

Hercules Saves Christmas in Orinda

By Cathy Dausman



Mackenzie Phillips, Hercules and Max

dog, a boy, and Christmaswhat's not to like? The mighty combination is working well for producers Derek Zemrak and Leonard Pirkle as they prepare to unleash the Orinda Theatre.

crew. It features Animal Planet's Pit Boss dog star Hercules. Human actors include Mackenzie Phillips, Danny Arroyo, Kathy Garver, Maggie VandenBerghe and Richard Van Vleet. Hercules' film voice belongs to owner Shorty Rossi, who has a cameo role as a priest in the film. Zemrak says the most difficult part of production was accommodating Rossi's schedule.

The story idea came about while the two were attending another premier in Hawaii. The script: orphan

thony Robinson) meets a talking dog (Hercules) who works for Santa. Max and Hercules go to San Francisco, where they encounter a pack of toy-stealing dogs and evil humans. red carpet World Premier of Hercules Only Max can see Hercules, and Her-Saves Christmas November 17 at the cules can only speak when wearing his magic collar. Add some elves to The movie was shot last winter in the magic, stir in comedy and sus-Lamorinda (http://tinyurl.com/3w6pcju) pense, and you've got a movie Aniwith a local supporting cast and film mal Planet has already snapped up (it airs December 3).

Photos provided

Celebrities arrive at 6:30 p.m.; the movie premiers at 7:00 p.m., with a Q&A to follow. Hercules then moves to Moraga's New Rheem Theatre, where it will play for a week. The movie's trailer is online available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= leqdNPmfYdU. Dog, elf and Christmas lovers will be delighted to know Zemrak's already thinking ahead to a sequel.



Max (played by South Bay local An- Dana Michael Woods (background: Anthony Robinson as "Max")



Impresses Audience

By Cathy Tyson

Author Glen David Gold at Lamorinda Reads event with pooch, Cocoa Photo Cathy Tyson

Jaudience of fans of his book, *Carter Beats the Devil* at the finale of this year's Lamorinda Reads season at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. The engaging, likeable author couldn't have been more down to earth, illustrating his journey toward completing the book with lots of colorful, juicy details.

"They said make yourself at home, so I brought my dog," said Gold as he first reached the podium. The well behaved, rather large Cocoa just hung out on his leash, napping at times.

Right off the bat he confessed to plagiarizing a story about a goldfish when he was three. Continuing the Irvine in the spring.

brutally honest trend were four self-described "very bad" novels in a row starting at twenty-three. "I had been mistaking clever for genius," said Gold. Carter Beats the Devil was born at the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program at UC Irvine when he was in his early thirties. He got off to an encouraging start sharing the first paragraph and early chapters with a very supportive Graduate Writer's Workshop at the MFA program. It

wasn't all smooth len David Gold charmed an sailing for the lengthy historical fiction novel however, at one point he took an eighteen month hiatus. He followed that with a job as a receptionist, from which he was fired. Once finally complete, his publication

> date was September 11, 2001. The film rights for the story have also had a slightly bumpy ride: first optioned by Tom Cruise, then AMC - The American Movie Channel, then Warner Brothers. Gold reported he just had a phone call the other day that Warner had renewed their option.

> Since Carter, Gold has published a novel, Sunnvside, numerous short stories, and screenplays. He'll be teaching at the MFA program at UC



Boutique Salon

Skin Care

Business Service Directory

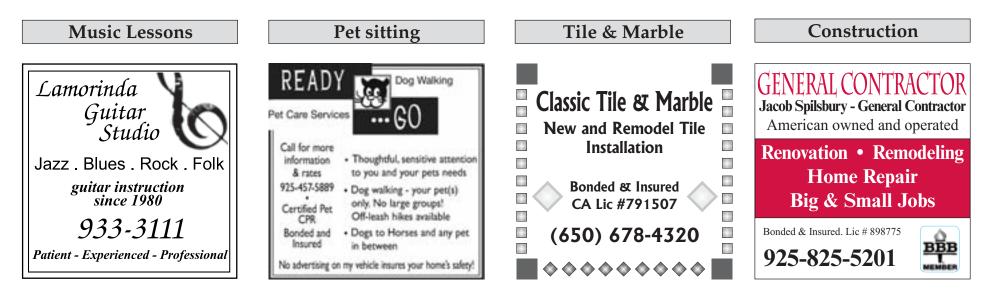
Zahra Boutique Salon

FREE eyebrow shaping with any \$45 hair service or boutique merchandise' *first time customers only

3578 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette (925) 284-3031 www.zahraboutiquesalon.com

iLuma Mobile Skin Care

Rejuvenating facials at Home! *Highest Quality European Products *Certified Medical Esthetician *18 yrs. in Salon/Spa Industry For appt: 925-260-3432 iLumaMobileSkinCare.com



Underpinning



Gardening

J. Limon Gardening

Maintenance/Clean-up Monthly Service Sprinkler System Repair

Call Jose (925) 787-5743 License #: 018287

Give your kitchen a facelift! Limitless options on sizes, style, colors.

Construction

Save time and money by re-facing instead of remodeling. Fine custom cabinets. No middleman.

C.P. Smith Construction Lafayette, Phone: 510-523-6067 Email: kustomkitchens1@yahoo.com



Heating

925-944-1122 www.atlasheating.com Since 1908