

Gala, wrap party, screening at Film Fest

Parties, panels, honors and movies—tons of movies!—mark the 11th annual Big Bear Lake International Film Festival from September 17-19.

Aspiring moviemakers and film buffs alike delight in the festival, named by *Moviemaker Magazine* as one of the top 25 festivals worth the entry fee, which features a nonstop slew of features, documentaries, shorts and animations from up and coming artists. Industry heavyweights lead two days of screenwriting seminars and panel discussions, plus there's awards presentations and special events including lavish opening night gala and Saturday wrap party.

Film screenings begin Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center and Village Theaters North (602 Pine Knot in the Village). Over 100 films from around the world will be shown including seven features, 27 documentaries and 70 short films. Included are three films shot in Big Bear. Hour-long seminars on every aspect of screenplays, from writing and finding music to marketing, licensing and submitted to studios or production companies begin at 11 a.m. and are at 12:15 p.m., 1:30, 2:45 and 4.

Friday's awards night honors Clint

Howard, who receives the 2010 Acting Award of Excellence. The Festival's opening night film, "Alabama Moon," stars Howard and is based on a popular children's book written by Watt Key that received national acclaim. The film, which follows an 11-year-old boy raised in the Alabama wilderness as he learns to make a home in the modern world after the unexpected death of his survivalist father, also stars John Goodman, Jimmy Bennett, Colin Ford and Billy Unger.

Howard's career has spanned 49 years with an impressive list of credits that include over 100 films, five series and scores of television appearances. Notable roles for Howard, whose brother is the famed performer and director Ron Howard, included appearing as a child in the television show "Gentle Ben," along with roles on "The Andy Griffith Show" and as Balok in "Star Trek." Other roles include "Cocoon" and as flight controller Seymour Liebergot in "Apollo 13."

Voice over artist Noel Blanc is the well-deserving recipient of the Community Appreciation Award, recognized for his continued support of the festival and other community organizations. Blanc is keeping alive the Looney Tunes characters created by his father, late voice legend Mel Blanc.

Noel remains the voice of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and countless other great characters brought to life by his dad. It's not unusual for him to come out and greet passengers aboard *Big Bear Queen* lake tours with recognizable voices when the boat pulls up to his lakefront home. Opening night gala tickets are \$35.

Caleb Deschanel will receive the Festival's Excellence in Cinematography award. He's a five-time Oscar nominee for "The Right Stuff," "The Natural," "Fly Away Home," "The Portrait" and "Passion of the Christ."

Saturday continues with still more films from aspiring artists at the PAC and



Caleb Deschanel



Clint Howard

Village Theaters North from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Terrific panels and discussions are also on tap, highlighted by question-and-answer sessions at the PAC.

Saturday's casual wrap party begins at 6 p.m. at the PAC with festival winner awards at 7:30. Enjoy food stations from fine Big Bear restaurants for \$35. Winning Festival film entries show at the PAC on Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with free admission.

Weekend movie passes are \$25 and are good for all the movies your eyes can handle, plus panels and discussions. Day passes valid either Friday or Saturday are \$15. General film screenings cost \$5 at the door. The \$85 all-event pass buys every-

thing but Sunday's Pitchfest.

The car classic "American Graffiti" gets Big Bear Lake International Film Festival going with a screening at the Discovery Center's outdoor amphitheater on Thursday, September 16 at 8 p.m.

Classic cars will be on display at 6 p.m. in the parking lot before the film's 8 p.m. showing. Prizes will be presented to recipients of audience awards.

Tickets are \$5 and refreshments and popcorn are available. Call 866-3437.

For tickets call (909) 866-3433 or www.bigbearlakefilmfestival.com.

www.BigBearToday.com

Quilt show...

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dors on hand for the show.

The Guild's Boutique features an assortment of Christmas items for those who want to jumpstart their holiday shopping. Door prizes are also given away.

Admission is \$5 (under 12 free, no strollers please) for the show, held 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 10-4 Sunday. Proceeds are donated to Big Bear charities that have included the Handicap Ski School, Kiwanis Toys for Tots, Doves, Girl Scouts of America, Lions Hope Aids Assistance, Big Bear High School and others.

Big Bear Middle School is at 41275 Big Bear Blvd. (at Georgia.) 866-3906.

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