



PLAYHOUSE WEST QUARTERLY

Volume 2, Issue 1

March, 2007

11th Annual Playhouse West Film Festival Announced for June 15, 16 & 17 Again Held At the Beautiful El Portal Theatre in Noho

The Playhouse West Film Foundation and the Festival Committee is proud to announce that for the third consecutive year the **Playhouse West Film Festival** will be held at the historic El Portal Theatre, right in the heart of the Noho Arts District. This year's 11th Annual Festival is a little earlier than usual, moving from mid-July to **June 15, 16 and 17**.

We already have some exciting events lined up for this year, including screenings of *Walker Payne*, starring Jason Patric and Sam Shepard, directed by Matt Williams (*Where the Heart Is*, creator/director/writer of hit TV show "*Home Improvement*"), produced by PW alum, **Matthew Rhodes**; and *The Dog Problem*, written directed and starring PW member **Scott Caan**, and also starring Don Cheadle, Gioivanni Ribisi, Mena Suvari, and co-starring PW member, **Ali Pomerantz**.

There are some significant and exciting changes to this year's PWWF program. The biggest change is that for the first time we will give out awards, recognizing films and filmmakers for their achievements. The purpose of this change is to help the filmmakers and their films

In This Issue:

Upcoming Film Foundation Events 2

Want Private Audition Coaching? 2

PW Quarterly
Copyright © 2007
All Rights Reserved
Published by Playhouse West Staff
Executive Editor, Tony Savant

gain more exposure within the industry due to the fact they've been recognized with an award at a film festival. The Playhouse West Film Foundation will recognize specific films with Achievement Awards in the categories of Feature and Short Subject Motion Picture, Directing (feature and short), Acting, Screenwriting and for Original Musical Score. We will also give out a Discovery Award, recognizing a first-time director for their filmmaking debut. There will also be a number of Audience Choice Awards, voted on only by audience members who purchase either a Gold or Silver Festival pass.

Another big change is that for the first time we have opened up the Festival, accepting entries from filmmakers outside of Playhouse West. This is to garner more exposure within the filmmaking community to our festival and to our PW filmmakers and

continued on page 2

Chrissy Griffith Lands Her First Starring Role What She Learned on the Set of the Horror Sequel, Boogeyman 2

I just finished working on *Boogeyman 2* (Columbia Pictures sequel to the 2005 horror hit, starring Tobin Bell and produced by Sam Raimi), and the experience was incredible. This is the first time I worked on a film with this much potential for success; the team of producers and the director are all very established in the horror film genre. I remember talking to Michael Williams, the line producer, and he asked me if I considered this my big break? I told him that we will see and that I consider it my big opportunity. He really

Playhouse West Members Working Like Crazy!

Long-time Playhouse West member, **Scott Caan**, had a busy year, and is due to be seen in several spring releases, including *Lonely Hearts*, starring opposite John Travolta, James Gandolfini, Selma Hayak, and Laura Dern. The film opens in theaters on April 13th. Scott recently completed filming *Ocean's Thirteen*, reprising his role as Turk Malloy, as well as two television pilots, "*Jump*" and "*The Danny Comdon Project*." He also wrote, directed and starred in *The Dog Problem*, due for limited release sometime this spring.



Scott Caan

James Franco was recently seen in the indie, *The Dead Girl*, written and directed by PW alum, **Karen Moncrief**, and starring Toni Collette. James has also been very busy this year, having completed shooting six films due for release in 2007. He starred with Catherine Keener in *An American Crime*, which recently

debuted at Sundance and is due in theaters in August. The sure-hit, blockbuster, *Spider-Man 3*, will swing into theaters May 4th. *The Finishing Game*, directed by Justin Lin (*Annapolis*), stars James with three fellow PW members, **Roger Fan**, **Cassidy Freeman** (her feature debut), and **Karen Weza** in a supporting role. *Good Time Max*, which was screened at last year's festival as a rough cut, is due for release later this year. James wrote, directed and starred in the film opposite fellow PW members **Matt Bell**, **Vince Jolivette**, **Stacey Miller** and **Trip Hope**.



James Franco

In true Playhouse West spirit, James also included in the supporting cast PW members **Brian Lally**, **Jack Samet**, **Ruth Barrie**, **Marnie Shelton**, **Pamela Rooney**, **Dana Emberson**, **Ahna O'Reilly**, **Dave Garrett**, **Aja Evans**, **Sarah Davidson** **Kelly**

continued on page 2

liked that answer. What I meant by that (and Michael completely understood me) was that my job was not done yet. Working with such an amazing crew and other dedicated actors is only a small part of the battle. This all helps, but it is still *my job* to live truthfully under the circumstances created by the writer.

My training at Playhouse has helped me immensely to do this. A lot of the scenes in this film called for a very full emotional preparation, and it has been great to put this training to the test. I also enjoyed seeing how other actors prepared for those types of scenes, and they all had something that they did to get themselves there. I remember watching Mae Whitman prepare for a scene that takes place

in the film right after the second death. I watched her before the scene and she was in deep thought, putting herself in a place as though one of her best friends just killed themselves (that's what she thinks happened). She was so full emotionally, it was great!! We did that shot (her close up) about three times and when the director said let's move on, she said (still completely full), "Are you sure? Because if you want a safety please do it now." She was already there emotionally and you could tell just by looking at her that it hurt so much to go where she was, she needed to make sure we got the shot so she wouldn't have to go back there anytime soon. I already

continued on page 2

PWFF 2007

continued from page 1

their films.

Due to these changes, this is also the first time there is an entry fee to submit a film to the PWFF. The fee is nominal compared to most festivals; \$10 for an online submission from a PW member (current or former), and \$15 for entries from non-PW members through the web-based festival submission service *With-outabox™*.

The first submission deadline is April 2nd, with a final deadline of April 16th (\$5 late penalty to submit after first deadline). Filmmakers can complete the entire submission process online via our website, and only have to turn in their two dvd screener copies to the Festival Director by the deadlines. You can find all the vital information at www.playhousewest.com by clicking on the Film Foundation/Festival link.

Filmmakers will be notified by May 7th of their acceptance status, and the full schedule of events should be posted on the website by May 16th.

The PWFF is open to the public, and each year we get many people coming back to attend. Gold and Silver Festival Passes will go on sale May 1st. A Gold Pass, admittance to all Festival events will be \$80 in advance, \$90 at the door (cash only). Silver Passes, admittance to all Saturday and Sunday daytime film screenings, plus the closing night event and awards ceremony is \$65 in advance, \$75 at the door (cash) only.

Advanced sales for single event tickets (\$10 for screenings, \$\$20 for Opening Night and Special Events or Guest Speakers) will begin May 16th. Once again, all tickets may be purchased by credit card or e-check via PayPal™ on our website, or by cash only through Tony Savant. We want to encourage people to buy tickets in advance, as it helps us with the upfront cost of producing the Festival.

It should be noted that the Festival is a benefit, with the proceeds going to the Playhouse West Film Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and your tickets are fully tax-deductible.

The Playhouse West Film Foundation helps to support the theater company productions, as well as purchasing and maintaining the lighting and sound equipment in our theaters. Other goals of the Foundation are to eventually acquire cameras, lighting, sound and editing equipment to help aspiring filmmakers make their movies. So, not only are the admission prices well below the standard price one would pay to attend any other film festival, your attendance at the PWFF benefits everyone at Playhouse West.

Once again the Festival is being headed by Festival Director, Tony Savant, and Co-Directors Stewart Irel and Michael Miraula. Serving on the PWFF 2007 Committee is Laura Fortino, Tim Coultas, Michelle Coyle, Tara Smoker, Shannon Ayers, Hadley Meares, Jay Plemons, Kris Carter, Rhett Swanson, Anastacia Kimmet, and instructor, Chris Liebe.

So, get your submissions in and begin saving up to attend PWFF 2007! It the most educational and inspirational event of the year, and an opportunity to not only to see the work others at PW are doing, but also to learn how to go about getting a film made, as well as to network and meet dozens of filmmakers. Spread the word and tell all your friends! You don't want to miss out on this tremendous event, so mark it on your calendar! We will do our best to update all events, guest speakers and other information on the website, so check it out. Hope to see you all at the festival!

Chrissy Griffith on Boogeyman 2
continued from page 1

knew it, but that just confirmed my belief that this stuff really works!

I will say though, that I didn't feel very confident about my work during my first two days on set. I had so much anxiety it was hard for me to focus on what I needed to do. Relaxing and being comfortable in your surroundings is so important to your ability to focus. My anxiety was consuming me, I had so many thoughts about weather I was good enough and about what the other actors would think of me that I forgot for a moment what my job was. I already got the part and did my homework, now all I

PW Students at Work

continued from page 1

Knox, Amber Dolle, Rachel Mackay, Glenn Peisner, Jacob Snyder, Jo-Ann Pantoja, David Markey, Brett Shepard, Dottie Smith and Sydney DeMarco. James also completed *Camille, In the Valley of Elah* (with Tommy Lee Jones, Charlize Theron, Susan Sarandon, written and directed by Paul Haggis), and is set to star in the upcoming film, *The Pineapple Express*, later this year.

PW instructor and co-founder, **Jeff Goldblum's** TV series, "*Raines*", debuts March 15th on ABC. Jeff is currently in pre-production for director Paul Schrader's WWII drama, *Adam Resurrected*, which he'll star in with Willem Defoe. As usual, Jeff is preparing for the role, using PW students as rehearsal partners.

Lake Bell completed filming *Pride and Glory*, starring with Edward Norton and Colin Farrell. **Ed Aristone** plays a supporting role in *Fracture*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Ryan Gosling, due out in April. **Mark Pellegrino** stars with **Jim Carrey** in the recent release, *The Number 23*. Mark also just completed *Boy of Pigs*, starring with Gretchen Moll and Noah Wylie, and *Disappearing in America*, co-starring and produced by PW alum, **Devin DiGonno**. Devin is also producing *Spike*, which will mark the feature debut of **Sarah Evans**. The film shoots in March and April.

Check out our website to see more PW students at work, and be connected to their IMDB link.

needed to do was live it out. Once I realized this I found myself getting into it and really believing my circumstances.

The most valuable thing for me though was acting everyday, which I could have been doing before I got this part; I just don't think my priorities were in order. It's sad and it shouldn't take this,

You need to act everyday to keep your instrument tuned and focused.

but for me it took working on this film to realize exactly what Jeff Goldblum was talking about at the (Playhouse West) Film Festival last year. He said that you "need to act every day to keep your instrument tuned and focused", and I

Teachers Available For Private Audition Coaching:

- Holly Gagnier: 818-505-8905
hollygagnier@playhousewest.com
- Tracy Aziz: 818-903-7992
tracyaziz@playhousewest.com
- Jennifer Lambertus: 310-770-3961
jenniferlambertus@playhousewest.com
- Eric Edwards: 818-486-0429
ericedwards@playhousewest.com
- Kathleen Lambert: 323-383-3111
kathleenlambert@playhousewest.com
- Chris Liebe: 818-469-8222
chrisliebe@playhousewest.com

PLAYHOUSE WEST FILM FOUNDATION EVENT
Analysis of a Classic Film

On Sunday, March 18th, the Playhouse West Film Foundation will sponsor a seminar/presentation of the classic film, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford, as part of the Educational Film Series conducted by instructor Tony Savant. The event at Studio 2 begins promptly at 12 p.m. and will go to roughly 4 p.m. Admission to the seminar is \$10, and can be purchased in advance through Mr. Savant or at the door.

The seminar will include a scene by scene breakdown of the film, an analysis of the theme, the spines of all the characters, the structural elements of William Goldman's award-winning script, and a discussion of how the director, actors and production team brilliantly executed it on screen. As always, this seminar promises to be highly educational!

understand this now. There is nothing holding me back from acting everyday, and so that is what I must do. I just seemed to function better the more I was working on set, so why not continue this when I'm finished filming? It would be stupid not to.

Act everyday!!! Rehearse everyday! That's my new mantra; there is no reason not to and a million reasons to do it. Working on this movie has been a blessing and a huge learning experience for me, and hopefully there will be more to come. In the mean time I will continue to act *everyday!!!*

Chrissy Griffith is in the M/Th 9 a.m. Advanced Class at Studio Two