

LA Harbor International Film Festival

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LA Harbor International Film Festival Sets Sail April 27-29

Hollywood Nostalgia Tribute 1946 Oscar® Winner *The Harvey Girls*

Education Outreach “Read the Book, See the Movie” Disney’s *Treasure Island*

Opening Night Italian Theme *Uncle Nino* stars Joe Mantegna & Anne Archer

Documentary *The Lost Village of Terminal Island* Special Edition Premiere Closes Fest

Free Admission for U.S. Veterans & Those Currently Serving In Military

Maersk Lines On Board As “Contributing Sponsor”

Three Olives (ultra-premiere English Vodka) New “Elite Sponsor”

Councilwoman Janice Hahn Unveils Key Art at Seafarin’ Reception & Press Launch

“Midnight On The Cinematic Bridge” by Violet Parkhurst

March 8, 2007 - San Pedro (SP), CA., The Port of Los Angeles (POLA) -- Programming and sponsors were announced for the fourth annual LA Harbor International Film Festival (LAHIFF) at the Seafarin’ Reception and Press Launch, Thursday March 8 held at and hosted by Ports O’ Call Restaurant. Members of the media, sponsors, civic and business leaders were among guests at the invitation only event.

The three day LAHIFF, a non-competitive, non-juried festival with films selected by invitation or referral takes place April 27-29, at the Warner Grand Theatre (WGT), 478 W. 6th Street, in historic downtown San Pedro – The POLA.

Festival Director and Co-Founder Stephanie Mardesich announced that Maersk Lines has come on board as Contributing Sponsor. “Maersk Lines support is a huge boost to our effort to gain recognition among the shipping community with their huge presence in the Port of Los Angeles and worldwide,” stated Mardesich. “This sponsorship demonstrates an awareness and interest in the local culture and will lead the way for others to follow and support our mission to ‘create a cinematic bridge between the people of the region and the people of the world’ and within our own locale. Partnerships between business and individuals in supporting cultural events is fundamental to perpetuate the humanity, creativity, and traits we value as citizens, and its significance can never be underestimated.”

“There is movie that appeals to every sector of society and enjoying and celebrating the art of cinema in the atmosphere of one of the treasures of San Pedro, the Warner Grand Theatre, is part of our goal to educate, enlighten and entertain the audience of all ages and backgrounds.”

Key art “Midnight On The Cinematic Bridge” for the official LAHIFF poster, painted by the Violet Parkhurst was unveiled by Councilwoman for the 15th District Janice Hahn and artists Muriel Olguin and Tom Phillips (who created the key art previous years) to an immense ovation.

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“Violet Parkhurst, is a world renowned artist who is also a San Pedro local, and the perfect choice to create the image for this year’s festival poster,” said Councilwoman Hahn. “The painting is a great depiction of the Vincent Thomas Bridge, the gateway into the Harbor, and the poster will encourage and welcome visitors from all over the Los Angeles to our community for the film festival.”

Valued at \$6500, the painting with its mysterious aura as if it is the cinematic bridge to the island – Terminal Island or Treasure Island – will be up for “silent auction bid” and rotating display in the lobbies of the Crown Plaza LA Harbor Hotel, Harbor Department lobby, and Los Angeles Maritime Museum (LAMM) April 29. Proceeds from the sale go to LAHIFF a portion designated by Ms. Parkhurst to go to Animals Rule Placement Foundation, a favorite cause of the artist.

Fest’s opening night headliner April 27 at 7 p.m. is the POLA premiere of *Uncle Nino*, a heartwarming story about a native Italian going to America for the first time to meet his nephew and family, with a sense of hope and admiration for Abraham Lincoln, he finds disillusionment and resolution and ultimately brings his family together. Sponsors for the program are Councilwoman Hahn and the Grand Vision Foundation (GVF) supported by the Italian American Club of San Pedro, La Piazza Cultural Center, and the Sons of Italy Hollywood Lodge #2809. Film’s stars Joe Mantegna and Anne Archer are expected to attend the screening preceded by the “Mangia Italiano” reception at the GVF headquarters near the WGT, 434 W. 6th Street, from 5-6:30 p.m. Reception is \$35 including ticket to the movie; \$45 at the door if space permits. (See separate press release for more).

Saturday April 28 highlight is the Hollywood Nostalgia Tribute (HNT), *The Harvey Girls* (1946 Oscar® winning film for best song “The Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe” by Johnny Mercer and Harry Warren). Film’s stars Angela Lansbury and Cyd Charisse are invited to walk the Red Carpet along with the Harvey Girls contingency dressed in vintage attire, on stage at the WGT. Preceding the 7 p.m. screening at the WGT is the HNT “Railway Gala” at The Arcade Building directly across the street from the WGT. Sponsored in part by Star Fisheries and catered by Paradise Restaurant.

“*The Harvey Girls* is one of those great MGM musicals, with Judy Garland leading a stellar cast, and chosen because of the historical train theme and to compliment the POLA centennial ‘Clean Future Fair and Railway Festival’ that takes place April 21-26 on the San Pedro Promenade on the waterfront,” remarked Mardesich. “We hope people who are at the harbor viewing and boarding the trains, also go the Maritime Museum, stroll through the town, shop, dine, and check out the Warner Grand; and come back the next weekend for the film festival. The HNT and Gala is an important tribute to the best tradition of filmmaking. Part of the fun of film festivals are the events and parties surrounding the programming for the camaraderie and conversation that movies stimulate.”

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The Gala is also fund raising event at \$65 pre-paid before April 20th; and \$75 at the door if space permits. The menu includes appetizers, light supper and sweets inspired by the recipes from the Harvey House Restaurants. The “Club Car Bar” will be serving Three Olives Vodka Martinis, wine and champagne. “The exciting addition of ‘Three Olives’ as our ‘Elite Sponsor’ this year adds another outstanding brand of support for the Gala and the entire festival,” added Mardesich.

Daytime program on Saturday is an old-fashioned double feature pirate themed matinee beginning at noon with *Captain Blood* (Warner Brothers; 1935, and starring Errol Flynn and Olivia DeHavilland). At 2 p.m. the Walt Disney classic *Treasure Island*, the first live action feature produced by Disney in 1950. Both kids and grown up audience are encouraged to dress in pirate theme and will receive a bit of “candy treasure” as a reward. *Treasure Island* is a reprise screening of the education-outreach program “Read the Book, See the Movie” (RBSM) selection for which, Signet Books (a division of Penguin) donated 600 copies of the Robert Louis Stevenson classic novel about pirates and buried treasure. Books are distributed to local schools and members of the community who convene for the culmination program at the WGT Thursday April 26 at 11 a.m. Refreshments are provided and a discussion is held after movie.

The RBSM program is a key component of the LAHIFF promoting literacy and a more thoughtful way to view a film, while encouraging family involvement and attendance with the encore matinee screening. Sponsors for the program are Supervisor Don Knabe “Education Sponsor”, Signet Books Sam’s Club and Mary Star of the Sea High School; and Williams Book Store, LAMM, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA), and Planet Kids who distribute complimentary books. Schools participating include Mary Star of the Sea, San Pedro High, and the Port of Los Angeles Charter High Schools; Seventh Street and Barton Hill Elementary Schools; Rolling Hills Prep Renaissance School; and the San Pedro Adult Learning Center.

Last day of the festival is “DocSunday” with the POLA premiere of the special edition of *The Lost Village of Terminal Island*. The poignant documentary that tells the story of the close-knit community of Terminal Island (San Pedro), CA., as former residents recall their idyllic childhood days, reflecting the unique combination of Japanese and American cultures, and the sudden impact the attack on Pearl Harbor had on their lives.

As a testimony to the halcyon days when many former residents recount memories of roasting hot dogs on the beach, Wienserschnitzel San Pedro is sponsoring the Wiener Wagon that will be parked in front of the WGT prior to and during the screening, and the price of admission includes a free hot dog and bag of chips. Doors open at 4 p.m. and the film program starts at 5 p.m. Along with Wienserschnitzel the program is sponsored by Ponte Vista at San Pedro, and the Japanese American National Museum.

Earlier in the day, at 1:30 p.m. the encore screening from LAHIFF 2005 is *I Build The Tower*, the story of Italian immigrant Simon Rodia who created the unique work known as the Watts Towers; program is sponsored by Councilwoman Hahn, whose constituency extends from San Pedro to Watts, and the International Documentary Association (IDA).

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Since its inception in 2003 LAHIFF has rapidly gained momentum and support from civic and business leaders throughout the entire metropolitan area as echoed by Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa. “Creativity abounds throughout the City of Los Angeles and particularly at the Port in San Pedro,” states the Mayor. “Within the programming the LA Harbor International Film Festival of 2007 are films that reflect the historical and contemporary culture, celebrating the people and the diversity of the area, while drawing film lovers and tourists from around the country to this region. I commend the festival for contributing to the cultural and artistic landscape of Los Angeles and to the economic vitality of the City.”

Along with Maersk Lines, key sponsors for the LAHIFF are: The POLA, Associate Sponsor; Los Angeles Board of Supervisors President Don Knabe, Education and Culture Sponsor; City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), Venue Sponsor; Grand Vision Foundation and Ponte Vista at San Pedro, Supporting Sponsors; Councilwoman Janice Hahn, and Charles Gasper, Sustaining Sponsors.

Print sponsors are National Printing Associates Inc. (NPA), West Los Angeles for poster and design; and Svorinich and Associates, souvenir program cover.

The Crown Plaza Los Angeles Harbor Hotel is Accommodation Sponsor with a special room rate for the festival of \$99 per night that includes a bottle of wine. Contact the hotel reservations office at (310) 519-8200 and request the LAHIFF rate during the festival dates.

Other significant sponsors and supporters include Wienerschnitzel San Pedro, Los Angeles LAMM, Cinema Grand, The Arcade Building, IDA, Mary Star of the Sea High School, Think Café, Boca Activewear, Distinctive Edge Gallery & Framing, Sacred Grounds.

Media Sponsors are Press-Telegram’s *San Pedro Magazine*, Time Warner Cable, Random Lengths News and new media sponsor “ION San Pedro.” Website sponsor is Live Office located in Torrance, CA.

The iconoclastic vintage 1931 “movie palace”, the WGT, is one of the three only original Warner Brothers theatres built in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. In the past several years it has had a major renovation including the “Save Your Seat” campaign spearheaded by the GVF support group for the WGT dedicated to preserving and restoring it to its original glory.

The LAHIFF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, with contributions tax-deductible to the extent of the law. Sponsorship opportunities are available at a variety of benefit levels, from Presenting Sponsor (\$20,000 donation) to Friend of the Festival (\$100 donation). There is no paid staff, organization is volunteer driven and service hours can be attributed to school or community service for responsible individuals who would like to help.

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Volunteer coordinator is Joe Caccavalla (contact information on last page). Festival advisor is Betsy A. McLane, Ph.D., film scholar, author ([A New History of Documentary Film](#)) and Director Emeritus of the IDA. Board members include McLane; former general manager of DCA Adolfo Nodal; real estate broker Linda D'Ambrosi; Sports Illustrated photographer Peter Read Miller; and community liaison Andrea Hegybeli. Festival Co-founder is Jack Baric.

General admission for festival programs is \$10 general; \$8 with discounts for affiliations with GVF, LAMM, IDA, CMA, seniors and students. Saturday & Sunday matinees are \$5 for one or both movies. (there is a possible additional program on Sunday at noon). No discounts for closing program *The Lost Village of Terminal Island*. **Free Admission for U.S.Veterans and those currently serving sn military forces as long as space permits on first come first seated basis.**

Tickets for programs and the receptions will be sold online from April 1st at www.warnergrand.org and Williams Book Store located at 443 6th Street, downtown SP, and at the box office (cash only) during the festival one hour before program times. Tickets for "Mangia Italiano" will also be available through the Italian American Club of San Pedro. There are no festival passes.

"This culturally rich event will encourage county residents and beyond to discover and appreciate everything San Pedro has to offer while enjoying film and video that brings the world to The Port of Los Angeles," states Supervisor Knabe, who has been loyal sponsor since the festival began. "I am happy to continue to support such a valued and creative endeavor."

**For media relations, more information, and "Sponsorship Opportunities" guidelines
Contact Stephanie Mardesich, Festival Director
at stephaniemardesich@yahoo.com or telephone (310) 519-0756
See www.laharborfilmfest.com for updates on programming and to purchase tickets**

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More about.....

LAHIFF: www.laharborfilmfest.com

Tickets & Warner Grand Theatre: www.warnergrand.org

The Port of Los Angeles Clean Future Fair & Railway Festival: www.portofla.org

Grand Vision Foundation (GVF): www.grandvision.org

Los Angeles Maritime Museum (LAMM): www.lamaritimemuseum.org

Japanese American Museum (JANM): www.janm.org

International Documentary Association (IDA): www.documentary.org

A New History of Documentary Film: www.documentarydiva.org

Violet Parkhurst: www.parkhurstgalleries.com

Animals Rule Placement Foundation: animalsrule.com

Films:

Uncle Nino: www.uncleninothemovie.com

The Lost Village of Terminal Island: www.terminalisland.org

I Build The Tower: www.ibuildthetower.com

To Volunteer: Contact coordinator Joe Caccavalla: cjoeca@aol.com or telephone (310) 831-0168

