

LA Harbor International Film Festival

P.O. Box 5202 - San Pedro, CA 90733

Telephone: (310) 519-0756 ~ www.laharborfilmfest.com

To create a cinematic bridge between the people of the region and the people of the world

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Contact: Stephanie Mardesich, Festival Director
(310) 519-0756 or stephaniemardesich@yahoo.com

It's A Wrap! For 10th Voyage of the LA Harbor International Film Festival™ **Warner Grand Theatre – historic downtown San Pedro – Port of Los Angeles** **11th LAHIFF set for March 27-30, 2014**

May 17, 2013 - San Pedro, CA. The Port of Los Angeles - the 10th annual LA Harbor International Film Festival (LAHIFF) held May 2-5 at the vintage art deco Warner Grand Theatre (WGT) in historic downtown San Pedro (SP) concluded with the Veterans of the Foreign Wars, Wilmington Post # 2967, presenting the colors at the final program screening documentary feature *Brothers On The Line* (about the founding of the United Auto Workers) on DocSunday May 5. The audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by local vocalist Albert Alcala leading a chorus of “God Bless America” by Irving Berlin.

“The closing ceremony has become a tradition and we are proud to honor veterans and those currently serving in the military for their service to the U.S.A.,” stated Stephanie Mardesich, festival Director.

The LAHIFF opened May 2 with the “Read the Book, See the Movie” (RBSM) Culmination Program and bagpiper David Ibbotson in front of the WGT welcoming hundreds of students who read Mark Twain’s The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn then enjoyed the Walt Disney Pictures version of the great American classic novel *The Adventures of Huck Finn* (1993). A lively discussion of the book and movie followed that touched on themes of the novel including loyalty, friendship, and the anti-slavery message; and on a contemporary note civil rights and gun control. “Thanks to our generous publishing sponsor Penguin we have been able to distribute thousands of books to students who are truly enjoying classic literature and will be reading far into the future,” commented Mardesich.

Opening night May 3 the LAHIFF a sponsor of the The Big Read L.A. (TBRLA) presented by the National Endowment of the Arts and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA).

“ On behalf of the Cultural Affairs Commission and the staff of the DCA we commend LAHIFF for putting together such a terrific line-up of films to share with your audience,” stated Olga Garay-English, DCA Executive Director, in a testimonial in the souvenir program. “We are especially grateful for participation again in DCA’s Big Read Program in Los Angeles by hosting the free screening of *Chased By the Dogs*, the 1962 film adaptation of The Thief and the Dogs by Nobel Laureate Naguib Mafouz.”

The second evening Berlin’s musical for the movies *There’s No Business Like Show Business* (20th Century Fox, 1953) starring Ethel Merman, Dan Daily, Donald O’Connor, Marilyn Monroe and Mitzi Gaynor, was the Hollywood Nostalgia Tribute (HNT), homage to true talent of classic filmmaking and real movie stars of yore, preceded by the “Show Biz Red Carpet Gala” at The Arcade Building. Film is a great American saga that tells the story of the Donohue family of vaudeville and Broadway entertainers spanning from 1919 through WW II.

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Over the past decade the HNT has honored major films and talent including Gaynor and co-stars (the late) John Kerr and France Nuyen (*South Pacific*); George Chakiris and Russ Tamblyn (*West Side Story*); and Nancy Kwan star of the film and author C.Y. Lee (*Flower Drum Song*) among many others. This year Gaynor was again honored.

Closing day DocSunday began with the *NewFlmmakers L.A. "On Location Program" Showcase of Short Films* including 22 films (one to four minutes) that were winners of the competition sponsored by the Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board and LA Weekly. The movies reveal personal views of the City of Los Angeles, though an insider perspective into the diverse, cosmopolitan city and its neighborhoods.

A unique addition to this year’s programming was an original short film *The Aesthetic Spirit of San Pedro* directed by Johnnie C. Jenkins, Jr., a student in the Media Arts Department of Marymount California University, produced specifically for and in association with LAHIFF that ran at the top of each program. The film commemorates the LAHIFF decade anniversary in connection with the culture and business of SP and the harbor.

The LAHIFF, a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 2003, is a non-juried, non-competitive film festival that aims to entertain, enlighten and educate the cinematic audience by showcasing film and video that reflects the harbor and all it embraces – shipping and commerce, fishing, sailing, water sports, sea life and the area’s rich ethnic and cultural influences; and to promote literacy and a more thoughtful way to view a film through the education outreach program “Read the Book, See the Movie” – *to create a cinematic bridge between the people of the region and the people of the world.* Additionally LAHIFF promotes the historic value of the WGT and further restoration of the theatre to attain the full glory of its 1931 origins.

“The LAHIFF depends on the fiscal and in-kind sponsorship that has been steadfast this past decade,” stated Mardesich. “Being a sponsor of the LAHIFF demonstrates a sense of community awareness and support of the essential mission. Partnerships between business and individuals in supporting cultural events is fundamental to perpetuate the humanity, creativity, and traits we value as citizens. Its significance can never be underestimated, and we are immensely grateful.”

Sponsorship levels and benefits vary depending on the designated level. A complete list of LAHIFF sponsors is attached.

As noted by Congresswoman Janice Hahn (44th District) the LAHIFF “has become a hallmark of the San Pedro and Harbor communities. In addition to bringing a unique blend of fine films to the iconic Warner Grand Theatre the festival furthers appreciation for art, culture and education in people of all ages.”

The 11th annual LAHIFF is on calendar for March 27-30, 2014 at the WGT. Programming will be announced later in the year or early next year. The website has this year’s complete schedule, current and historical photos, and more about LAHIFF at www.laharborfilmfest.com

For more information or queries contact festival director Stephanie Mardesich at 310/519-0756 or stephaniemardesich@yahoo.com

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