

AROUND THE TWO TOWNS

After Cannes debut, director begins next film project

He's headed home now, but the past two weeks have been a busy time for Newport film writer/director **Stefan Marc**.

His film "Dating Games People Play" was debuted internationally at the Cannes Film Festival in France.



PAT MICHAELS
COLUMNIST

Marc put together the film, hereabouts, a couple of years ago.

It stars **Austin Peck** of the "Days of

Our Lives" cast and **Leslie Be-ga**, who appears on "The Sopranos." A comedy, the film depicts the different perspectives men and women have of dating and relationships "and explodes in the hilarious consequences which result" said the Cannes program. The Cannes debut sets the film for

international distribution.

Now that this film has had its international launch, Stefan is returning to California where he is working on putting together a film on Costa Mesa's **Abdullah Akbar**.

Abdullah, who owns and operates the 17th Street IHOP, was an undercover agent for the CIA in Afghanistan and is the author of the thriller detailing his exploits, "The Jewel Carrier." Marc is converting the book into a screenplay and has signed a contract with Abdullah for future production of the film

You mean rock n' roll is still around?

Costa Mesa rock vocalist **David Simoncic** proves it. He's now been named "Rockstar Las Vegas."

The main man of the locally based group, Alan's Wrench, David's been working a lot under the Vegas neon and will

appear at Nancy's Icehouse in Lake Havasu City on June 17.

The Texas native moved to Costa Mesa in 1996, formed his current group of local rockers some four years ago, and says it's been his life-long "dream to be the front man of a rock n' roll band."

It was **Alan Baker** who elbowed me with this one at the Clubhouse: "Just figured out why so many guitar players came from farms. It's the same stroke you use for plucking chickens."

The monthly **Round Table West** meetings at Newport Beach Country Club introduce new books and their authors to locals. Yesterday's meeting was unique. All the authors lived within a few-minute drive of the session. There was **Earline Fowler** introducing her 13th novel. There was **Quang X. Pham**,

who was sneaked out of Vietnam as a child after his father, a Vietnamese army pilot, was captured and who grew up to become a U. S. Marine Corps combat pilot and author. And, there was Cal-State archeology professor **Aileen G. Baron** introducing her latest historical mystery.

Said amazed RTW hostess **Marilyn Hudson**: "It's the first time none of the authors had to ask for directions on how to get here."

At the christening party for their new boat the other day, one guest elbowed **Judy Wyland** to be careful and make sure husband, Realtor **Mark**, doesn't become a Capt. Bligh, saying life aboard "could become a hull on earth."

Tonight's the big night for good guy **Dennis O'Neil**. It's when the **Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce**

throws a \$150-a-plate gala to celebrate the former mayor and city attorney being named Citizen of the Year. There's still time to join the party which features a cocktail reception, a three-course dinner and lavish entertainment at The Island Hotel. Call the NB chamber for tickets.

Jack Parker tells me that, last year, when his kids asked, he told them the one thing he wanted for Father's Day was breakfast in bed. When he got up on Father's day morning he said, he found the kids had put a cot in the kitchen.

Pat Michaels is host of "Your Newport Today," seen Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. on Newport Beach Cable Channel 3 (Adelphia) or Channel 30 (Cox). E-mail him at patmike@verizon.net.