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'Accused'

International thriller opens Feb. 19 at Orinda Theatre By Sophie Braccini



cused," is a well-done criminal mys- to life in prison. Only a few people tery, harsh, thrilling, nerve racking – a tough film, based on a true story. It judicial system for years to free her. denounces the abuse and collusion This case is said to have been the between justice and economic intermost blatant miscarriage of justice in est, the complacency of some magistrates and the difficulties to bring truth forth once verdicts have been render Oest. There is no lag time as the dered. The film from the Netherlands is a must-see for all those interested in the courts and in justice.

the Netherlands in 2001. She was a nurse in a hospital where a baby in her care died. First toxicology reports showed poison in the baby's blood that caused his death. De Berk was accused of murder. A somewhat arrogant loner, she attracted suspicion. The prosecution scrutinized her past and started collecting data on deaths threatens to crush them all. that had happened while she was working. Statistical and circumstan- Netherlands' prisons, which is not a emy Awards. For information, visit

Showcase selection, "Ac- tempted murders. She was sentenced believed in her and tried to fight the modern Netherlands.

Kudos go to director Paula Van scenario is effectively set and the audience quickly senses the inescapable trap De Berk is going to fall into, and Lucia De Berk's story began in how she becomes prisoner of a terrible grinding machine with no rewind button. In this role Ariane Schulter, who plays De Berk, found a way to express human despair with class. The rest of the cast also offer solid and touching performances. All of them look real – normal people from everyday life thrown into a turmoil that gory. This is the second time that a

tial evidence was enough to convict pretty sight. The scenario does not www.lamorindatheatre.com.

his month's International Film her of seven murders and four at- dwell on some of the worst things that happened to De Berk, such as the stroke she suffered after one of her judicial setbacks or her detention in an asylum. There are other ways the movie is not true to the facts; the eager young prosecutor who builds the case against her is an invention. The film only barely touches on the hysteria that developed in the press and the public against De Berk, who was called "The Angel of Death." The role of public opinion in a case with such media coverage could have been explored when it worked against the nurse, and then later, for her.

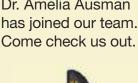
"Accused" is opening Feb. 19 for a one-week United States commercial premiere engagement at the Orinda Theatre. It was shortlisted for an Oscar in the Best Foreign Film catefilm directed by Van Der Oest has A part of the movie takes place in represented its country at the Acad-

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International Film Festival at Pleasant Hill March 5-13

Submitted by Riva Gambert

The East Bay International Jewish Film Festival kicks off its 21st season on Saturday, March 5 at the Century 16 Theatres in Pleasant Hill with the Best Foreign Film Oscar nominee "Labyrinth of Lies." It will conclude with another Oscar submission in the foreign language category, "Baba Joon," on March 13.

"We're delighted that our 21st year will bring many award-winning films to our community that speak to a broad audience," says chair Margaret Winter, a Contra Costa resident originally from London. "And while many of our films embrace serious issues, festival-goers will also be able to enjoy lighter fare such as the romantic French comedy 'Serial Bad Weddings' and the American romance '5 to 7' co-starring Glenn Close and Frank Langella."

The closing night film "Baba Joon" has received much press because it is Israel's first film in the Iranian language Farsi. It tells a universal story of intergenerational conflict and father and son relations. Veteran actor Navid Negahban, best known in the United States as mastermind Abu Nazir in Showtime's Homeland, stars as Yitzhak, the tough father who demands that his son Moti follow in his footsteps. The international cast is made up of almost all Iranian-

The Festival includes films from Spain, France, Canada, Germany, Morocco, New Zealand, Poland and Israel. Based on a true incident, the Spanish World War II thriller "Dirty Wolves" follows the heroic exploits of two women who sabotaged a Nazi mining operation. "The Canadian drama, Remember, stars two legendary actors, Christopher Plummer and Martin Landau. It is a must see," adds Margaret. "You will remember this film long after the credits

The entire nine-day schedule can be viewed online at eastbayjewishfilm.org.

Lamorinda Music Teacher ... continued from page B1

Meyer's service extends beyond served as a clarinetist in the National joining the National Guard was no small miracle, and was quite possibly a lifesaver. He had been given a 1-A classification by the Selective Service and a week out of college he was preparing to report for service – and a likely tour of Vietnam. Then a friend called with the offer to audition for the

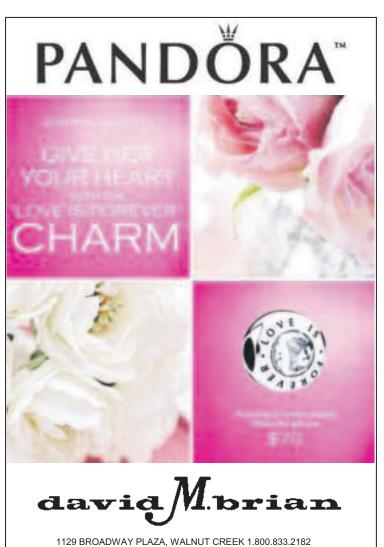
Shortly after joining the 59th the classroom. From 1969 to 1975 he Army Band, Meyer took his first teaching position in Yuba City and so Guard's 59th Army Band. For Meyer, began his double life. "I'd work all day at school, jump in the car, go up to Sacramento. I played for the governor, I played for Reagan's inauguration, I played for big time social events for senators," he said. "It was just a hoot, we really had a good time." It wasn't uncommon for him to get home at 2 a.m.

Meyer devoted the same time and

energy to the CMEA starting in the '80s. He served two terms as a CMEA Bay Section Band Representative and one term as president of the regional Bay Section.

Meyer figures to be surrounded by CMEA colleagues, as well as friends and family, when he's inducted into the CMEA Hall of Fame at the Feb. 12 Awards Gala. No doubt Meyer will want to find somewhere to celebrate afterward, so long as it isn't the Round Up.





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