

## Pizarro: Cinequest VIPs get a taste of downtown San Jose

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The 24th edition of the Cinequest Film Festival wrapped up Sunday night, and downtown San Jose should get an award for best supporting eateries.

Maverick Spirit Award winner Christopher Meloni, along with "Small Time" director Joel Surnow and co-star Devon Bostick, had an appetizer-heavy lunch at Loft Bar & Bistro before Sunday's closing night event. That crew, along with Meloni's wife, Sherman Williams, later held court amid fans at the Farmers Union, which co-hosted the closing night party with Mexican restaurant La Piñata, its neighbor in San Pedro Square.

On Saturday, actor Matthew Modine -- recipient of the Maverick Innovator Award for his "Full Metal Jacket Diary" behind-the-scenes app -- had breakfast at Il Fornaio, followed by lunch with restaurateur Chris Esparza at Gordon Biersch. The pair also stopped in at Esparza's Blackbird Tavern, which was hosting Cinequest's VIP Lounge.

If regular festivalgoers had a food-related gripe, it was that not enough of downtown's interesting eateries were open for lunch Saturday. During a densely packed event like Cinequest, you'd think they'd all have the welcome mat out.

**SILENT APPLAUSE:** David Woodley Packard, who gave new life to the California Theatre, was there Friday night to introduce "The Hands of Orlac," the 1924 silent horror movie that was a highlight of Cinequest's closing weekend. In addition to the splendid Wurlitzer organ that is regularly played for silent movies and before events, this film was also accompanied by a piano, which I'm told added a whole new dimension to the music.

**HERE'S TO JUDIE:** Cinequest honored Judie Gordon, one of the hardest-working women in show business, with its Volunteer Legacy Award on Sunday. Gordon's been volunteering with the film festival for 20 years and edits its festival guide, which gets more packed with movies and events every year.

Gordon, who came onstage at the California to receive her award, has had a pretty amazing life, including a 20-year career as an adult education teacher with MetroED and stints writing computer software and selling real estate.

**EMOTIONAL ART:** Artist Wendy Maruyama will be at San Jose's Institute of Contemporary Art on Thursday for the latest installment of the gallery's "Talking Art" conversation series. Maruyama is the woman behind "Executive Order 9066: The Tag Project," a large-scale installation for which she recreated 120,000 paper identification tags given to Japanese-Americans interned in camps during World War II. With the tags, she created 10 sculptures that are suspended from the ceiling of the ICA.

It's really an amazing piece to take in and much more moving as you get closer and see the names representing the lives at its heart.

The 7 p.m. event is \$5 for ICA members and \$10 for nonmembers. Go to [www.sjica.org](http://www.sjica.org) for more details.

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