



BEST BUDDIES 1996 GALA

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Babs is due, Kennedys are congregating

SHE'S TOO late for the film festival, but Barbra Streisand will be in town at the end of the month wearing her producer hat.

Probably designed by Donna Karan.

Streisand will be producing six one-hour segments of *The Rescuers* for Showtime/Paramount and directed by Peter Bogdanovich. The project will film in Toronto and Quebec locations and will chronicle "true-life heroism of Christians saving Jews during WWII."

LIGHTS, CAMERAS, AVOIDANCE: Camera shyness at a film festival?

Takes us back to the year Richard Gere was cranky with the camera folk, protesting, "I don't want anyone to know I'm here."

Duh!

On Monday night, Wesley Snipes did a quick sprint through the media at CBC's Glenn Gould Studio, where he picked up a special achievement award from the Black Film & Video Network. Snipes has a film in the Planet Africa series, *John Henrik Clarke: A Great And Mighty Walk*, which he narrates and executive produces.

Can't exactly blame Snipes for wanting to avoid the press. An alleged crew member on his film *Murder At 1600* crabbled to *The Star's Screams And Whispers* that Snipes was rude to cast and crew.

That he conversed only with his entourage. Yada yada yada.

Other 1600 crew members have been calling to protest and Star Gazing's voice mail can't take it anymore. And we didn't even write the piece. We were in Muskoka, probably the only individuals not stalking Goldie Hawn & Kurt Russell.

Among testimonials from crew members: "He's shy, he is private."

"He is not abusive at all, he doesn't raise his voice, he is not argumentative. I haven't heard one derogatory comment about him."

"He's a pro. He's not rude. He's really a good guy. Obviously this came from someone with a chip on his shoulder."

And the folks at Left Bank, where Snipes has been known to hang out, say he's been nothing but charming.

And he's not short.

BISTRO BUZZ: Just missed Kathleen Turner at the Bistro on Monday night. Spotted the contingent for the *Albino Alligator* party trooping up-

FILMFEST '96

RITA ZEKAS



stairs: Miramax boss Harvey Weinstein; Matt Dillon with blond hair (to match his girlfriend Cameron Diaz' hair perhaps?); Kevin Spacey; Angela Jones; and Marisa Tomei (*Unhook The Stars*).

Dining downstairs: Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick, prior to the screening of their film *Losing Chase*.

ACQUA FETE: The Kennedy clan, as in GQ poster boy Anthony Kennedy Shriver, his mom Eunice Kennedy Shriver and dad Sargent, were Front St. and centre at Acqua on Monday night for a fundraiser for Best Buddies, founded by Anthony in 1989 to foster friendships between adults with developmental disabilities and other members of the community.

Fundraiser or not, for 250 bucks, you'd think they could have thawed out the shrimp.

The event was pegged to the fest

film *Some Mother's Son*, the story of Bobby Sands, who starved himself in 1981 during a hunger strike in Northern Ireland, as related through the viewpoint of two mothers.

Eunice said that the film moved her to tears. Anthony said it enraged him.

"It makes you upset or angry," he elaborated, "it makes you particularly angry if you're Irish. They hate the British. In *The Name Of The Father* made me nuts; it involves Paul Hill, my cousin's husband."

Courtney Kennedy, daughter of the late senator Robert Kennedy, is married to Hill, one of the Guildford Four, and whose wrongful conviction in Britain for Irish Republican Army bombings was portrayed in the movie *In The Name Of The Father*, the same team that produced *Some Mother's Son*.

And coincidentally, Courtney's brother Robert Jr. is in town today for his doc, *Power*.

Mother's co-star, Helen Mirren, who had just picked up an Emmy the night before for *Prime Suspect*, was a no show. Perhaps she got hung up on stage introducing *Leaving Chase*.

But co-star Fionnula Flanagan, director Terry George and

writer Jim Sheridan showed. As did actor Gil Bellow (*Substance Of Fire*), who raved about Nick Campbell's film, *Booze Can*.

And soap star Brent Jasmer (*Sly on Bold And Beautiful*), *You're Beautiful* Micki Moore, and Diane Lane, Snipes' co-star in *Murder At 1600*.

Lane had just come from dinner at Joso's and hung out with the Budmans, Michael and Diane, friends ever since Lane co-starred in the Roots inspired movie *Indian Summer*.

Near the end of the event, Eunice was once again moved to tears. The *Forever Plaids* serenaded her with "I'll Never Stop Loving You."

Indeed.



RICHARD LAUTENS / TORONTO STAR

MOTHERS NIGHT: Sargent and Eunice and Anthony Kennedy Shriver (left), actor Fionnula Flanagan and director Terry George at Acqua for Best Buddies fundraiser Monday night tied to the screening of *Some Mother's Son*. Anthony Shriver with Diane Lane (above).