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93 Moraga Way, Orinda

...from Front Page

"Monsieur Lazhar" Named 2012 Best Picture at CAIFF

... continued from page A1



The Opening Night reception at the 14th California Independent Film Festival drew enthusiastic crowds. Photo Tod Fierner



Sue Olsen and Ben Olsen addressed the crowd as part of the opening ceremonies. Photo Tod Fierner

"Transamerica" and "Win Win."
"When I heard that Burt Young was being honored," said Shire, "I had to come." Their genuine affection and respect for one another was evident.

And Young was clearly touched by the audience's standing ovation, saying, "It's quite an honor. Thank you for caring."

Both later dished about what it was like to work with Sylvester Stallone.

The festival continues with a special screening of "Little Women" at the Orinda Theatre Wednesday night and more Hollywood insider tips on tap with screen legend Margaret O'Brien ("Meet Me in St. Louis") on Thursday at the New Rheem Theatre.

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Key 2012 Slate Award Winners

- Best Picture: "Monsieur Lazhar"
- Best Director: Viktor Chouchkov ("Tilt")
- Best Actress: Melissa Leo ("The Sea Is All I Know")
- Best Actor: James Madio ("Applebox")
- Best Cinematography and Best Music: "Pearls of the Far East"
- Best Short: "The Stand-In"
- Best Mini-Short: "Franklin"
- Best Documentary: "The Power of Two"



After the screening of "Five Time Champion" on opening night, Orinda resident and popular NBC Bay Area news anchor Diane Dwyer conducted a Q&A with XXX, director Berndt Mader and actor Jon Gries. Photo Andy Scheck



From left: Talia Shire, Lifetime Achievement award winner Burt Young, and Jan Wahl Photo Andy Scheck