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Internet Edition

"Line Caught, not Farm Raised"

Venice 9 to 5



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Venice Stuff to Do

Film Fest Stakes Corman to a Spotlight

His studio is gone—replaced by art lofts—but Roger Corman, the warped granddaddy of Venice filmmakers, will be back in town Thursday, March 16 to grace the "Local Maverick Spotlight" at this year's The Other Venice Film Festival.

Corman's slash and bash films, shot at a no-frills, commissary-free studio in the heart of Venice, may not have been high art, but they launched or intersected with a thousand careers including Robert DeNiro, Dennis Hopper, Harry Dean Stanton, Warren Oates, Peter Fonda, Diane Ladd, Pam Grier, and writer Robert Towne (in acting roles).

Corman himself alternated between Producer, Executive Producer and Director credits. *The Masque of the Red Death* which Corman directed and Vincent Price starred in will screen Thursday at 8 p.m. to commence the "Local Maverick Spotlight." A Q&A with Corman will follow.

This year the festival adds a new night to its schedule to encompass an expanded program which will include documentaries, a showcase featuring films by women directors, a political film series, a youth showcase, music videos and indie features.

Some pre-screening standouts appear to be *Champion*, a documentary on actor Danny Trejo which chronicles the difficulties of his life-beginnings—Trejo was a child drug addict and also did time in San Quentin; *Apocalypse Oz* a short where "the worlds of *Apocalypse Now* and *The Wizard of Oz* meet"; *A School of Their Own* shot on location in Nepal and directed by Venice-based filmmaker and journalist, Debra Kaufman; and feature *Cain and Abel* which includes an appearance by Public Enemy's Flavor Flav.

A panel discussion on Sunday at 4 p.m. will be the final festival program prior to the closing party. Local maverick, actor Chris Mulkey—who was recently nominated by the LA Weekly for a best acting nod for his work in the play "Flags"—will host the discussion. Such panels have served as standout moments for participants and attendees at previous Other Venice Film Festivals. 2004's relaxed give and take between Tony Bill, Mulkey and Camryn Manheim, for instance. And 2005, when skateboarder Tony Alva's frankness demonstrated why he can easily rivet a room even when sandwiched between film director Catherine Hardwick and writer/former skateboarder Stacy Peralta.

Parties, art exhibits and music by local bands will fulfill a Venice mandate of unique art and community vibes. Portions of the fest's ticket sales will be awarded to one local filmmaker to help them complete his or her project. Best place to *kick-it* during the fest has been the parking lot outside of the Electric Lodge off of Abbot Kinney, where festival attendees and participants such as Chris Mulkey lean against beach cruisers and enjoy the hang-time. But Switch Studios, the festival's other screen venue shouldn't be missed either. It's got bean bag chairs in its screen room and monkeys in its chandelier and the owner, Matt Danzinger, is an indie filmmaker himself.

The Festival runs from Thursday, March 16 – Sunday, March 19. Screenings, filmmaker Q&A's, parties and exhibits will be split between the Electric Lodge and Switch Studios. Online ticket purchase, detailed schedules and venue addresses are available at www.theothervenicefilmfest.com

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