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FREE VENICE SINCE 1968 BEACHHEAD



The 'Other' Venice Film Festival

By Theresa Hulme

March 18-20 was a rare weekend in the city of angels. Thanks to the rains, our usually heavy and brown air was light, quiet, clean and smog-free.

The beautiful weekend marked only the second anniversary of the much talked about, yet accessible film festival known as The 'Other' Venice Film Festival. The quoted 'Other' draws attention to Venice, CA rather than Venice, Italy. The city of Venice, CA now lays claim to the sell out crowds at the annual celebration of alternative cinema.

The young and vibrant 'Other' fest has already met with promise, excitement and pure fun. Close to home and heart, the Venice fest this year was split into two distinct sections: documentaries and non-narrative experimental cinema. Film fest winners received awards called, respectively, Abbot Awards, named after Abbot Kinney, a

founder of Venice.

Local music, art and chefs contributed to the unique, diverse and easy spirit of Venice. Local dazzlers Sugar Bitch, beamed out funky jams on a breezy, bright and beautiful Venice Sunday afternoon.

Festival Founder Ruby de la Casas, is an active force in producing local merrymaking with his inclusion of artists, musicians and gobs of eclectic talent. Ruby is well-known for Ruby Tuesdays, a monthly variety show held at his hair salon, described as "The Cultural Mecca of Venice." His entrepreneurial force mixed with an intense creative flair, Venice local Ruby makes us proud and eager to host the "Other" fest that is sure to be in our creative future in years to come.

Thanks for a great show!

For more info on the festival, visit:
www.veniceOfilmfest.com