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SBIFF 34 reaches halfway point and shows no signs of letting up

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

The 34th Santa Barbara International Film Festival has reached the halfway point and shows no signs of letting up.



Outside the Arlington Theatre before the Opening Night Film *Diving Deep:The Life And Times Of Mi*

Beginning with a local flavor, Opening Night featured *Diving Deep: The Life and Times of Mike deGruy*, from Mikeâ??s wife, Mimi deGruy. Mike deGruy was legendary in his passion for life and his love of the ocean. Fortunately, Mimi shared his passion and love and constructed an emotionally moving call-to-action with *Diving Deep* setting the tone for this yearâ??s festival.



Sylvia Earle, left, and Mimi deGruy on the red carpet before the Opening Night Film *Diving Deep:The*

With numerous sidebars, panels, forums, public screenings, childrenâ??s screenings and tributes, the Santa Barbara community is once again drawn together to celebrate community. Filmmaker Isaac Hernandez organized an opus on the spirit and energy of Santa Barbarans with *Better Together.* In a Q & A following his premiere screening, Hernandez unabashedly expressed, â??I love Santa Barbara and I wanted to make a film about the place I love.â?•

Filmmakers from around the globe descended to the city of St. Barbara. First-time feature-length film director/writer Vanessa Filho came directly from Paris, France with her *Angel Face* featuring the Oscar-winning, French leading lady, Marion Cotillard, to premiere her work to the United States.

Ross Clarke ventured in from Norway to make a world premiere with *The Bird Catcher,* an early audience favorite, screening in the Nordic Film Sidebar. With Ross came an ensemble of cast members.



Left to right; Trond Morten Kristensen, Lisa G Black, Arthur Hakalahti, Ross Clarke and Jakob Ceder

As predicted the Writerâ??s Panel sold out again this year. The Womenâ??s Panel, the Producers Panel, the Variety Artisan Awards have all been conducted and completed. Anyone who missed these will have to wait until next year.



Ai-Ling Lee, Domee Shi and Marina de Tavira speak onstage at the Womenâ??s Panel during the 3

Tributes to Rami Malek, Viggo Mortensen, Glenn Close and Melissa McCarthy were all well-attended and audiences continue to wholeheartedly express their admiration and gratitude for the participants.



Rami Malek speaks onstage at the Outstanding Performer Award Honoring Rami Malek during 34th



Viggo Mortensen attends the American Riviera Award Honoring Viggo Mortensen during the 34th Sa



SBIFF Director Roger Durling, Glenn Close and Leonard Maltin pose backstage at the Maltin Moder



Melissa McCarthy and Richard E. Grant speak onstage at the Montecito Award honoring Melissa Mc

While many of the panels and tributes have been conducted, the SBIFF programming team, led by Professor Michael Albright, has put together an extraordinarily diverse cross-section of films from around the world. *Shadow* by Chinese master filmmaker, Zhang Yimou, had audiences oohing, aahing and wowing!

Stay tuned for the second half of this film festival extravaganza currently underway on the American Riviera in Santa Barbara, California.

Until next time. Iâ??ll see you at the movies!

*Feature photo: right to left, SBIFF Programming Director, Michael Albright, with *Diving Deep* filmmaker Mimi deGruy, producer Shannon Dybvig and editor Brent Sumner. (Photo by Larry Gleeson/HollywoodGlee)



Category

1. television

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