

doing the writing, directing and all that.”

Marc sold the company in the late '90s and began doing new business development and raising money for startup companies. In the midst of his work, he'd wrote four screenplays and decided that he wanted to make a small budget film. He quit his full time job in 2001 to pursue his goal, choosing "Dating Games People Play" as his first feature-length project. He says, "I specifically wrote it as a small budget feature ...making sure we didn't have too many locations, that we could shoot with a limited amount of money."

Filming mainly in Newport Beach, Marc chose locations not only because he liked them, but also because he "wanted to get places that would look really beautiful" on film. Locations include restaurants like Dolce, Joe's Crab Shack, the Bungalow, the Galley Café and the Cannery, as well as Dennis Rodman's Josh Slocum's, the Lido Marina, the Wedge, Christ Church By the Sea and Fry's Market and Liquor Store.

Moviegoers at the film's festival showing will enjoy seeing a shot of the Lido Theatre, the same theater where they will be sitting.

The film has promising qualities that could win it nationwide distribution. A student audience at UCI loved it, and it scored a world premiere at the World of Comedy International Film Festival in Toronto. Marc says, "I had a lot of filmmakers come up to me afterwards and tell me how funny they thought the film was. In addition, the film festival director said the laughter was so loud that she could hear it all the way in the back in the projection booth...She says that very rarely happens."

The comedy in the film covers a topic that is the epitome of many lives. Marc says, "I've had women and men go, 'Oh, my God, I've dated that person.' They can really relate to it." **OCM**

## Hollywood South



**T**he 6th annual Newport Beach Film Festival is arriving - bigger and better than ever - at theaters near you, April 21-30.

"We have been very proud of the growth and evolution of the Newport Beach Film Festival over the last six years," says Gregg Schwenk, CEO and executive director of the Festival. "2005 will be our strongest year yet. We are planning not only an incredible 10-day event, but we'll be expanding our film and entertainment offerings throughout the year."

This year's festival spotlights more than 300 films from over 30 countries, including features, shorts, documentaries and animation. The films will compete for a series of awards including Jury Awards and Audience Awards. In addition to film screenings, the Festival will host several premiere galas, yacht parties and question and answer sessions with filmmakers. Some 25,000 moviegoers and film industry insiders attended last year's event, and an even bigger crowd is expected this year.

Opening night will feature the U.S. premiere of "Crash," which stars Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle and Matt Dillon, at Edwards Big Newport at 7:30 p.m. A gala

will follow at the Fashion Island Courtyard, with ticket prices at \$100.

"Layer Cake," directorial debut of "Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" and "Snatch" producer Matthew Vaughn, will have its West Coast premiere April 22, followed by a post-party at Newport Beach restaurant Ozumo. Tickets are \$30.

On April 23, the Jim Henson Company will have its 50th anniversary celebration featuring a retrospective screening of "Labyrinth and The Dark Crystal" at Edwards Island 6; tickets are \$15.

Also on April 23, the already sold out "Ringers: Lord of the Fans" will have its West Coast Premiere, spotlighting the influence of Lord of the Rings on Western culture, at 7:30 p.m. at Lido Theater, with a celebration afterward at the Hard Rock Café.

The West Coast premiere of "Black and White," a South Australian film based on a true story of a courtroom battle over the murder of a 9-year-old girl, will be on April 24. The screening is at Lido Theater at 5 p.m. with a post party at Newport Harbor Nautical Museum featuring gourmet food by Australian chef Maggie Beer; tickets are \$40. **OCM**

**For tickets to the Newport Beach Film Festival, call (866) NBFF-TIX or go to [www.NewportBeachFilmFest.com](http://www.NewportBeachFilmFest.com).**