

NEWS BULLETIN

LOS ANGELES CINEMA CLUB

“OUR 73RD YEAR!”

JANUARY, 2008

ORANGE ALERT

In the unlikely event that some of you got so caught up in the holiday madness you forgot that January 27th is our really big annual banquet and neglected to make reservations for same, a quick call to president Pam or Treasurer Richard Mottern, or even the editor can remedy that revolting development. **\$25.00** (cheap) gets you a fine dinner featuring either beef or fish and a program of never-before-seen movies.

Lest you forget, January is also the month to **renew your membership** in our exclusive little organization, here is a cheerful reminder. For a paltry **25.00** per single membership or **\$30.00** for family this is a deal that is hard to beat. (even e-bay can't come close.) This piddling amount entitles you to a year of mingling with the smartest, most creative, most sophisticated, and best looking group in Southern California.

Remember, you also get eleven issues of this ABPP (all but perfect publication). I can guarantee that it is now totally free of trans fat, and Canada has proved it does not cause cancer in rats. The latest poll shows it to be the first choice among local aviaries to use on the bottom of their birdcages.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! (hic)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

You have probably noticed by now the smiling face of our President does not grace the top of this page. She is not incapacitated or anything dire. She and our Program Chairman have worked so hard the past year the editor has graciously given them the month off. At our January banquet/meeting she will step down and a new leader will take over.

In the interim they have been travelling the world peddling democracy and dispensing cheap American dollars to numerous foreign economies.

Their cruise took them **Thailand** (Bangkok), **Singapore**, then on to **HO Chi Minh City** in Vietnam, where Walt had served a stint while in the military. From there they went to **Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia**, then across the Equator to **Darwin, Australia**. From there they took in **Cairns**, the **Great Barrier Reef**, **Brisbane**, and **Sydney** before packing up and heading home.

We all join in to wish them a hearty **“WELCOME TO AMERICA!!!”**, and serve notice that we had better be treated to some exciting movies in the **near** future.

THE LATEST SALVO IN THE DVD WAR

Dawn C. Chmielewski writing in an L. A. Times article indicates the costly format war similar to the VHS versus Beta has been averted. Warner Bros. recently announced they would release movies for the home video market exclusively on the Sony **Blu-ray** disc format. This in theory delivers a de facto knockout punch to the rival **HD DVD** format backed by Toshiba and and Universal Studios, Paramount Pictures, and DreamWorks Animation.

In Blu-ray's corner is 20th Century Fox, Walt Disney Co., Sony Pictures, and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, representing about 70% of the home video market

“Expect **HD DVD** to die a quick death,” says **Richard Greenfield**, an analyst with Pali Research in New York.

To quote **J. P. Gownder**, an analyst with Forrester Research in Cambridge, Mass., “Unfortunately, the loser here with the format war has been the consumer. People said the fact that there was a format war, meant they weren't going to buy a high definition DVD player. They just weren't going to try to figure it out.”

I am hoping that most of my tech-savvy readers will know what the preceding paragraphs mean, because your editor has no idea what the hell they are talking about.

PASSINGS

HATTIE LEE BEACH



Howard Lockwood

We lament the passing of Jim's sweet wife, 91, on Dec. 18. She and Jim have been active members of the L.A. Cinema Club since 1994.

Hattie was born in Eldorado, Oklahoma where her father was a dentist. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a BS degree in Home Economics. She taught school in Tulsa until she came to California to marry Jim, who was working at Lockheed. They recently celebrated their 65th anniversary.

Hattie was a lifetime member of the St.

Joseph's Hospital Guild where she gave of her time helping others. She enjoyed bridge with her many friends. She and Jim travelled extensively within the U.S. and to exotic places across the world. Their prize-winning movies of their travels provided much pleasure for our club and many other venues. We offer condolences to Jim, who has suffered such a big loss.

ALBERT CLARK

We just received word that Life Member **Albert Clark** has died. Mr. Clark had been a member of the club since 1947, but has not been active for a number of years. He passed away October 12th at the age of 101.

GLOBE TREKKERS DEPARTMENT

Bob and Betty lehl Spent a portion of their holiday on ship buzzing about the Galapagos Islands. (how I envy them). This was their second visit to the area. It has been approximately thirty years since their previous trip. They say much has changed in the interim but it is still a fascinating destination. Everything there is a photographer's dream, but Betty said the highlight was a school (or a pod) (or whatever) of several hundred dolphins in a feeding frenzy around their ship. Bob got some video of them and I can hardly wait to see that footage.

IT TAKES A TWO BY FOUR

by Ol' Stan

We are all familiar with the old story of the farmer, who, before even picking up the reins, hit his mule across the head with a two-by-four, ostensibly to get his attention.

We as movie makers, also should let our audience have a two-by-four between the horns, (cinematically speaking, of course), if our efforts are to receive more plaudits than yawns.

Specifically, I am referring to the way we choose to start our movies. The opening sequence can make or break a film. The filmer can lose his audience with weak a opening sequence and be unable to recapture it, even with exceptional footage.

The movie maker should strive for an opening that will "grab" the audience, get their attention, and put them on the edge of the seat, anxious to see what is to follow.

There are several elements that can be used, individually or in combination with each other, that will help achieve immediate audience response to a movie. They are as follows:

(1) SURPRISE (2) COLOR (3) UNUSUAL ANGLE (4) ACTION

The **SURPRISE** opening should be used judiciously. Care should be exercised that surprise is not used for its own sake. If it is not relevant to the story it will tend to confuse and annoy the viewer.

Striking **COLORS** and unusual **SHAPES**, or combinations of both tend to grab audiences interest immediately. Here again, they should be kept relevant to the story

The unusual **ANGLE** or **VIEWPOINT** opens endless possibilities for attention-grabbing opening scenes. Experimenting while shooting can give a variety to choose from, come editing time

Of course **ACTION** is what moies are allabout. Too many filmers forget that "**MOVIES SHOULD MOVE**", and do not maintain their AQ (Action Quotient) either in the opening or subsequent

scenes, Consequently the audience does not enjoy the movie as much as they should.

So,..... movie makers, as you gather footage for your next epic, look for the scene with the extra dramatic punch that can be used to belt your audience right between the eyes the instant that image hits the screen. Get off to a roaring start and the battle is half won.

But beware! The fact that you have a terrific beginning is no reason to relax your efforts on the rest of the production. It is disappointing to an audience fired up by a wild beginning to have the story droop after the opening salvo.

So, movie makers, whether you utilize SURPRISE, COLOR, UNUSUAL ANGLE, or ACTION as a "grabber" is not important. What is important is that you do remember the **two-by-four**.....audiences are a lot like mules.

NEW YEARS GREETINGS (from President-elect) **Walt Gilmore**

Happy New Year! Having just returned from our holiday cruise from Bangkok to Australia and with organizing the January banquet, Pam and I are a little pushed for time, so this will be necessarily short and hopefully sweet as I will leave the important club news and reminders to the editor.

As we start the new year I hope you all are ready to leap into action making videos and helping to keep our club the fun and outstanding organization it has always been.

So for now I will just say I hope that your holidays were joyful, your prospects look bright and we'll see you January 27th, at the Taix Restaurant.

As they say: **BE THERE OR BE SQUARE.**

LOOKING AHEAD IN ZERO EIGHT

JAN Banquet date **JANUARY 27th**.....**Note!**.the banquet will take the place of our regularly scheduled January 23rd monthly meeting. **Also!!!!****due\$ are due!!** (ouch!!)

FEB 2 **Groundhog Day** (enjoy a sausage and scrambled egg breakfast)

FEB 4 Board of Governor's meeting.....At Nadine Russek's home.

FEB 27 Meeting.....February program TBA in Feb. bulletin.

MAR 26 Meeting.....Spring Competition

BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING

Mark the old calendar for Monday, February 4th, the next Board of Governor's meeting. The pertinent details are:

Time:.....1:00 P.m.

Where:.....The home of Nadine Russek

Address:.....833 No. Catalina Ave.

Pasadena, CA

Phone:.....(626) 345-0500

All members are welcome to attend.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR 2008

I never think of the future. It comes soon enough

-ALBERT EINSTEIN

The future is much like the present, only longer

-DAN QUISENBERRY

The future, according to some scientists, will be exactly like the past, only far more expensive.

-JOHN SLADEK

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2007

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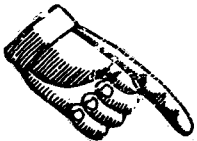
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SUNSHINE.....Leosia Shirley

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**JAN. 27th is the banquet
date.....SEE YOU THERE!!**

FIRST CLASS MAIL