



SP film festival has wide focus

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Stephanie Mardesich, founder and coordinator of the Los Angeles Harbor International Film Festival, says she aims to "entertain, educate and enlighten" through a variety of films and events aimed to appeal to all ages. The event kicks off Thursday at San Pedro's Warner Grand Theatre. (Scott Varley/Staff Photographer)

» L.A. Harbor film fest

There's something for just about everyone at the fifth annual L.A. Harbor International Film Festival, which opens Thursday morning at the Warner Grand Theatre in San Pedro.

For kids (and adults, too): Disney's classic 1960 film version of "The Swiss Family Robinson," featuring live, on-stage appearances by director

Ken Annakin and one of the film's child stars, James MacArthur.

For nostalgia-inclined grown-ups: a dressy evening out featuring the 1964 Debbie Reynolds film "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" with a Hollywood-style red carpet reception.

And for those who like their films to deliver a social commentary punch: "The Eye of the Storm," a documentary chronicling the often difficult campaign for the longshore union's 2002 contract, followed by other worker rights-themed films with a panel discussion.

The four-day film festival runs Thursday through Sunday and is expected to draw some 3,000 people to the historic Warner Grand at 478 W. Sixth St.

That's up from about 700 people who attended the festival's first year, said founder Stephanie Mardesich of San Pedro, who did her graduate work in film at USC.

The festival opens at 10:30 a.m. Thursday with a "Read the Book, See the Movie" screening of "Swiss Family Robinson." About 900 students who have read the 1812 novel by Johann Wyss will

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