

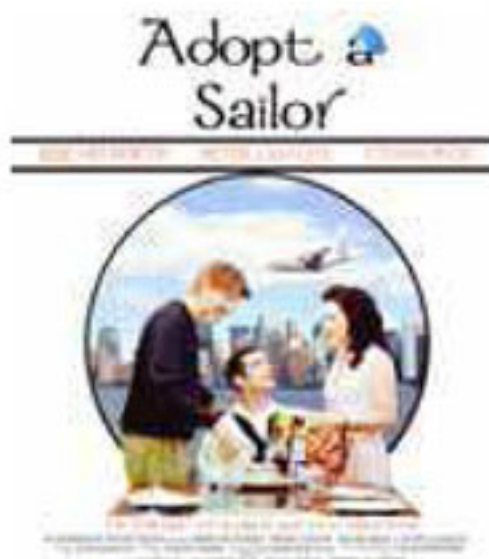
California Independent Film Festival: 'Adopt a Sailor'

By Leonard Pirkle

The California Independent Film Festival holds its annual film festival in Livermore. This year is the Festival's 11th anniversary and the 8th event held in Livermore. We are very excited about this year's line up and want to thank The Independent for giving us the opportunity to begin reaching the audience in advance, with reviews of some of the wonderful films you can see at this year's festival.

The first film for your consideration is, "Adopt a Sailor." This film was written and directed by Charles Evered and stars Emmy award winner, Peter Coyote, Bebe Neuwirth an Emmy and Tony award winning actress from television shows such as Cheers and Frasier, and Ethan Peck, the grandson of one of the Silver Screen greats, Gregory Peck. It tells the story of a wealthy couple living in New York City who volunteered to host a sailor in town during Fleet Week. The knock at the door and subsequent realization of their long forgotten commitment, turns an evening for three people into a moment in time that will change their lives in a way that none will soon forget.

A script that centers almost entirely on three people in an apartment, this film demonstrates rather successfully that it's not necessary to have multiple locations, big explosions or a huge cast to hold an audience and keep them entertained. At the same time it provides moments that make you smile, the film delivers very thought provoking gems that will stay with you after watching this lovely little story.



The writing is very endearing. The performance by Peck as a young man from a small town in Arkansas exposed to the sophistication of "the big city" will warm your heart and make you believe that being genuine is sometimes smarter and more insightful than years of existential teachings. Honesty and the lack of pretentiousness on the part of the young sailor, makes this a performance that many will remember and hopefully leave the screening with more than when they arrived.

Neuwirth as an art gallery owner and wife of "film" maker Coyote is very delightful in this role. While watching, I couldn't wait for the next time she smiled or laughed – which brightened the entire screen. A lovely and believable performance that draws you into her character. The film exposes current concerns with the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. It explores, to a certain level, the issues. However, it doesn't begin to take a position or offer a solution. Very respectful of its audience, you will

enjoy this film whether you are a dove or a hawk.

I highly recommend this film. While there is some strong language, the film is appropriate for most but younger audiences. The film will be screening at the Vine Cinema on Saturday April 18th from 12 noon until 1:30 pm.

The Festival will be held April 16th through the 19th in downtown Livermore with screenings at the Vine Cinema and the Livermore Cinemas, both on First Street. Check out our schedule of events at www.caindiefilmfest.org and keep reading The Independent for more California Independent Film Festival news and information.