

'Dating' at the Festival

Stefan Marc's new film, set in Newport Beach, premieres April 26.

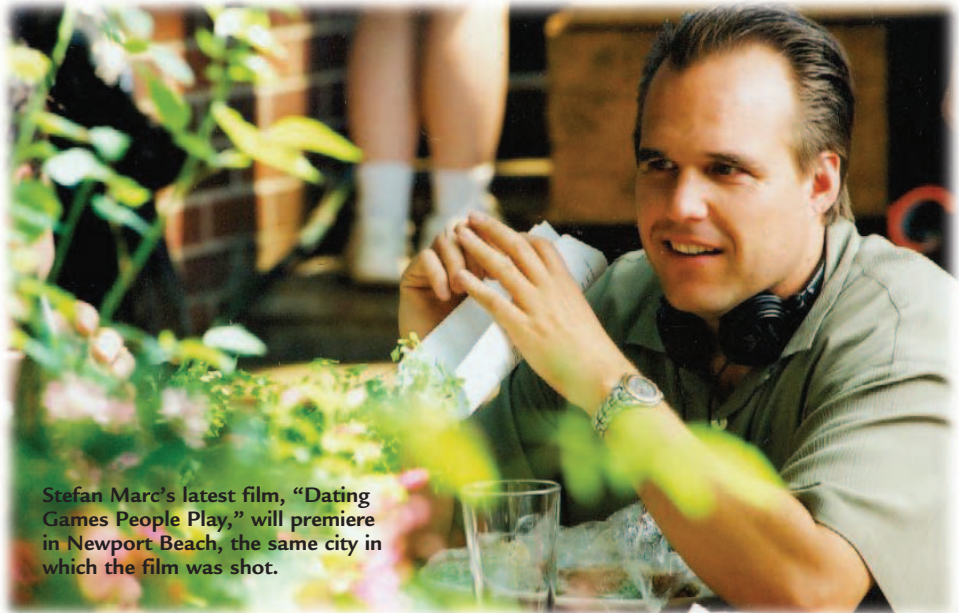
Newport Beach is a fun and glamorous city with a lively dating scene that is highlighted in "The OC," as well as in a hundred bars, restaurants and clubs with pricey menus and views of the water.

Now a feature-length film, "Dating Games People Play," takes up where the hit TV show leaves off, bringing the ways and wiles of coastal romance into big-screen focus. Stefan Marc, the film's writer, director and producer, says he "always kind of envisioned shooting it in Newport Beach," where he lived for 12 years. So it is a thrill for him that his movie will premiere at the Newport Beach Film Festival on April 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the beautiful Lido Theatre on Balboa Peninsula.

"Dating Games People Play" is a romantic comedy that pokes fun at the divergent perspectives that men and women have on dating and relationships. Nick Jenkins, played by Austin Peck ("Days of Our Lives"), finds himself single again as his relationship with his fiancée falls apart. With his roommate and best friend Jed Rollins, played by director/producer Marc, Nick jumps back into the dating world. Soon after he meets Mona, played by Leslie Rae Bega ("Sopranos"), his real troubles begin.

Nick is torn between building his business and becoming financially secure or committing to a relationship as Mona begins to put some far-from-subtle pressure on him in hopes they'll become exclusive. Nick seeks the advice of his parents and other friends who strongly recommend that he stay single.

With this backdrop in place, Jed and Nick set out on a mission to investigate marriage. Mona, Jed and Robin (Stephanie



Stefan Marc's latest film, "Dating Games People Play," will premiere in Newport Beach, the same city in which the film was shot.

Brown) tag along as they meander through the awkward situations they encounter during their dating escapades.

Marc says he loves all the aspects of making a film, but "directing is probably,

"Dating Games People Play"

Premieres Tuesday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lido Theatre, 3459 Via Lido, Newport Beach.

For tickets and information call 1-866-NBFF-TIX or log on to www.NewportBeachFilmFest.com
The film's website is www.datinggamespeopleplay.com

creatively, the most fulfilling. It was just kind of fun to take it from the page all the way to the end." At the same time, he says, "I knew I had to go out and produce and raise the money for it, otherwise I wouldn't

be able to write, direct or act in it."

The producing part of the process seems to be the most difficult aspect of the process because money is everything - it is needed for camera equipment, the grip and "...people obviously want to get paid." Luckily, his old neighbor, Newport Beach Film Commissioner Joseph Cleary, helped "get the film made and shot in Newport Beach." Like executive producer Jeff Colvin, who came in after Marc had been raising money for a year, Cleary brought in a lot of people to invest in the film.

Stefan Marc didn't just jump into the movie business. After receiving his B.A. in economics at USC, he and a business partner started a company called The Entertainment Channel, "which played exclusively in Orange County hotels," he says. "We wrote, directed and produced a travel log program that highlighted all the things to do in Orange County. That's how I started developing a passion for

BY BLAKE FRINO