

Entertainment & THE ARTS

Big night for 'The Little Prince'

SBIFF kicks off on a high note, with the U.S. premiere of the celebrated animated film



Mark Osborne, director of the "The Little Prince," and his son Riley, who was the voice of the title character, stop for the photographers outside the Arlington.

Mr. Osborne showed up at the Arlington with his family — his wife, daughter and son Riley, who played the role of the little prince in the film and clutched a stuffed animal of the film's little fox character as he slowly passed along the red carpet with his father.

Mr. Osborne's version of "The Little Prince," based on the classic 1943 Antoine de Saint-Exupéry novel that has spawned film, television and other adaptations, brings new ideas and visual flair to the story, written by Irena Brignull and Bob Persichetti.

The cast of voices includes Rachel McAdams, Paul Rudd, Ricky Gervais, James Franco, and Benicio Del Toro.

Explaining his motivation behind the project, the director asserted that "We really wanted to do something that honored and protected the spirit of the book first and foremost. We chose to create a film that is more of a tribute to the book, and to the experience one can have with the book because I think a direct word-for-word adaptation would really miss the point entirely.

"The book becomes a unique experience for every reader, and I wanted to tell a story that celebrated this incredible and special aspect of how the story works in our lives."

As the sold-out house witnessed, it is a remarkable film, one which, like "Inside/Out" last year, is a family film with abundant appeal for adults and blessed with cinematic ingenuity in the telling. Computer animation mixes with old school stop-motion animation, and realities mix with fantasy sequences in an innovative way.

As for the presence of Mr. Bridges on the project, the director described their work together as "amazing. He is a very special person, and an incredibly generous and talented actor. I was a huge fan of his, so I was terrified. But being the very Zen person he is, he immediately put me at ease and created a casual and fun atmosphere where we could really play. It was a highlight of my career to be able to work with him."

Later, onstage at the Arlington, the impressively bearded Mr. Bridges issued a kind of civic welcome to the crowd, after Mr. Osborne introduced him by his nickname, "The Dude."

"Wow," Mr. Bridges said, "welcome to Santa Barbara. I'm a hometown boy, so this is really thrilling for me. Thank you, Mark, for making this wonderful film. We had a good time. "I hope you all dig the movie. I think you will."

Wednesday's festivities commenced with comments by Mayor Helene Schneider, on the heels of being given the National Award for Local Arts Leadership award at last month's National Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C.

She passed the microphone to the ever-affable and dynamic artistic director Roger Durling, celebrating his 13th year at the helm of a festival that has grown substantially under his guidance.

Mr. Durling waxed poetic about his long-standing affection for "The Little Prince."

"There are many things I loved about 'The Little Prince,'" he said. "I will always cherish the idea that the most important things in life are invisible and the most important way to see the world is with the heart. As you get older, you always have to keep a sense of wonder. Don't let the mundane things take over, petty things. Keep an open eye. That's something we had as little kids. Everything was just amazing. "I hope that throughout the 11 days of the festival, you keep that sense



A showing of "The Little Prince" opened the 2016 Santa Barbara International Film Festival on Wednesday at the Arlington Theatre.

of amazement and are open to new adventures."

At film's end the throng drifted down State Street to take in the gala reception at the Paseo Nuevo.

One of the late-breaking news items at the festival was the announcement of panelists involved in the ever-popular "It Starts with the Script" screenwriter panel, at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Lobero Theatre.

Once again, it's a stellar list, with many writers behind Oscar nominated movies: Pete Docter ("Inside Out"), Emma Donoghue ("Room"), Alex Garland ("Ex Machina"), Drew Goddard ("The Martian"), Jonathan Herman ("Straight Outta Compton"), Charlie Kaufman ("Anomalisa"), Phyllis Nagy ("Carol"), Charles Randolph ("The Big Short"), Josh Singer ("Spotlight").

email: news@newspress.com

By JOSEF WOODARD
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

For the next 10 days, the Arlington marquee and the workers attending to its messages will be kept busy as the 31st annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival wends across the local cultural calendar.

Celebrities the likes of Johnny Depp will show up in the theater tonight, and Sylvester Stallone on Tuesday, with the Oscar-nom-blessed "Spotlight" cast in the house on Friday.

But on Wednesday the prominent marquee sported a more sweepingly generic and, to many, inspiring message: "Welcome SBIFF" then changed to "The Little Prince."

SBIFF's opening night galas are an important art of the festival, though not always. This year's opening night model was different, a splashy U.S. premiere of the animated film "The Little Prince," and a rare opening night fare of the

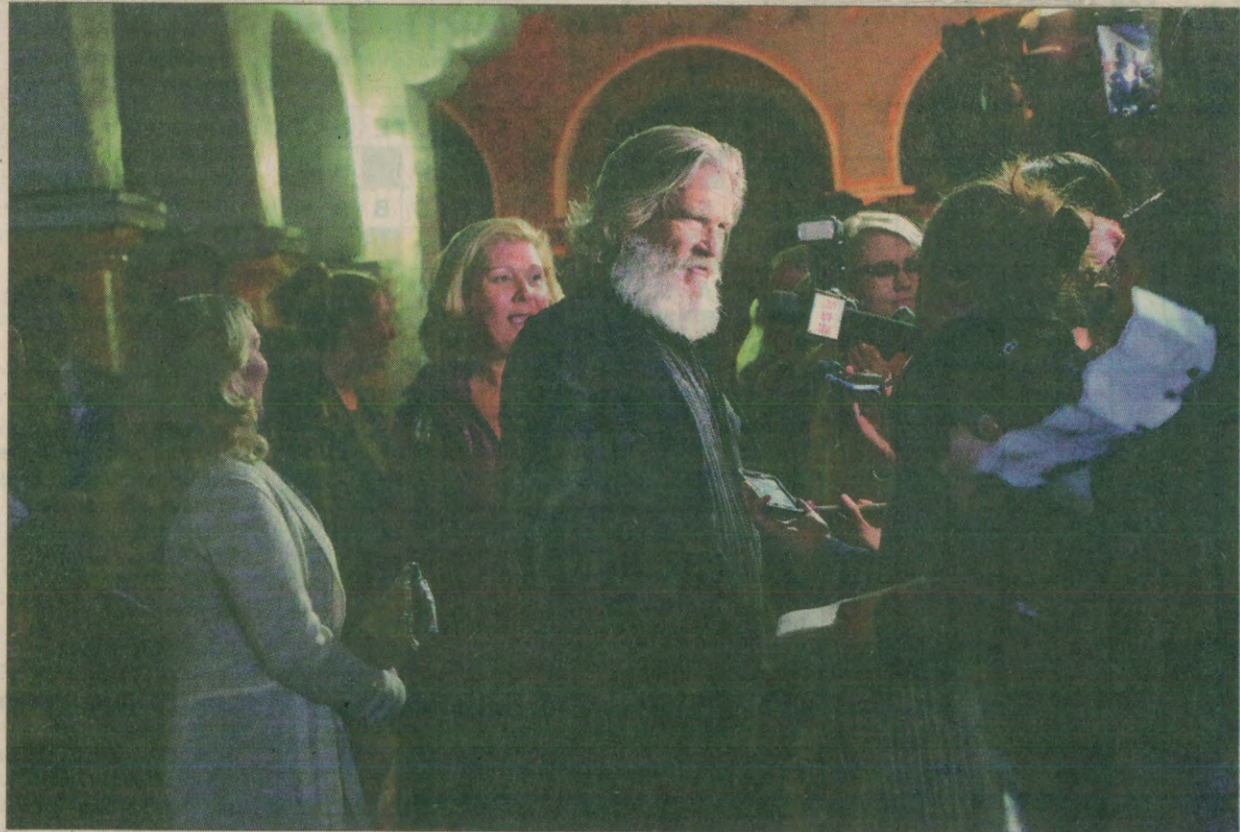
suitable-for-the-whole-family variety.

Director Mark Osborne, well-known for his work on "Sponge Bob Square Pants" and other animation projects, has earned accolades for his version of "The Little Prince" that screened at the Cannes Film Festival last May and has played elsewhere in the world.

But Santa Barbara is ground zero for its U.S. release.

"The timing was just perfect for us because our release date is just around the corner," Mr. Osborne said. "This is the first English-speaking territory that is getting the original film, with the amazing original voices like Jeff Bridges and Mackenzie Foy. I can't wait for audiences here to discover the film."

"And the reason I am excited about Santa Barbara is because we recorded all of Mr. Bridges dialog for the movie right here," he enthused, explaining that the dubbing was done in Mr. Bridges' home studio in Montecito.



Jeff Bridges, voice of The Aviator in the "The Little Prince," speaks with the press on the red carpet.

TONIGHT KEY: SANTA BARBARA 00 SANTA MARIA/SANTA YNEZ/LOMPOC 00

Thursday, February 4, 2016

	MOVIES	SPORTS	KIDS	BEST BETS
PRIMETIME				
KEYT (ABC)	3	3	3	3
CW	5	5	5	5
KSBY (NBC)	6	6	6	6
KNBC (NBC)	6	6	6	6
KCAL	9	9	9	9
KOCE	10	10	10	10
FOX 11	11	11	11	11
KCOY (CBS)	12	12	12	12
MYRTV (MNT)	13	13	13	13
KTAS (Telem)	15	15	15	15
KPMR (Univ)	16	16	16	16
KTLS NEWS	19	19	19	19
KCET (IND)	129	8	8	8
KQED	17	17	17	17
A&E	56	58	58	58
AMC	26	46	46	46
ANIMAL	33	71	71	71
BET	59	42	42	42
BRAVO	57	181	181	181
CARTOON	54	69	69	69
CNBC	24	48	48	48
CNN	22	50	50	50
COMEDY	62	79	79	79
COUNTRY MUS	39	39	39	39
COUNTY A.	20	20	20	20
C-SPAN	106	19	19	19
C-SPAN2	107	21	21	21
DISCOVERY	32	53	53	53
DISNEY	30	68	68	68
EI	66	64	64	64
Educ Acc/TV5B	71	71	71	71
ENCORE	203	518	518	518
ESPN	34	30	30	30
ESPN2	35	31	31	31
FOOD	64	61	61	61
FOX NEWS	25	52	52	52
FOXDEPORTES	408	602	602	602
FOXPT	36	33	33	33
FOXSPSNET	37	32	32	32
FREEFORM	40	67	67	67
F51	70	37	37	37
FX	27	77	77	77
GALA	52	74	74	74
GOLF	60	35	35	35
GOV-CITY	18	18	18	18
HALLMARK	75	185	185	185
HISTORY	55	56	56	56
HLN	23	51	51	51
Home&Garden	61	60	60	60
HomeShop	7	15	15	15
Independent	201	201	201	201
KZDF	44	44	44	44
LIFETIME	41	62	62	62
MSNBC	42	63	63	63
MTV	38	40	40	40
NBCSP	67	34	34	34
NICK	29	70	70	70
OXY	227	165	165	165
Public/TV5B	17	17	17	17
QVC	2	7	7	7
SPIKE	45	29	29	29
STARZ	361	534	534	534
SYFY	51	78	78	78
TBS	14	45	45	45
TMC	69	501	501	501
TLC	31	59	59	59
TNT	28	44	44	44
TRAVEL	58	55	55	55
Trinity Broad	110	75	75	75
TRUTV	49	57	57	57
TVLAND	68	72	72	72
UMA	43	26	26	26
USA	4	43	43	43
VH1	39	41	41	41
WEATHER	46	47	47	47
HBO	300	551	551	551
MAX	320	561	561	561
MAX2	321	565	565	565
SHOW	340	576	576	576
SHOW 2	341	578	578	578

Santa Barbara INTERNATIONAL Film FESTIVAL

Screening Schedule: Thursday, February 4

(Schedules subject to change)

8:00 PM
Maitin Modern
Master Award
honoring Johnny Depp
Arlington Theatre

8:00 AM Guarani Metro Theatre 1	11:20 AM Mammal Metro Theatre 2	3:00 PM Vita Activa: Metro Theatre 4	7:00 PM Standing on Water Fiesta Theatre 1
8:10 AM Parched Metro Theatre 2	11:40 AM Mr. Six Metro Theatre 3	4:00 PM Chucks Fiesta Theatre 1	7:00 PM City of Gold Lobero Theatre
8:20 AM The Brand New Testament Metro Theatre 3	12:00 PM Dramatic Shorts Metro Theatre 4	4:20 PM Craft: The California Beer Documentary Fiesta Theatre 2	7:20 PM Interlude Metro Theatre 2
8:30 AM Arabic Movie Metro Theatre 4	1:00 PM Showroom Fiesta Theatre 1	4:30 PM The Clan Lobero Theatre	8:00 PM Tallón Metro Theatre 1
10:00 AM Walking Distance Fiesta Theatre 1	1:20 PM Miso Hungry Lobero Theatre	5:00 PM An Unexpected History Metro Theatre 1	8:20 PM A Classy Broad Metro Theatre 2
10:20 AM 10 Billion: What's on Your Plate?	2:00 PM Pikadero Fiesta Theatre 2	5:20 PM One More Time Metro Theatre 2	8:40 PM The Wave Metro Theatre 3
11:00 AM Be Here Now (The Andy Whitfield Story) Metro Theatre 1	2:00 PM Resilience Lobero Theatre	5:40 PM Irish Animated Shorts Metro Theatre 3	9:00 PM Too Close to Our Son Metro Theatre 4
11:00 AM The Wait Lobero Theatre	2:20 PM Silent Heart Metro Theatre 2	6:00 PM Alena Metro Theatre 4	10:00 PM Surfing South America Fiesta Theatre 1
	2:40 PM We Monsters Metro Theatre 3		10:20 PM Un-Wished Fiesta Theatre 2

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