

LA Harbor International Film Festival
P.O. Box 5202 - San Pedro, CA 90733
Telephone: (310) 519-0756

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

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

Ciao! *Uncle Nino* Is Coming To Town April 27th
Opening Night of the 4th annual LA Harbor International Film Festival
The Port of Los Angeles – San Pedro - Premiere
Award Winning Feature Film Brings Out the Stars
“Mangia Italiano” Reception Precedes Screening

San Pedro, CA. – The Port of Los Angeles (POLA) - The Italians are coming, the Italians are coming! Actually they are already here in San Pedro by the sea, however expected in droves from all over Southern California, and beyond to attend the opening night of the 4th annual LA Harbor International Film Festival (LAHIFF), Friday April 27, at 7 p.m.. the POLA premiere of the award winning feature film *Uncle Nino* starring Joe Montegna, Anne Archer and Pierino Moscarino as the endearing immigrant “Uncle Nino”.

The LAHIFF takes place April 27, 28, & 29 at the Warner Grand Theatre, 478 W. 6th Street, in historic downtown San Pedro. The evening is sponsored and endorsed by Councilwoman Janice Hahn, the Grand Vision Foundation, The Italian American Club of San Pedro, the La Piazza Cultural Center, and Order Sons of Italy in America, Hollywood Lodge #2809. Co-chair for the evening is LAHIFF board member, local real estate broker Linda D’Ambrosi.

Uncle Nino is the story of an elderly Italian (Mascarino) who comes to America for the first time to meet his nephew (Montegna) and family (mom played by Archer; their daughter is Montegna’s daughter Gina in her acting debut). Toting his violin, a suitcase full of homemade wine, and a photo of his hero Abraham Lincoln, Nino’s high expectations are disillusioned by the fragmented and homogenized fast food society he encounters. With “old world” insight and inherent propinquity he finds resolution and comfort in bringing his relations together so they truly are a family.

The film’s stars are expected to attend the festive evening along with the director Robert Shallcross and producer David James who are winging in from Chicago. All will participate in a Q&A after the screening.

Prior to the program the “Mangia Italiano” reception will be held at the Grand Vision Foundation building at 434 W. 6th walking distance from the WGT, featuring Italian fare – savories and sweets – espresso from Sacred Grounds; Italian wines provided by Southern Wine & Spirits and Niko’s Pizzeria.

More.....

***Uncle Nino* premieres in The Port of Los Angeles - San Pedro - April 27.....**
Page Two of Two

“We value the heritage of the Italian immigrants, and other Europeans, who came to this region in the past century to enjoy the freedom of our country, establish businesses and build commerce. Those roots are strong here and abroad and encouraged by films like *Uncle Nino* that make us look at ourselves through laughter and tears, and appreciate our ethnic ancestry,” comments Mardesich. “Cuisine is a great part of the tradition the Italians bring to America, and ‘breaking bread’ brings people and cultures together. In that epicurean spirit we’re having a special pre-party; and cannoli and other Italian sweets, along with the famous WG popcorn, will be on sale at the theatre at show time.”

Among the restaurants and other establishments providing the repast for the reception are A-1 Imported Groceries, Downtown Subs & More, Marcello’s, Neil’s, Joseph’s Bakery, Pane e Vino, Raffaello’s, San Pedro Fish Market & Café, Sorrento’s, Think Cafe and J. Trani’s Ristorante.

Tickets are available from April 1st online at www.warnergrand.org, at Williams Book Store, 443 W. 6th St., across the street from the WGT; and at the box office during the festival.

Cost for the film program are \$10 general admission; \$8 for seniors, students and affiliations with Grand Vision Foundation, L.A. Maritime Museum, and International Documentary Association.

Price is \$35 for the film and reception; at the door, if space permits \$45. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the various Italian organizations supporting the event who will be selling tickets directly, such as the Italian American Club of San Pedro. **Free Admission for U.S. Veterans and those currently serving sn military forces as long as space permits on first come first seated basis.**

“*Uncle Nino* is the perfect fit for the LA Harbor International Film Festival. San Pedro is closely connected to the traditions and culture of the Italian-Americans in Los Angeles, with thousands of Italian immigrants settling here decades ago,” states Councilwoman Hahn. “With the recent induction of Ischia, Italy as a sister city to San Pedro, the Italian influence will continue to be nurtured here for years to come and I expect we will see the Warner Grand filled with an audience of Italian descent from all over the City to enjoy the heart warming movie.”

For more about *Uncle Nino* see the website at uncleninthemovie.com

For more about the LAHIFF see www.laharborfilmfest.com ;

for media relations and sponsorship information contact Stephanie Mardesich, Festival Director at (310) 519-0756 or stephaniemardesich@yahoo.com

#

(sm:3/07)