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This year the 17th Annual California Independent Film Festival begins with the most spectacular opening night in festival history. The opening night

directed by Jeremy Culver, will have more expected

film, "An Evergreen Christmas," a family film

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## Don't Miss the California Independent Film Festival

Submitted by Lindsay Pirkle



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cast members than ever before. Expected to attend includes Robert Loggia ("Jagged Edge," "Scarface," "Big," "An Officer and a Gentleman"); musician and composer Charleene Closshey ("A Thousand Cuts"); Booboo Stewart ("Twilight Saga: Eclipse," "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1&2," "X-Men: Days of Future Past"); Jake Sandvig ("Easy A," "Sky High, Weeds"); and Greer Grammer ("Awkward," "Life Partner"). Culver will also be in attendance, as well as producer Kim Waltrip and director of photography Jeffrey Osborne. Opening night takes place Sept. 11 at the Rheem Theatre. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m.

Film Screenings will take place at both the Rheem and Orinda theatres, but this year's screenings will be extended to the Castro Theater in San Francisco on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 12-13. There will also be special events happening at the Castro Theater such as a 30th anniversary screening of "Sixteen Candles" with celebrity guests Justin Henry, Debbie Pollack, and Gedde Watanabe as well as "To Wong Foo Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar" with special guest Julie Newmar, who will be receiving the CAIFF Lifetime Achievement Award.

A special event happening at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Orinda Theatre will be a screening of "Kramer vs. Kramer" with celebrity special guest, Oscar nominee Justin Henry.

Closing night will take place on Sunday, Sept. 14 at the Orinda Theatre with a screening of the romantic dramedy "Putzel." The reception begins at 6 p.m., with catering provided by Shelbys of Orinda.

There is a wide selection of films to choose from at all three venues. Be sure to read through the program, or visit www.CAIFF.org for film schedule and synopses.



Closing night film, "Putzel"

Reach the reporter at: <a href="mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com">info@lamorindaweekly.com</a>

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