

# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## 10th Annual Art of Mixology: sip and taste at Theatre Square



Getting a sample at last years event

Photo Jeff Heyman

The Art of Mixology – the Lamorinda Arts Council’s biggest fundraiser of the year – will return to Theatre Square on

Saturday, Oct. 14. Tickets, available in advance and at the door if any remain, will entitle visitors to sample small bites

prepared by local restaurants and the craft cocktails that will be concocted by the more than 15 bartenders vying for cash

prices and trophies. Ticket holders will also receive a souvenir shot glass.

The event includes both professional and amateur bartenders creating craft cocktails as the audience and judges sample and vote for their favorites. The event will run from 4:30 to 7 p.m., and the prizes will be awarded live at the conclusion of the event.

Tickets are \$75 with limited tickets available for purchase at the door. Patron level tickets will also be offered at \$125, which includes a \$50 tax

deductible donation to the Lamorinda Arts Council.

Participating bartenders could win one or more of the following awards: Mixologist of the Year, first place, trophy and \$500; second place, certificate and \$300; third place, certificate and \$150. In addition, there will be an audience award, bringing a trophy and \$200, an amateur home-crafted cocktail award, that comes with a trophy and \$100 and an art of table staging trophy.

—S. O’Doherty

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## ‘In the Heart of the Machine,’ a Bulgarian thriller in Orinda

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

August 1978, in a steel factory in communist Bulgaria, inmates from a high security prison go about a difficult but typical work day when they discover a bird stuck in a piece of machinery. From this strange situation, the dynamic of the group begins to spiral more and more dangerously, especially for the prisoners.

“In the Heart of the Machine” (V sŭrtseto na mashinata) by Martin Makariev is a very well-told story of men placed in an impossible situation, where nothing is black or white, but who nonetheless embark on an almost sacred quest for redemption.

Practically the whole movie develops in real time. Little by little, the reality surfaces about who these men really are: the prisoners, their crimes, real or not; the wardens more or less decent; and the military that represent the Bulgarian order of the time in all its brutality.

There is a hostage situation, there are really bad people on both sides of the equation, and really decent ones too. The atmosphere is dark, the colors in grey shades, and it is clear from the start that

this cannot end well.

The opposition between the prison administration and the military force sent to end the crisis at any cost, illuminates the political atmosphere of the time. The story of the bird, that the prisoners want so desperately to free, is hardly believable but symbolically perfect. It is their ticket to salvation; saving the bird is like saving their soul.

The actors on both sides give very convincing performances, and make this parable about what it is that makes us human convincing and very touching.

“In the Heart of the Machine” opens in Orinda on Oct. 20 for at least one week. It is brought to Orinda by the nonprofit The International Film Showcase. Tickets at www.orindamovies.com

**The California Independent Film Festival** will be held Nov. 9 -16 at the Orinda Theatre. The festival will feature about 29 films from 14 countries and at least nine directors will offer Q&A sessions following the screening of their films. For more information and tickets go to caiff.org or visit The Orinda Theatre Box Office.



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS:

### WALKING THE TIGHTROPE OF AGING & ELDERCARE

Saturday, October 21, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church

49 Knox Drive, Lafayette

Learn how to prepare for your older years or to be a family caregiver, gain legal awareness, learn about entitlements/benefits, and get support and answers to your questions and concerns.

This is a free event for our community. All are welcome, but space is limited and registration is required at [lopc.org/registrations](http://lopc.org/registrations).



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