Hollywood A-list gives the thumbs up to film festival

CANNES-TASTIC

By JENNY PAUL

THIS week the ‘who'll be coming’ guessing game came to an end as major Hollywood stars swarmed into Cannes for the 2003 film festival.

Although business is done by film industry minions, it can seem that the festival is just an excuse for the rich and famous to party. The hottest party in town was MTV’s Terminator 3 bash, held in fashion designer Pierre Cardin’s mansion in the hills above Vallauris, and the Gazette was there.

“Arnold Schwarzenegger walked right past me at one point. He was just wandering round casually just chatting with people,” said our reporter.

“No expense was spared – every glass had a tiny light in the bottom of it, and you could get any drink imaginable. Groove Armada took care of the music.

“There were around 1,500 people there. The place was crammed with famous faces from the pop and film worlds. But even within this VIP party, there was an area reserved for even more rarified stars.

Earlier in the week we were also at London club Soho House’s villa in Le Suquet. “They’ve basically hired a sumptuous villa and turned it into a party for the duration of Cannes. There was a little scene on Friday night – one of the lads from boy band Blue was caught ‘in flagrante’ with a girl in the toilet, and had to beg the security men to let him stay.”

Sozzled
Cardin’s futuristic home is dubbed the Bubble Palace and has swimming pools on every level of the house. But sozzled partygoers risked tumbling from the upper levels and landing in one of the pools.

Earlier on Saturday night at the swish Carlton hotel on the Croisette, The Gazette watched the champagne flow as stars including Ewan McGregor, Kristin Scott Thomas and Andie McDowell revelled at another party to laud the long awaited Terminator movie.

The street outside was crammed with fans trying to grab a glimpse of their favourite stars. The hotel also had a T3 makeover with droids and a huge movie logo covering the front of the hotel. Earlier in the day, Arnold, 59, delighted fans by holding a press conference in the street outside the hotel.

Locals also came across stars in less obvious places as they struggled to find space away from the festival. Dances with Wolves star Kevin Costner popped into the Xtreme bar in Antibes – “He and his entourage came and had a couple of bottles of red wine,” manager Glen Ray told The Gazette. “They had just flown in and were pretty tired, but had decided to get out of Cannes and have a look around Antibes.”

By JENNY PAUL

YOU GOTTA BE KIDMAN … Nicole came to promote in competition film Dogville

PRINCE OF ANTIBES … Kevin Costner called in at the Xtreme bar for a drink

MEG-NIFICENT ... Meg Ryan is on the jury which will award this year’s Palme d’Or

SILL Y PUCKERS … Jackie Chan and Steve Coogan star in Around the World in 80 Days

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Fangio back on track in Monaco

A STATUE of Juan Manuel Fangio, regarded by many as the greatest racing driver ever, was unveiled this week on the Rascasse corner in Monte Carlo.

The event was part of a four day programme laid on as stars from both entertainment and sport swarmed into Monaco for the annual Laureus World Sports Awards.

Brazilian soccer star Ronaldo flew in from Madrid to scoop two statuettes at the awards ceremony, held at the Grimaldi Forum on Tuesday night. One was for World Comeback of the Year, for the two goals he scored in last year’s World Cup, and the other was the World Team of the Year award, which he picked up on behalf of Brazil’s national side.

Lapdance

Other winners included tennis ace Serena Williams, who scooped Sportswoman of the Year and, taking a break from the film festival, Arnold Schwarzenegger who won a Sport for Good award.

The Hôtel de Paris was the favoured place to stay, counting Rod Stewart and latest squeeze Penny Lancaster, Rod’s ex-missus Rachel Hunter, Kylie Minogue and French boyfriend Olivier Martinez and Arnold Schwarzenegger among its clientele.

A detective with Dyfed-Powys spoke of the usual suspects including Boris Becker, Patsy Kensit, Erigi La Salle and Rod Stewart all moved on to Jimmy’s nightclub. Penny Lancaster lashed out on a saucy lapdance for the pair jumped in a cab and headed for their hotel.

Also in town for the four days, which includes a golf and tennis tournament, were Vinny Jones, singer Gabrielle, John McEnroe and Lionel Richie.

The awards are organised by the Laureus World Sports Academy, which raises money for underprivileged children to play sport.
The Riviera Gazette Thursday 22 May 2003

News

MONACO'S football team carried off the league cup on Saturday and is in with a chance of winning the Ligue 1 championship this year. But the club could be den- bedroom to the semi-professional national league unless it can find sufficient funds to satisfy the DNCG, France's football regulator. Clubs have to show proof of sufficient funds to the French football league to qualify for professional status. Monaco is currently €67m in the red.

However, the team is hoping that HSH Prince Albert will step in and save the day. “It is clear the club is in dan- ger and if 48 hours before going to the DNCG no solution has been found, we’ll have to act,” Prince Rainier’s son said in an interview with sports daily L’Équipe last Thursday. “We’ll have to bring investors together. It will be part of an emergency plan, but if needed, we’ll step in,” said Prince Albert, who is prohibited by law from injecting government or palace money into the club. Prince Albert denied recent speculation that the club had already found new investors and said he was worried. “There are only three local investors, in a company called Monaco Football Investment,” he said.

“With palace approval, it bought ten percent of the shares with €5m. It will help Monaco get through to the end of the season in a finan- cial point of view. “But we are all worried. There is something shape-taking. And in a week, it will be too late.”

Workers strike out at reforms

LOCAL schools faced more closures last Monday as teachers took to the streets again to protest against the government’s education reforms. 

Bank workers and employees of France Télécom all jumped on the band wagon, as teachers and New York at 3/1.

Ladbrokes declared Paris the European capital already boasts a state-of-the-art 80,000 capac- ity stadium. A basketball arena, swimming pool and athletes’ and media villages were undertaken.

Paris mayor Bertrand Delanoë is in negotiations with the president and the regional authorities over who will cover the costs. Paris already has many of the facilities required to hold the games after hosting the football world cup in 1998.

The capital already boosts a state-of-the-art 80,000 capac- ity stadium. A basketball arena, swimming pool and athletes’ and media villages are the only major new projects that would need to be undertaken.

Yesterday UK bookmaker Ladbrokes declared Paris the favourite to win at odds of 2/1, followed by both London and New York at 3/1.

Border controls back

TRAVELLERS face long delays after landbor- der controls were re-instated for the duration of the festival at the French-Italian border. The return of passport checks on the local TGV stations added to the already long waits. The return of passport checks on the local TGV stations added to the already long waits.

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Over 100 shoppers at a 24- hour petrol station in Antibes have become the latest vic- tims of an international bank card scam. 

Banks began receiving com- plaints of mystery cash with- drawals on customers’ bank statements early this month. All the card holders had recently filled up with petrol using the automated pumps at Carrefour in Antibes.

The first case was in the Var in early March. In March cases were similar complaints by cus- tomers who had used the auto- matic petrol pumps at the Géant Casino in Mandelieu and, in April, an ultra-thin card reader was found hidden in a pump at an out-of-town super- store in Montpellier. The crooks allowed crooks to grab details of customers’ cards and pin numbers. These can be used to make fake cards to withdraw cash from ATMs in countries that do not yet have chip security in their bank cards.

Over 100 people have now reported their cards have been used to make ‘phantom’ with- drawals, mostly at cash dis- pensers in Spain, Greece, Italy and the Far East.

Cardholders are now being urged to check their statements as soon as they arrive and report any suspect transac- tions to their bank.

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Wolves face the bullet for killing farmers’ flocks

FARMERS may soon be allowed to shoot wolves that threaten their crops.

A new report recommends steps to protect local farmers’ flocks from the threat of being savaged by the wolves. The 25 proposals suggest that Alpine areas where its presence would not be a threat of being savaged by the wolves. The 25 proposals suggest that Alpine areas would be placed under three categories, and finally those where they could be culled under certain conditions and finally areas where its presence would not be tolerated.

Wolves are a protected species, and marks on the sheep’s carcass.

The reward, now in its second year, was the brainchild of local doctor François Dufour. “The idea was to involve everybody,” he said, “and to bring the village alive in winter, which is a dead time of year.”

Late last year a 60-strong group of farmers, holding them down to a shortlist of five. These were made available in special boxes placed around the village, including at the mairie, the post office, in bars and shops. Villagers borrowed them then and, last weekend, voted for their favourites.

Three of the five shortlisted authors were also selected for the long-established and more prestigious Prix de Chambery, also awarded last weekend, but chose to go instead to La Cadière.

“To me it is more important that people came up to me today said that my book moved them and made them cry,” said Pascal Campin after receiving his prize.

A new report claims the PACA region’s population will top five million by 2030, prompting a major housing crisis. The region currently has some 4.5 million residents.

SOVEREIGN

FRENCH INHERITANCE LAW - WHO BENEFITS?

Opening for the distribution of your estate when you die can be a daunting and stressful task, but it is a huge responsibility. It should be handled with care and should not be ignored.

This is particularly important for UK residents and UK expats who own French property. Many incorrectly assume that if they have a UK will that deals with worldwide property it will adequately deal with their French property.

In France, however, immovable property and land is subject to French succession law. This applies regardless of the residency of the owner and regardless of any specific distribution of property they may have outlined in their UK will.

UK residents are familiar with an inheritance system that allows them to leave their estates to almost anyone they wish. In France, succession law dictates who can benefit from a person’s estate. Additionally, the amount of inheritance tax paid is determined by the relationship between the beneficiary and the deceased, and the size of such individual inheritance - not the size of the whole estate.

Assets are divided into two portions: a reserved portion (réserve personnelle) and a disposable portion (patrimoine disponible). Blood relatives considered protected heirs have rights to a majority share of the reserved portion. These are usually a person’s children, grandchildren, and sometimes grandchildren's children. The reserved portion is paid 100% of the estate, whereas parents or grandparents in one line only, the reserved portion is a quarter of the estate. Beneficiaries must be determined equally.

The disposable portion is the share that remains. This can be distributed as the testator wishes but the more distant the relationship between the beneficiary and the testator the higher the inheritance tax liability.

乡村旅游奖 奖金丰厚

A SMALL village west of Toulon became the focus of the literary world last weekend as it awarded its annual prize for France’s best first novel, writes Savannah Hickling. What makes La Cadière d’Azur’s book prize so special is that the winner is elected by the community of the sleepy Var village, which has a population of 4,300.

The winner of the €1,000 Prix de La Cadière was Pascal Campin, a 36-year-old Paris-based management consultant, for La République Selon Malik (The Republic According to Malik).

The award, now in its second year, was the brainchild of local doctor François Dufour. “The idea was to involve everybody,” he said, “and to bring the village alive in winter, which is a dead time of year.”

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“To me it is more important that people came up to me today and said that my book moved them and made them cry,” said Pascal Campin after receiving his prize.

Fogwell’s hidden cash

A FORMER banker at the heart of a Monaco financial scandal is in the spotlight again after it was revealed that his victims claimed he is not really bankrupt.

William Hobbs Fogwell, 68, siphoned off some six million euros belonging to clients of portfolio management company Hobbs Melville Financial in Monaco.

Now victims claim that his mistress owns a villa worth several million euros in the South of France. Lawyers are arguing that he probably bought it for her. Fogwell is currently in prison in Monaco.

Brit babe killed by dog

A TWO-MONTH-OLD British baby has been killed by a dog in northern France.

The baby died instantly after being bitten by the Alsatian, in the village of Holque, near Calais, on Friday.

The infant’s parents had left the child with a friend who had arranged a babysitting service for their evening out.

Wolves face the bullet for killing farmers’ flocks

FARMERS may soon be allowed to shoot wolves that threaten their crops.

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Wolves are a protected species, and marks on the sheep’s carcass. Farmers are being asked to sign up if they look for the wolves’ ravenous bite.

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Mike Lorimer tells Jenny Paul about the joys of buying property and having fresh lemons for a gin and tonic...  

“My wife and I used to come to Antibes and visit my brother-in-law for holidays and we fell in love with the place. At the time I was a director selling computer equipment to newspapers. The idea was to come down here first, to pare the way, but then things changed and we got married. I took a job as a financial advisor with a company down here, and then I struck out on my own in April. So far it’s proved to be a great success as just about all my clients decided to stay with me.

I’m a keen sportman and play squash three times a week at the Antibes Squash Club. I also play football once a week in Sophia with a bunch of French lads. The opportunity has presented itself for me to go waterskiing, so I hope to do that soon.

I’m also on the committee of the area’s British Chamber of Commerce. I’m the membership secretary. My fiancée Liz and I like to go walking up in Courmes, just up behind Gourdon. We go walking up in Courmes, just go walking up in Courmes and I don’t have a TV.

I'm a keen sportsman and play squash three times a week at the Antibes Squash Club. I also play football once a week in Sophia with a bunch of French lads. The opportunity has presented itself for me to go waterskiing, so I hope to do that soon.

In summer, though, I’m living by the sea in Golfe Juan, but I’m going to lose the view as I’ve just bought a new place in Antibes. But we will have a garden, which will be nice for the kids.

The sale went through alright but it’s amazing how much you have to pay to the French government in tax when you buy a place – it’s sky high in comparison to the UK. One thing that annoys me about living here, as it does everywhere else, is the bureaucracy. But you must remember it’s the same for the French as it is for the foreigners. No one is spared. So far I haven’t got the ‘anti-French thing’ that so spared. So far I haven’t got the ‘anti-French thing’ that so spared. So far I haven’t got the ‘anti-French thing’ that so spared.

On the plus side though, I was sitting here the other evening and poured myself a gin and tonic and just leant over and picked a lemon off the tree on my balcony to put it in. You can’t beat living somewhere where you can have fresh lemons with your gin!

Of course, there are some things I miss about the UK. Like English football; I’m a supporter of Newcastle United and I don’t have a TV. I miss family and friends, like everyone else. But another good thing about living here is that you can get ‘some’ quickly and if you want to.

I’ve no intention of moving back to the UK. But we do eat out a lot and am staying here for the moment.

FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT... Mike has recently set up on his own, advising expats on their finances.

In sum, summer, though, I’m living by the sea in Golfe Juan, but I’m going to lose the view as I’ve just bought a new place in Antibes. But we will have a garden, which will be nice for the kids.

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Thursday 22

● The 16th Cannes international film festival is being held at the Palais des Festivals until Sunday 28 May. Screens are open free during the festival. All films are not yet VO. English subtitles will be added. Tickets available on site. Contact: Office du Tourisme, Quai d'Antibes, 06400 Cannes.

The Cinéma de La Plage will be screening free films every evening during the festival. All films are not yet VO. English subtitles will be added. Tickets available on site. Contact: Office du Tourisme, Quai d'Antibes, 06400 Cannes.

The British Chamber of Commerce is hosting a "Healthy Business" evening at the Antics Squash & Fitness Club. Tel: 04 92 29 90 60.

The British Association, Monaco is holding a "Happy Hour" at Le Rivetier, Monte Carlo at 18:00. Contact: Asking Laker. Tel: +377 93 50 59 52 for info.

Adapt in France, a non-profit association that helps expatriates and new arrivals settle at home on the Riviera, is holding its 2nd annual get-together at the hall of the Centre de Vie, Vidaubonne from 15:00 to 17:00. Call if you would like to attend. Tel: 04 93 03 33 79.

The American Club is screening its last film at the Nikaïa, Nice at 18:00. Olympic gold medallist Marina Anisimova and Ognen Petev will be present. Tickets €23 and €37. Tel: 04 92 28 91 32.

Continuing today is the Cannes film festival.

Friday 23

Screening of the winner of the FIA Short Films competition winner at the Cinéma de la Plage. Cannes. Free passes are available from the tourist office from 14:00. The film starts at 22:30. Tel: 04 93 39 24 53.

A pass at the Waldorf Sobri de la Turcine. Contact Judith Versat. Tel: 04 92 38 10 39.

Vence is holding its Motive Power and ceramic fair today and tomorrow in the place de la République. Tickets are €20. Tel: +377 93 50 08 58.

There is a national games festival titled Art du feu in the old medieval hilltop village of Haut de Cagnes with art workshops, exhibitions and old-fashioned games. Tel: 04 93 32 19 25.

The Lycée du Looup is celebrating its traditional festival of provençal folklore in the village. Details from the tourist office. Tel: 04 93 32 68 36.

Marc Benoist on violin and alto Mauro Bigioni are performing in the cell of the Baroque Church in Vence Nice this evening at 20:00. The venue, at 25 rue de la Croix, is the inspiration of Gilbert Beucler, director of the Ensemble Baroque de Nice, who has created an authentic Baroque atmosphere for classical music. Entrance fee is €8 and includes a drink. Tel: 04 93 08 08 74.

LOT Rises to Copenhagen, Krakow, Stockholm and Vienna at 16:30.

Continuing today is the Collectors Motor Cars auction in Monte Carlo.

Saturday 24

Screening of the FIBA Short Films competition winner at the Cinéma de la Plage. Cannes. Free passes are available from the tourist office from 14:00. The film starts at 22:30. Tel: 04 93 39 24 53.

It's opening day at the Waldorf Sobri de la Turcine. Contact Judith Versat. Tel: 04 92 38 10 39.

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LOT Rises to Copenhagen, Krakow, Stockholm and Vienna at 16:30.

Continuing today is the Collectors Motor Cars auction in Monte Carlo.

Sunday 25

Today is Fête des Mères, Mother's day

Screening of Modern Times in English, directed and starring Charlie Chaplin at the Cinéma de Cart d'Or, Cannes. Free passes are available from the tourist office from 14:00. Bus pass at 22:30 and the film starts at 22:30. Tel: 04 93 39 24 53.

Pick up a Ferrari gearbox or some Dunlop Automobilia and Wrist Watches auction.

The Riviera Amateur Dramatic Association are performing in the cellar of the Nikaïa, Nice at 20:30. Call 08 99 70 11 11 for today’s weather in your town, or to get a three-day forecast in English. Calls cost €0.15 per minute.

Monday 26

Details from the tourist office. Tel: 04 93 32 68 36.

Cabris and followed by dinner. Non-members are performing at the Nikaïa, Nice at 20:30. Olympic gold medallist Marina Anisimova and Ognen Petev will be present. Tickets €23 and €37. Tel: 04 92 28 91 32.

Continuing today is the Cannes film festival.

Tuesday 27

Today is Fête des Pères, Father’s day

Screening of The Pointe, directed by Frederico Fellini. The open-air beach cinema on the Promenade des Plantes starts at 22:30. Tel: 04 93 39 24 53.

A charity football match between Monaco’s Nice Team, captained by HSH Prince Albert II, against Formula 1 drivers, led by Michael Schumacher, is kicking off today at 19:00 in Mougins. Tickets are €5 and will go to the first Team for Children fund. Tickets are €15. Tel: +377 93 30 08 58.

The Magic of the Dance in English, a five-day sponsored walk in the Alpes Maritimes, starting near Monte Carlo and 15:00. The auction is tomorrow at 15:00. Tel: +377 92 16 36 36.

LOT Rises to Copenhagen, Krakow, Stockholm and Vienna at 16:30.

Continuing today is the Collectors Motor Cars auction in Monte Carlo.

Wednesday 28

Peter Gabriel is performing in the Nikaïa in Nice at 20:00. Tickets priced between €40 and €90. Tel: 04 94 29 10 12.

LOT Rises to Copenhagen, Krakow, Stockholm and Vienna at 16:30.

Continuing today is the ballet Coppélia.

Don't forget that tomorrow is a public holiday.

New booking... 

● Now booking... 

● Now booking...