Film Festival Opens in Lamorinda This Weekend

By Sophie Braccini

hat better way to kick off a wonderful weekend of fantastic films than to rub elbows with the films' stars, directors and producers? This year's California Independent Film Festival, Sept. 11-14 at the Rheem and Orinda theaters, and the Castro Theatre in San Francisco, will offer film enthusiasts more chances to mingle than ever before. The festival's main features have been purposefully steered toward feel-good, optimistic people said last year, and added more light-hearted films."

Rena Elyse Strober

films, while several powerful documentaries will intrigue, inform, uplift, or simply break your heart – you can choose your ing night at the Rheem Theatre, Thursday Sept. 11. Some emotion and run with it. And don't forget the shorts; as usual there will be unforgettable surprises.

way," says CAIFF co-founder Derek Zemrak. "We heard what Jake Sandvig ("Easy A," "Sky High," "Weeds").

"An Evergreen Christmas" will be featured on openof the cast will be there, including Oscar nominee Robert Loggia ("Jagged Edge," "Big," "An Officer and a Gen-"We chose movies that talk about relationships in a positive tleman"), Charleene Closshey ("A Thousand Cuts"), and

Kent S. Leung

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New Art Form Makes Debut Spin at Art and Wine Festival

By Cathy Tyson



his year's Art and Wine Festival brings the public debut of a new art form – live trAction painting that feeds off the energy of the crowd and music as it's performed. Several artists have stepped up to volunteer their time during the festival to introduce the magic, just for the fun of it. Look for the artists near the Fiesta Stage as they bring their own creative signatures to this unique method that utilizes wheeled conveyances that will "paint" to the music played on stage, boldly interpreting the vibe in real time. The art will be auctioned off upon completion when there's a break in the music; 100 percent of the proceeds will go to Meals on Wheels.

Artist Jon Barry came up with the

concept of trAction painting as a fresh look at Action painting, a genre that emphasizes the physical act of painting as an essential aspect of the finished work. TrAction is his interpretation using a variety of wheeled contraptions, like a mountain bike, roller blades or a scooter, pro-

duced on large canvases. Initially he practiced on an unused street, and he has customized his sidewalk. He even had summer camp kids participate in producing the art. Barry describes it as a combination of performance and process art, abstract expressionism, and much more of a kinetic experience - pedaling and skidding, making patterns - than producing art with a brush.

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