

The Sudbury Star

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Award winners

Northern filmmakers, musicians honoured

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How to make the perfect cup ► A8



Aces

Europe claims Ryder Cup

► B6

For two men, dying brings clarity to the world

The aware that there is something larger, much larger than you.

By Bob Fitzgerald

When you have a choice to make, you often find yourself looking at the clock. The time is ticking, and you know you have to make a decision soon.

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Cinefest welcomes first-nighters

Filmmakers, film buffs mingle at festival party

By Denis St. Pierre

When Sudbury native Benjamin Paquette tried to get into one of his first Cinefest movies, he was turned away at the theatre door.

Now he is presenting his own feature film at his hometown festival.

"I was a real movie nut even when I was really young," Paquette said Sunday night during the Cinefest Sudbury International Film Festival opening night party at Bryston's on the Park.

"So when I first heard about Cinefest (in the late 1980s), I was amazed that this was happening in Sudbury. I was first in line."

But Paquette was crushed, albeit only momentarily, when he went to see a particular film.

"I was about 12 and there was this movie by this Japanese director that I really wanted to see, but they wouldn't let me in because they said it was restricted," he recalled.

"But I knew it wasn't; it was rated G (general). So I ran off and got a Toronto Star (featur-



John E. Lightfoot Jr./THE SUDBURY STAR

Valley La Flamme (left), Aimee Paquette, her brother Ben Paquette, director of the feature film A Year in The Death Of Jack Richards, Lisa Koski and Erik Lovin talk about the movie at the Cinefest Party at Bryston's on the Park. Paquette, a former Sudbury resident, now makes his home in Montreal. Left: film director Jerry Ciccoritti makes a point at the Cinefest Party. Ciccoritti is director of the Canadian feature film Blood playing during the film festival and today he starts production in Sudbury on the Shania Twain movie.

ing a review of the movie) and I ran back and showed the guy and he laughed and said 'go on in.'"

Paquette's affinity for film — and Cinefest — only grew from there. A few years later he won

a Cinefest Videomakers' award for a short film he created. After graduating from Lasalle Secondary School he left for Montreal's Concordia University, where he studied filmmaking and earned a masters' degree.

Paquette is back in his hometown this week to present his feature-length film, A Year in the Death of Jack Richards.

Part of Cinefest's Features Canada program, Paquette's



film will be screened Sunday at 11:30 a.m. It is billed by the festival as "a radical and emotional piece of filmmaking" about a university professor who apparently has gone mad and decides to commit suicide in a very peculiar way.

Despite his relative inexperience, Paquette attracted a solid cast for his film, including Quebec actress Micheline Lanctot, whose credits stretch over three decades, including The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz in 1974.

Another special guest drawing a lot of attention during

Cinefest's opening night party was director and multiple-Gemini-Award-winner Jerry Ciccoritti.

Ciccoritti will be presenting his latest feature film, Blood, on Friday at 10 p.m., also as part of the festival's Features Canada program.

Adapted from Tom Walmsley's critically-acclaimed play, Blood is described as "blunt, passionate and darkly comic" and "a hypnotic dance of blurred moralities and incestuous explorations" between siblings.

Please see MOVIES / A5

Weather forecast and other sidebar information including temperature, humidity, and local news snippets.

U.S. can't win peace: kidnapped writer

Author's sister South Taylor, an anti-war activist, says the U.S. cannot win peace in Iraq. She is the author of 'The Middle East: A Journey of Discovery'.



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