

Acclaimed film ‘Never Look Away’ showing at Orinda and Rheem



By Sophie Braccini

The movie being shown as part of the International Film Showcase this month is certainly one of the best of the year – one to remember, one to savor, like a work of art. “Never Look Away” is a historical saga developing over a large part of the 20th century, rich in emotions, reflections, metaphors. The film can be cruel; it shows humanity at its worst and its best. It is a story of courage, of memories and is a tribute to the power of art that can transcend lies and reach the core of the human heart. It was inspired by actual stories.

A 2018 German film by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, who won the 2006 Oscar with “The Lives of Others,” “Never Look Away” was nominated for a Golden Globe and for two Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Language Film and Best Cinematography categories. It is a drama where one of the central characters is an incarnation of rational evil that collides with a wonderfully powerful love story. Von Donnersmarck does not hesitate to humorously describe the world of art either, whether it is formulated by a communist party or led by the extravagance of the avant-garde.

The film starts in 1931 Germany and follows two families during 30 of the most turbulent years in Europe. Dresden, where the movie is first situated, is a rather prosperous German

city that readily succumbs to the fascination of the Third Reich, is turned into rubble at the end of the Second World War, before being stifled by the communist ideology that reigned over East Germany. Some prosper and skillfully ride the waves of the different dictatorships, while others get crushed.

At the center of this all, an artist tries to stay true to the sacred nature of life and find his inner truth. His struggle is painful at times, he stumbles, gives in, tries again – led by a powerful flame inside him that was lit by a young aunt who opened him to the world of art as a child. Swirling and colliding within him is the dark figure of evil that he must leave behind. The two feminine figures of the movie have the same name, Elisabeth – the fullness of God – symbolizing the redemption of man.

The film is three hours long, but that should not be a deterrent; at no time does the spectator feel bored or tired. That pace is needed to unravel the story and participate in the development of the characters.

The actors chosen by Henckel von Donnersmarck are beautiful and archetypal; they add to the beauty of the film, from a purely esthetic perspective, and all give excellent performances.

“Never Look Away” will show at the Orinda Theatre through May 16, followed by a one-week showing at the Rheem Theatre starting May 17.

Info: lamorindatheatres.com

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Executive Speaker Series: “Using Business as a Force of Good” 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15, Soda Activity Center, Claeys Lounge, 1928 Saint Mary’s Road, Moraga. Brian Durkee, President of Numi Organic Tea is on a mission to make Numi a worldwide leader in sustainable supply chain management. Durkee will explain how businesses can focus on human rights and climate change and still maintain a positive bottom line. Register at <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/executive-speaker-series>.

The Moraga Historical Society is proud to present The Return of Slip Madigan and Dave Newhouse at 7:30 p.m. on May 23 in the Moraga Library Meeting Room. Newhouse, the former Oakland Tribune sportswriter, recently published a book about Slip Madigan, Saint Mary’s all-time greatest football coach. Copies of the book will be for sale. Come early for free coffee and cookies plus great conversation.

Join the Saint Mary’s College Museum of Art for “Things Known”, Poets Respond | Public Poetry Reading from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 18. Reading will feature Bay Area poetry group, Fresh Ink, followed by an open mic of poems written in response to the Foad Satterfield: Things Known exhibition. For more information see www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum or call (925) 631-4379.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Mindful Littles presents “Care for Therapy Horses” from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on May 19 at Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center, 60 Don Gabriel Way, Orinda. Feed, groom, and play with horses. Clean stalls and paddocks, and create horse-themed arts and crafts. Bring water and any snacks needed for your kids. Please also wear comfortable clothes. \$10 per person. Register at: https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDg2MjE=

OTHER

Classic Car gatherings will begin again from 7 to 9 p.m. this Sunday and every Sunday at Perks Double Drive Thru Cafe in Lafayette. Located between the new Library and Boswells Party store. Participants get coffee and

donuts. No fees or costs, stop by enjoy and then begin the rest of your day! Meet new fun folks! The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center is joining with the Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute, Veterans for Peace, the American Federation of Government Employees and American Legion Post 31, to present an event on the current state of healthcare for veterans. This event takes place at 7 p.m., with a reception at 6 p.m. on May 16 at the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Cost: \$10 pre-registered; \$15 at door; \$5 MT. Diablo Peace and Justice Center and Our Savior Lutheran Church members; free for students and veterans. Tickets available at <http://ourpeacecenter.org> or call the office (925) 933-7850.

John Muir National Historic Site (John Muir NHS) will launch its second annual series of Stewardship Saturdays. Join the National Park Service for these free, Ranger-led land stewardship programs at the Martinez, California site. The programs begin at 9 a.m. at the Strentzel Creek meadow area of Mt. Wanda. This area recently came under NPS management and is currently only open to visitation with an NPS chaperone. The stewardship project will entail removing invasive plant species from the sensitive creek and surrounding meadow. All training and tools required for this project will be provided. The three 2019 Stewardship Saturday events will be on May 18. Find more information and register at: <https://jomu.eventbrite.com/>.

Parkinson’s Disease and You at 7 p.m. on May 21 with Brianna Munson, PT, DPT, Physical Therapist at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110 in Lafayette. This is a free event, but space is limited, so please sign up at lafayettept.com/events or call (925) 284-6150.

Breast Cancer Seminar from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on May 22 at the Lafayette Library. Join breast cancer specialists from the Women’s Cancer Center of the East Bay for an update on cutting-edge breast cancer treatments and surgical techniques. The physicians recently attended national oncology and surgery symposiums and will discuss the latest advances presented from research, clinical

trials and new FDA drug approvals. Please register by calling (925) 677-5041 x272 or email sjung@dvoahmg.com.

The Art of Leadership: Creative Ways to Fuel Growth: an evening of talks for entrepreneurs, founders, and organization leaders from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on May 22 at JPG@The Bank, a pop-up art gallery/event space at 3525 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Six speakers, each a leader in their respective field, will present unusual, inventive ways to grow your endeavor. Tickets are \$25 and are available at <https://artofleadershipnight.eventbrite.com>.

The North Orinda Fuel Break is one of the highest priority projects in California. Lamorida Village is sponsoring a presentation at 1 p.m. on May 31 at LOPC. Jerry Kent, longtime EBRPD official, will talk about the history of East Bay Regional Parks and the wildfires that have come through, and Dennis Rein of MOFD will be presenting fire break plans. Local law enforcement will be present to discuss evacuation plans, and our Community Warning System will be represented as well. www.lamorindavillage.org.

SENIORS

Contra Costa Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) will present “What Everyone Needs to Know About Medicare Regardless of Your Age” from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on May 20 at the Lafayette Library. As you get closer to 65 it’s important to understand your options for getting Medicare coverage and completing enrollment in a timely manner to avoid costly mistakes. This talk is also useful for those who already have Medicare, or are helping someone who does, to ensure that you have optimal coverage and don’t overlook opportunities to save money. HICAP offers free, impartial information about Medicare and related coverage and doesn’t sell or endorse any products. For more information about HICAP, visit www.cchicap.org. Contact the Lafayette Library to register for the program.

GARDEN

The Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center presents Saving Water in Your Landscape by Contra Costa

County Master Gardener Roxy Wolosenko from noon to 1:30 p.m. on June 1. CCMG’s Roxy Wolosenko will expertly guide the audience through a variety of practices that can help homeowners conserve water in their landscape. Learn about irriga-

tion methods, plant selection and placement, water gardening and rainwater harvesting. Participants will also receive hands-on practice using irrigation components. Register online at www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org. The event is free.

Please submit:
Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Service Clubs Announcements

Lafayette Rotary Club

Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.
Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

May 16: Rotary Fundraising Comm. Gala update/info	May 23: Dave Baker-Life in oil industry/construction
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www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA

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