

SBIFF Honors Michael Douglas

By Robert F. Adams / Special to CASA

MOVIE ICON MICHAEL DOUGLAS was honored by the Santa Barbara International Film Festival with the prestigious Kirk Douglas Award for Excellence in Film. The award, was presented by his father, Kirk Douglas, at a star studded event held at the exclusive Coral Casino, at Four Seasons Resort the Biltmore in Montecito, October 13th.

The red-carpet swirl included celebrity guests, many of them actors and directors who have work with the younger Douglas during his long career, including actress Annette Bening and Oscar-winning actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, his wife.

Director Andrew Davis called Douglas “irrepressible and gutsy;” the ever-gorgeous Bo Derek shared that Douglas “is easy to watch onscreen.” Commentator Dennis Miller; character actors extraordinaire Danny DeVito, Rhea Perlman, and Christopher Lloyd; directors Robert Zemeckis and Ivan Reitman; and Kirk and Anne Douglas all lauded the honoree.

Highlighting the moment, sparkling Moet “Imperial” champagne was served on the exquisite terrace overlooking the sunlit waves.

When asked about his career Michael Douglas replied, “Give it your best.” He then mentioned that the award “is special because this is Santa Barbara, a special place, as I attended UCSB and have many great memories here.”

Film festival patrons adjourned to the Ballroom for a gourmet four-course dinner and the formal award presentation. After welcoming remarks from new Film Festival Board President Doug Stone, Roger Durling, the Executive Director said, “I have often dreamed that this award would go to Michael Douglas... This is the pinnacle of the 27 years of the Santa Barbara Film Festival.”

Seated at large tables labeled with names of Michael Douglas’s past films, the guests were treated to film clips, which reminded the audience of why Michael Douglas’s career has been so enduring for audiences. Short scenes from *The American President*, *Fatal Attraction*, *Basic Instinct* and *Romancing the Stone* were screened, as well as the classic *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (which Douglas produced) reminding guests of the phenomenal movies that Michael Douglas has starred in. Douglas has a dramatic intensity that is indelible.

On the podium Annette Bening reminisced about how easy it was to work with Douglas. She co-starred with him in *The American President* and called the event “a wonderful night.” Actor/Director Danny DeVito discussed their friendship over the years, after having met the young Douglas backstage in 1964 in a summer theatre setting. He added that Michael “is deserving of



Annette Bening, Kirk Douglas, Danny DeVito, Christopher Lloyd, and Michael Douglas

the award, and is a total professional.” Kirk Douglas, wry and humorous at 95 years old, told stories about Michael’s development as a young actor and quipped, “I was surprised that he was so talented.... since his second stage role he has been good in everything he has done.”

Michael Douglas gratefully accepted the honor and seemed genuinely moved. He acknowledged his father, paying tribute to Kirk, the iconic actor, blacklist-buster, stroke-recovery patient, and generous benefactor, saying, “Your third-act is extraordinary.” He also honored his friends and assistants, his family, and the late, great actor Karl Malden (*Streets of San Francisco*) who “was a wonderful mentor for me in my early career.” He further stated, “I marvel at the success of this film festival, and its amazing growth in the last 25 plus years.” “I am truly happy to be honored by this special award named after my father.”

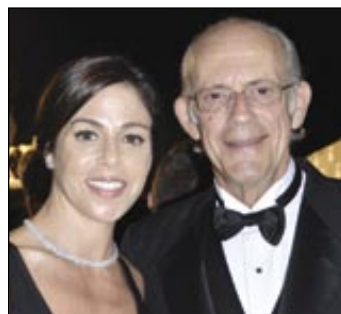
A standing ovation by the delighted audience ensued, which included, among others, Film Festival founder Phyllis de Picciotto and attorney Stan Roden, Mayor Helene Schneider, Jeffrey Barbakow, Lynda Weinman and

Bruce Heavin, Rob and Judy Egenolf, along with other Board members, Tom and Devon McFall, Julia Fitzroy, representing Moet Champagne, Andy and Dolly Granatelli, Genevieve Gibson, Jelinda and Barry DeVorzon, and many others. The event was a glittering success for the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, which provides film outreach efforts including community screenings, its 10-10-10 Student Filmmaking and Screenwriting Competitions, Field Trip to the Movies, and an ongoing commitment to diversity in filmmaking.

The 27th Edition of the Santa Barbara Film Festival will be held January 26th through February 5th, 2012. For information call 963-0023 or visit www.sbfilmfestival.org.



Rhea Perlman and Danny DeVito



Lisa Loiacono and Christopher Lloyd



Stan Roden and SBIFF Founder Phyllis de Picciotto



Fiona Stone and Doug Stone, SBIFF Board President



Michael Douglas with Sheela Hunt



Dennis Miller and Carolyn Miller



Genevieve and Ivan Reitman



Kirk Douglas and Michael Douglas



Catherine Zeta-Jones with her husband honoree Michael Douglas



Andy Davis, Director and Danny DeVito with SB Mayor Helene Schneider



Kirk and Anne Douglas



Lynda Weinman and Bruce Heavin

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Contact her at priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com • (805) 969-3301