

FREE

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*A newspaper with issues*

## Lords of 'Dogtown'



Danelle Rondberg/Special to the Daily Press

The creators of 'Lords of Dogtown,' a documentary about skaters in 1970s' Venice and Santa Monica, discuss the film last weekend during the Other Venice Film Festival, see page 10. From left to right: Production designer Chris Gorak, director Catherine Hardwicke, Dogtown Z-Boy skate legend Tony Alva, writer Stacy Peralta and panel moderator AJ Peralta.

# Entertainment

## Santa Monica filmmaker Stacy Peralta wins big for 'Dogtown & Z-Boys'

### The Other Venice Film Festival honors locals

By Daily Press staff

One of the original Z Boys got a nod last week from his peers in his old stomping grounds for his work in capturing what was once known as "Dogtown," the skateboarding and surf Mecca of Southern California.

Filmmaker Stacy Peralta was just one of many honored at The Other Venice Film Festival, a community event dedicated to screening full-length, short and animated films that embody the spirit, energy and diversity of Venice. The festival celebrated its second season March 18-20 with repeat sell-out crowds.

Opening night celebrated the "mockumentary" form, with the world premiere of the short film "Icetown" and "M-Boys," a send-up of Santa Monica resident Peralta's "Dogtown & Z-Boys," directed by Venice local Patrick Masson, which went on to win the Audience Choice Abbot Award.

A special screening of Zak Penn's "Incident" at Loch Ness starring legendary filmmaker Werner Herzog was followed by a question and answer session with Penn, Herzog, cast member Michael Karnow and co-producer and Venice-local Gary Marcus.

On Saturday night, a packed house watched Peralta's big wave surf documentary "Riding Giants" and participated in a question and answer session with the director and his editing partner, the ACE Award-winning Paul Crowder. Peralta was then presented with a Local Maverick Spotlight Abbot Award, named after Venice founding father, Abbot Kinney, from actor and Venice local Chris Mulkey, the 2004 recipient.

"It's always great coming back home to Venice, especially to receive an award like this," Peralta said. "It's even got Abbot Kinney etched on it."

The Most Excellent Feature Abbot Award went to "Road Kings," directed by Detdich McClure of Hollywood and produced by Dan Halperin of Santa Monica. The Los Angeles Times called it "wrenching and vital Easy Rider update an explosive winner."

Starring Glenn Plummer and featuring music by Snoop Dogg, ODB, Nate Dogg and Mystic, "Road Kings" will be available on DVD from Lion's Gate Films on March 29, along with the soundtrack from Liquid8 Records out in May.

"It was a great pleasure to be a part of The Other Venice Film Festival," Halperin said. "In an



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TOP: Festival co-founder AJ Peralta, Stacy Peralta, his ACE Award-winning editing partner Paul Crowder and festival co-founder and programming director Gary Ellenberg.

RIGHT: Local Maverick Spotlight Abbot Award winner Stacy Peralta, a Venice native who lives in Sunset Park in Santa Monica, was honored at the Other Venice Film Festival last Saturday night for directing "Dogtown & Z-Boys." His big wave surf documentary "Riding Giants," also was screened at the festival.



expanding world of film festivals, the Other Venice Film Festival feels like home — home the way you want it to be, comfortable, efficient and way cool. How cool is it to capture the essence of Venice, California?"

At the festival's first music video competition late Saturday night, fans used up all the seats and floor space to watch 15 music videos, including the world premieres of "Revolution" by popular local band Sugarbitch and Fluid Dream from Thievery Corporation.

The highly anticipated film "Lords of Dogtown," which will be released by Sony on June 3, was the topic of Sunday's panel discussion: "From Doc To Drama: Lords of Dogtown," moderated by festival co-founder AJ Peralta (no relation to Stacy Peralta). The event was the first time that the creative forces behind the film, and its inspiration, spoke together in public about the making of the project in the town where it all began. Participating in the panel were "Dogtown & Z-Boys" director Peralta who wrote the "Lords of Dogtown" screenplay; the film's director, Venice local Catherine Hardwicke; original Dogtown Z-Boy skater Tony Alva and production designer Chris Gorak.

Winning the Audience Choice Abbot Award in the feature film

category was "Naked Brown Men," directed by and starring the Basco Brothers (Dante, Darion, Derek and Dion) and Adam G of Hollywood.

The "infectious, rowdy comedy," as described by the Los Angeles Times, features the Bascos "playing Filipino American actor brothers who share a house while pursuing their careers, women and good times."

The Most Excellent Short Abbot Award went to director Tao Ruspoli of Venice for "Just Say Know," his documentary on three generations of opium addiction. Ruspoli is the founder of LAFCO, the Los Angeles Filmmakers Cooperative, a radical experiment in nomadic and communal creativity.

More than 40 filmmakers showed their work at this year's festival, up from 17 during the sell-out inaugural 2004 season. The festival was held at two screening locations in Venice — The Electric Lodge and Switch Studios — where the new Avant-Garde/Experimental Film Series took place, programmed by filmmaker Marianne Magne of Venice. A party was held each night of the festival in celebration of the 2005 Venice Centennial.

Just some of the local artists who supported the 2005 Other Venice Film Festival include: Lori Petty, actress and artist, whose

work was on display at the Electric Lodge throughout the festival (see [www.lawdknows.com](http://www.lawdknows.com) for more information); local bands The Dragonfly Project and Sugarbitch, who both gave live performances; DJs Vordo, Jean-Paul Jumonville and Wiseacre, who each spun on a different night at festival parties; and electronic musicians Steve Nalepa and Sariah Storm, who provided live video art and music at the opening night party.

Event organizers say Venice has always been an epicenter for LA artists and filmmakers who continue to pave the way toward expanding the language of underground, alternative cinema. The Other Venice Film Festival bridges the community of Venice and that of greater Los Angeles together in a competitive, fun-filled weekend of movies and mayhem. For more information on The Other Venice Film Festival, go to [www.veniceOfilmfest.com](http://www.veniceOfilmfest.com).

### What's playing ...

By Dan Dunn  
Special to the Daily Press

#### THE RING 2

The only thing remotely frightening about this tension-less sequel is the filmmakers' arrant disregard for its audience's intelligence.

Starring: Naomi Watts

#### MELINDA AND MELINDA

Woody Allen's new film plays out much like a host of others he's made over the course of his 40-year-career, but alas it's not nearly on par with the revered filmmaker's best efforts.

Starring: Radha Mitchell, Chloe Sevigny, Will Ferrell, Amanda Peet

#### HOSTAGE

A stylishly rendered collection of action-flick clichés that casts Willis in a familiar role: Burnt-out cop turned reluctant hero.

Starring: Bruce Willis

#### THE UPSIDE OF ANGER

A smart, funny, and at times heartbreaking look at one family's struggle to reinvent itself in the wake of a father's sudden, unexplained departure.

Starring: Joan Allen, Kevin Costner

#### THE JACKET

challenges viewers to execute such strenuous mental gymnastics, it is inevitable most will wind up completely spent by the midway point.

Starring: Adrien Brody, Keira Knightley

#### THE PACIFIER

Seeing a bald beefcake like Diesel yakking it might be funny under the right conditions, but here it isn't.

Starring: Vin Diesel

#### CONSTANTINE

A visually spectacular yet emotionally barren, at times gratingly inconsistent comic book adaptation.

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Rachel Weisz

#### BECAUSE OF WINN DIXIE

Some might be put off by the film's anachronistic unreality and manifest righteousness, while others will no doubt revel in the quixotic Bushiness of it all.

Starring: AnnaSophia Robb, Jeff Daniels

#### IMAGINARY HEROES

What starts out as a kind of poor man's "Ordinary People" quickly deteriorates into an unintentional comedy of errors filled with virtually every staple of the after-school special genre.

Starring: Sigourney Weaver, Emile Hirsch

#### HITCH

Smith and James make a good team and hit all the right comedic notes working with very funny material.

Starring: Will Smith, Kevin James, Eva Mendez

#### HIDE AND SEEK

What is, for a solid 80 minutes or so, a pretty hair-raising and suspenseful thriller, falls apart more quickly and embarrassingly than a drunken "Real World" cast member.

Starring: Robert DeNiro, Dakota Fanning

#### THE AVIATOR

The second-best biopic Scorsese has helmed, behind the exalted "Raging Bull." DiCaprio's portrayal of Hughes stands out as the finest work of his career.

Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett

#### MILLION DOLLAR BABY

At its core, this is a heart-wrenching story about overcoming impossible odds and realizing dreams.

Starring: Hilary Swank, Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman

#### FINDING NEVERLAND

As moving a motion picture as we're likely to see this year, and — as the movie poster contends — one that is sure to unlock even the most immured imagination.

Starring: Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet