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Locally filmed 'Lie to Me' premieres at Newport Beach festival

"Lie to Me," the 20-something romantic drama filmed in KC in May, will have its premiere April 26 at the Newport Beach Film Festival in California.



Brandon Routh (right) woos Courtney Ford against the Crown Center fountains in a scene from "Lie to Me," filmed here last spring and making its debut at the Newport Beach Film Festival.

The film, starring Brandon Routh of "Superman Returns," was co-written and directed by KC native John Stewart Muller. Laura Boersma co-wrote and produced.

"There will definitely be a Kansas City screening," Boersma said last week. "We're trying to figure out if we're going to do that with a festival or independently. I'm excited to show everyone in KC the movie because the city looks so great on film."

Boersma said she was also especially proud of the musical score by Nick Urata, frontman for DeVotchKa, the band that did original music (and got a Grammy nomination) for "Little Miss Sunshine."

The Newport Beach screening is important because that will be the first time representatives of various film distribution companies will see the movie, Boersma said.

For more info go to the film's Web site at www.lietomemovie.com.

Filmmakers Jubilee

Almost 100 movies from around the world will be featured in this year's Kansas City Filmmakers Jubilee, running Wednesday through April 20 in Westport.

For the first time in the festival's 12 years, all the screenings will be in a concentrated area — at the Tivoli Theatre, the Westport CoffeeHouse or at a temporary 80-seat theater being constructed on the ground floor of a condominium at 4141 Pennsylvania.

"What's neat about this is that everything is within easy walking distance," said fest founder Fred Andrews. "In the past we showed some films at the Screenland" — at 17th and Washington on the edge of the downtown loop — "but that forced people to drive. This year we're concentrating all the festival's energy in one place."

The Westport merchants became heavily involved in the Jubilee this year.

"I think in part it's because they're feeling competition from the new Power & Light District downtown and want to show that Westport is more than just a watering hole," Andrews said. "By teaming up with the Jubilee they're broadening their appeal."

"And it's great for festivalgoers. There are plenty of places in Westport to go after a movie, have a drink and talk about what you've seen."

Almost 350 films were submitted to the 2008 Jubilee, which is fewer than in recent years. "I think it's competition," Andrews said. "You can't swing a cat without hitting a film festival nowadays."

Among the highlights of this year's event is a program dedicated to Chel White, the filmmaker from Portland, Ore., whose work has won awards at past Jubilees and who will serve as the festival's judge this year.

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