

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

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LA Harbor International Film Festival™ Will Set Sail On 10th Voyage May 2-5, 2013

Warner Grand Theatre – historic downtown San Pedro – Port of Los Angeles

Hollywood Nostalgia Tribute Saturday May 4

“There’s No Business Like Show Business” starring Mitzi Gaynor

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Education Outreach Program “Read the Book, See the Movie”

Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

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NEA & DCA “Big Read Los Angeles ” Opening Night POLA Premiere

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DocSunday May 5 POLA Premiere *Brothers On the Line*

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

March 14, 2013 - San Pedro (SP), CA., the Port of Los Angeles (POLA) - Programming and sponsors were announced for the tenth annual LA Harbor International Film Festival (LAHIFF) at the Seafarin’ Reception and Press Launch, Thursday, March 14 held at and co-hosted by LAHIFF Epicurean Sponsor Ports O’ Call Restaurant. Members of the media, festival sponsors, civic and business leaders were among guests at the invitation only event.

The four day LAHIFF, a non-competitive, non-juried film festival with movies selected by research or referral and invited to be programmed, takes place May 2-5 at the Warner Grand Theatre (WGT), 478 W. 6th Street, vintage movie palace in historic downtown SP – POLA. The WGT is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA).

Festival Director and Founder Stephanie Mardesich opened the event remarking “the LA Harbor International Film Festival is proud of achieving our decade anniversary. It’s because of our sponsors, both fiscal and in-kind, that we have continued to present the variety of film programming that truly celebrate the art of filmmaking, with our aim to entertain, enlighten, and educating the audience.”

“Sponsorship of the film festival demonstrates awareness and commitment of the business community in particular to support contemporary culture, art and education that is at the heart of the festival’s mission, along with promoting tourism and commerce in San Pedro – the Port of Los Angeles - and the continuing waterfront development.”

Prior to making introductions and announcements Mardesich a greeting was read from Congresswoman Janice Hahn, 44th District I wish I could be with you all this evening. I am in Washington, DC this week working hard for the people of my community.” I congratulate founder and director Stephanie Mardesich and the board of the LA Harbor International Film Festival on another wonderful cultural film experience for Los Angeles.”

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“I have been a strong supporter of the film festival since the very beginning and I thank everyone who has supported this truly unique festival throughout the years. It has helped put the harbor area on the map and has brought a whole new audience to the vintage art deco Warner Grand Theater in historic downtown San Pedro. The film festival should take tremendous pride in its ten year anniversary and the impressive body of work that has been brought to the people of San Pedro, the region, and the City of Los Angeles.”

Following introductions of dignitaries and sponsors, and program announcement, 15th District Councilman Joe Buscaino addressed the group and unveiled the official 2013 LAHIFF poster and street banners, produced by Wellington Signs of San Pedro with assistance of artist Anthony Podue painter for the 2008 poster key art “The Unsinkable Cinematic Bridge.”

Entitled “No Biz Like Show Biz Cinematic Bridge” key art for the LAHIFF iconic cinematic bridge is based on a photo that became the LAHIFF “brand” image in 2009 with the “Westside Cinematic Bridge”, by eminent Sports Illustrated photographer Peter Read Miller

LAHIFF begins May 2 with the Culmination Program for “Read the Book, See the Movie”™ (RBSM), the free education outreach that promotes literacy and a more thoughtful way to view a film. This year’s selection is the Mark Twain ‘s The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, the rambunctious novel considered a sequel to The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. “The story of Huckleberry Finn and his friend the runaway slave Jim, speaks to friendship, loyalty, and courage with an anti-slavery theme,” commented Mardesich. “The timing of this classic choice with regard to the recent films *Lincoln* and *Django Unchained* is relevant considering issues of social responsibility and morality with historical reflection.”

Publishing sponsors Penguin and Puffin Classics donated 1200 paperback copies of the book distributed to students from middle school to adult education classes, and community members. Students arrive at the WGT to the glorious sounds of an authentic bagpiper heralding the call to the theatre, enjoy healthy refreshments, view the film and have lively discussion afterward. Participating schools include: John & Muriel Magnate Campus of San Pedro High School, Dana Middle School and Rolling Hills Renaissance School, Pacific Lutheran School, Port of Los Angeles Charter High School, and Mary Star of the Sea High School, and the Harbor Service Center (formerly known as San Pedro Adult Learning Center).

RBSM is sponsored by Education Culture Sponsor Supervisor Don Knabe, who has supported the RBSM since the inception of the festival, and Employees Community Fund of Boeing California. The Los Angeles Maritime Museum (LAMM) and Williams Book Store, downtown SP, are in-kind sponsors who

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aid in distributing books to the community members who are also invited to attend the Culmination Program. Refreshments are sponsored by The Popcorn Man, 7-Eleven, Mary Star of the Sea High School, and Arlene and Myron Lockrem.

Opening Night Friday evening May 3 at 7:30 p.m. the LAHIFF presents the POLA premiere of *Chased By The Dogs* the film adaptation of the Egyptian novel The Thief and the Dogs by Nobel Laureate Naguib Mahfouz.that is the Big Read Los Angeles (BRLA) 2013 selection. This the second time LAHIFF has been an in-kind sponsor of the NEA/DCA sponsored BRLA program that in 2011 featured The Joy Luck Club.

The evening of May 4 is the Hollywood Nostalgia Tribute (HNT) and “Show Biz Red Carpet Gala” featuring Irving Berlin’s *There’s No Business Like Show Business* (U.S.A., 20th Century Fox, 1953; 117 min.) honoring the movie’s star Mitzi Gaynor (invited to attend to be confirmed). The film program at the WGT begins at 7 p.m. The picture also stars the late Ethyl Merman, Dan Daley, Donald O’Connor and Marilyn Monroe who delivers the sizzling tune “*We’re Having a Heat Wave*”, that chanteuse Rosie Brand will sing at the HNT “Show Biz Red Carpet Gala” preceding the film presentation.

A long-standing tradition of the LAHIFF, the Gala takes place from 5-6:30 p.m. at the elegant Arcade Building across the street from the WGT. Guests will enjoy Blue Ice – the great American vodka organic “Green Bee” and traditional martinis, tray passed appetizers and a buffet supper homage to 1950s cuisine. Tickets are \$65 before April 18; \$75 at the door space permitting. Included are film program, preferred seating, souvenir program and party bag. General admission for film program only is \$10.

The Gala is sponsored by The Arcade Building, Star Fisheries and Helen Grace Chocolates. Catering by Ports O’Call Restaurant with appetizers provided by other Epicurean Sponsors.

Closing day May 5 known as “DocSunday” at 1 p.m. presents the New Filmmakers LA (NFMLA) “On Location Program” showcase of 22 short (one to four minutes) movies made for the recent competition sponsored by the Los Angeles Convention & Visitors Bureau to promote the City of Los Angeles. Founded in 2007, NFMLA has established itself as a strong gathering place for independent cinema with over 15,000 constituents in the Los Angeles community, screening 500+ films from over 43 countries. In addition to fostering the advancement of new filmmakers and its members in the City, NFMLA’s objective is to promote the economic, educational, social, and cultural advancement of filmmaking, arts and culture in the community. Program is sponsored by new LAHIFF Sustaining Sponsor Rancho LPG Holdings LLC.

Final program at 3 p.m. is the feature documentary *Brothers On The Line* that tells the story of Walter, Roy and Victor Reuther and the forming of the United Auto Workers in Detroit, Michigan. The award winning and critically acclaimed film is directed by Sasha Reuther, grandson of Victor, and narrated by activist actor Martin Sheen. Reuther is scheduled to be winging in from New York for a “Q&A” forum after the screening; and Sheen has been invited.

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The forum, to also include union representatives, will be moderated by LAHIFF board member and documentary adviser Dr. Betsy A. McLane, Ph.D., scholar and author of the definitive book [A New History of Documentary Film](#). The program is sponsored by ILWU Foremen's Union Local 94.

A unique addition to this year's programming is a specially made short film *Aesthetic Spirit of San Pedro* directed by Johnnie Jenkins, Jr., a student in the Media Arts Department of Marymount College, produced specifically for and in association with LAHIFF. It will screen at the top of each program.

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 in the community of San Pedro," states the Mayor. "Within the programming of the LA Harbor International Film Festival, there 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."

Reiterating the value of sponsorship Mardesich revealed new sponsors ILWU Foremen's Union Local 94, Employees Community Fund of Boeing California, and Rancho LPG.

LAHIFF sponsors include national brands Wienerschnitzel, Phillips 66 and 7-Eleven. Other than those previously mentioned fiscal sponsors include the Port of Los Angeles, Tri-Marine, Ek & Ek, Wendy Madison, and Ponte Vista at San Pedro.

The new Banner Sponsor is BNSF Railway. Other In-kind sponsors and supporters include City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), San Pedro Convention and Visitors Bureau (SPCVB), San Pedro Chamber of Commerce, Distinctive Edge Framing & Gallery, 20K Watts- Artist Eco Alliance, and Grand Vision Foundation (GVF).

Epicurean Sponsors include Ports O'Call Restaurant, Trusela's, Wienerschnitzel, Niko's Pizzeria, The Whale and Ale, San Pedro Fish Market, Sacred Grounds, San Pedro Brewing Company, The Sandwich Saloon, J.Trani's Ristorante, and Think Café. Accommodations sponsor is the Crowne Plaza Hotel Los Angeles Harbor.

Website sponsor is Smarsh/Advisors Square. Media Sponsors are San Pedro Today Magazine, ION Network – the Network of Champions, and Random Lengths News. This year KPFK (90.7 FM) will offer select screenings to its Film Club Members.

Print sponsors are National Promotions & Advertising, Inc. (NPA), Los Angeles, for poster printing, with design by Maria Nita. Festival T-shirts sponsor and producer is Boca Activewear.

The vintage art-deco WGT (dedicated in 1931), is one of the three "triplet" Warner Brothers theatres built in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. For over a decade there has been restoration work,

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including the “Save Your Seat” campaign lead by the GVF, in an effort to preserve and restore the WGT to its original glory.

“Viewing a film on the big screen is an experience unlike any other that’s known as ‘the willing suspension of disbelief’”. Movies can appeal to every sector of society and enjoying and celebrating the art of film in the atmosphere of one of the treasures of San Pedro, the Warner Grand Theatre, is becoming a more rare experience with the changing technology. That’s why we show 35mm film as much as possible,” stated Mardesich, “which perpetuates our mission as we keep extending the Cinematic Bridge from the harbor to Hollywood and beyond. Movies can promote empathy and good will for an audience of all ages and backgrounds.”

The LAHIFF is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, with contributions tax-deductible to the extent the law allows. Sponsorship opportunities are available at a variety of benefit levels, from Presenting Sponsor to Friend of the Festival. The organization is volunteer driven and service hours can be attributed to school or community service. Other LAHIFF board members include Sports Illustrated photographer Peter Read Miller; community liaison Andrea Hegybeli; and east coast representative businesswoman Nancy McCutchan Nottingham.

General admission for festival programs is \$10; \$8 with discounts for affiliations with LAMM, and GVF, seniors and students. Opening night tickets are \$10; no discounts for the Hollywood Nostalgia Tribute “Show Biz Red Carpet Gala.” Opening night May 3 TBRLA admission is FREE.

Free Admission for U.S.Veterans and those currently serving in military forces on first come first seated basis.

Tickets will be sold from April 1 online at www.brownpapertickets.com and Williams Book Store located at 443 6th Street, downtown SP; and at the box office (cash only) during the festival dates one hour before program times.

“This culturally rich event will encourage residents of Los Angeles County and beyond to discover and appreciate everything San Pedro has to offer,” said Supervisor Knabe, “I am happy to continue supporting such a valued and creative endeavor that will inspire the audience to appreciate the art of cinema and also encourage local filmmakers.”

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

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More about.....

Brothers On the Line: www.BrothersOnTheLine.com

New Filmmakers L.A.: www.NFMLA.org

Big Read Los Angeles: www.culturela.org

The Port of Los Angeles: www.portofla.org

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

Marymount College: www.marymountpv.edu

Peter Read Miller, photographer: www.peterreadmiller.com

San Pedro Convention & Visitors Bureau: www.sanpedrocvb.com

San Pedro Chamber of Commerce: www.sanpedrochamber.com

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

Warner Grand Theatre: www.warnergrand.org