth annual Senior Symposium, “Aging By Design,” is from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 5 at Lafayette Elementary School, 950 Moraga Road, Lafayette. Presentations by local aging experts. Free. Register online: www.lafayettecf.org or

call (925) 284-8214. (See story page A3.)

Free Peer Counseling: Contra Costa Health Services offers free one-to-one counseling with trained senior counselors who use their life experiences to help other older adults (55-plus) cope with life changes, problems, crises, and challenges. 10 a.m. to

noon second Tuesday monthly. Confidentiality is strictly observed. Appointment required. Please call Lafayette Senior Services to sign up for one of the 60-minute appointments: 284-5050. Check in at Lafayette Community Center front office.

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Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA
26,600 printed copies, delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

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Free concerts to rock Lamorinda this summer

Moraga
Thursday evenings at the Commons are for relaxing with friends and enjoying the bands. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. The volunteers of MPF will cook dinner for you with the Snack Bar opening at 6 p.m.

- July 27 Mixed Nuts - Jazz, soul, blues and rock
- Aug. 3 House Rockers - Rock and soul
- Aug. 10 Apple Z - Rock and roll
- Aug. 17 Fundamentals - Red-hot rockin' soul

The County Food Bank will have collection bins near parking lots each Thursday. Concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.

Orinda
It's time to sit back and unwind at the free summer concerts at the park series on Tuesday nights.

- Aug. 1, JetBlacq — Jazz
Food Truck: Rebel Dog Hotdogs
- Aug. 8, West Grand Blvd — Motown
Food Truck: An the Go (Asian Fusion)
- Aug. 15, Big Band Jazz
Food Truck: Kenny's Heart & Soul (Soul Food)

The concerts run 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Also coming up in Orinda this summer:
The Orinda Village Starlight Players have three plays at the Orinda Community Park this summer:
Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of L. Frank Baum's "The Wizard of Oz" runs July 21 through Aug. 12
Robert Merrill's "Five-Door Farce," Sept. 1 through Sept. 30