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MONTECITO MISCELLANY

by Richard Mineards



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail, and was an editor on New York Magazine. He was also a national anchor on CBS, a commentator on ABC Network News, host on E! TV, a correspondent on the syndicated show Extra, and a commentator on the KTLA Morning News. He moved to Montecito eight years ago.

Maha-Lowe from Hawaii

It was Rob Lowe to the rescue while vacationing on the beach in Hawaii.

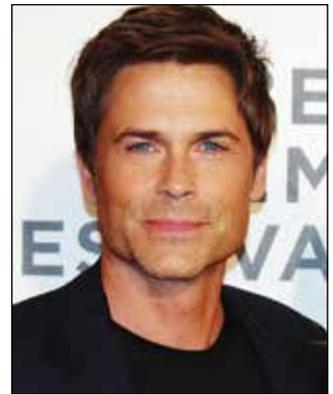
The 50-year-old Montecito-based actor was soon off the sand when a sailboat ran into trouble off the Kona coast.

He immediately hopped on board a nearby jet ski to comb the choppy waters for anyone needing assistance.

As it turned out, four of the five passengers aboard the Hawaii Aloha had managed to escape on a life raft and be rescued, but one person was still missing.

The 74-foot vessel was seen bobbing in the precarious shallows and Rob, wearing a blue shirt and life vest, did what he could to try to find the missing young man, who was eventually found.

The *Parks and Recreation* star was



Rob Lowe in rescue drama during Hawaii vacation

holidaying on the big island of Hawaii with longtime wife, Sheryl Berkoff...

Ranch Hands

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MISC (Continued from page 25)

Director **Salli Eve** with co-director **Hugo Macario** and technical director, **Brad Spaulding**, produced a splendid musical mix, which included songs by Ritchie Valens, the Isley Brothers, Jerry Lee Lewis, Ray Charles, and the Everly Brothers...

Strong Impression

The Arts Fund Gallery in the Funk Zone opened its latest exhibition "Best Impressions", featuring 29 works by 10 artist members of the Santa Barbara Printmakers, who have been awarded top prizes in recent annual exhibitions.

The print makers – **David Graves**, **Yessy Kim**, **Ines Monguio**, **Jerilynne Nibbe**, **Patti Post**, **Karen Schroeder**, **Garrett Spiers**, **Siu Zimmerman**, and **Pamela Zwehl-Burke** – use etching, woodblock, collagraphy, linocut, clay, lithography, and solar plate processes, representing a wide range of artistic expression and techniques.

Curator **Don Zimmerman**, whose work is also on show, says: "Each work is different, but all are united by a commitment to the creation of fine art through the exacting, but rewarding techniques of applying ink on paper through hand-pulled prints."

The free show runs through February 28...

Documentary in the Desert

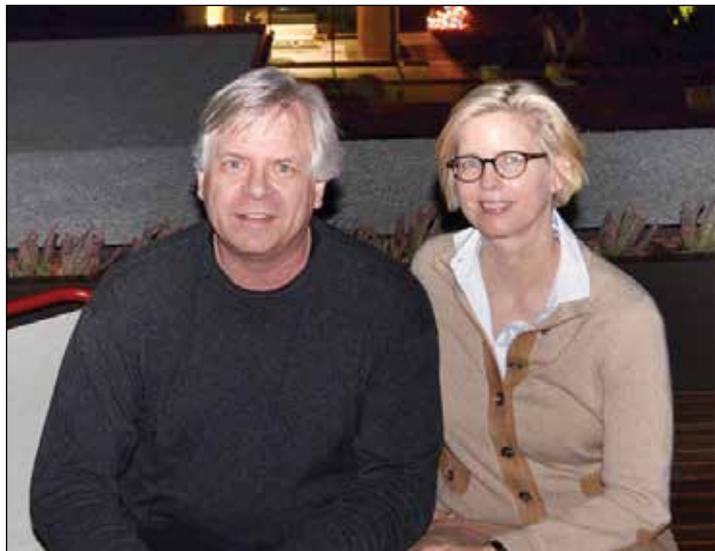
Montecito invaded the desert oasis of Palm Springs at the weekend when the 66-minute documentary on award-winning architect **Lutah Maria Riggs**, which debuted almost a year ago at the Lobero as part of the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, was shown at the 433-seat Annenberg Auditorium at the tony town's 26th annual film festival at the art museum.

The documentary, which was also shown at the Napa Valley Film Festival in November, is the brainchild of our rarefied enclave's **Gretchen Lieff**, who founded the society honoring the female design partner of **George Washington Smith**.

"We have just submitted to our first European film festival and our first Canadian festival, so we're really spreading the word," says **Gretchen Lieff**. "We have also been invited to apply to two additional U.S. film festivals and should be hearing back on four film festival submissions in the next two months. We are so pleased to see *Lutah* getting so much exposure outside Santa Barbara.

"We have also been asked to screen *Lutah* in Mexico and are working on setting up either a late 2015 screening or early 2016. It is amazing to see our scheduling filling up!"

Santa Barbara Historical Museum is also having a long-running exhibition titled "Under the Umbrella" on **Riggs**, the first woman to be named a Fellow



Lutah Maria Riggs admirers and also owners of Santa Barbara Von Romberg's historical home is Brent Harris and Lisa Meulbroek Harris ended the tour of the famous Kaufmann House where guests gathered, on the outdoor rooftop living room showing spectacular views before the darkness (photo by Priscilla)



Brent Harris, host and owner and 1993 restorer of the famous Palm Springs Kaufmann House, with guests Joan and Ron Sigler at their post-reception from *Lutah* showing in the Annenberg Auditorium (photo by Priscilla)



Relaxing and chatting with one another about 1946 incorporation of the glass, steel and stone modern architecture of the Edgar Kaufmann residence designed by Richard Neutra are: Gretchen Loeff, founder of Lutah Society; Mary Jean Meulbroek; Nancy Caponi, historian and executive director; and Robert Loeff (photo by Priscilla)

of the American Institute of Architects, who died in 1984 and reposes in the chapel at the Santa Barbara cemetery, appropriately enough next to her mentor, Smith.

"In Napa, we met two of her second

cousins and have uncovered a treasure trove of materials, particularly about her 1928 trip to Europe," adds Gretchen "We see opportunities for

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TREE TALK BY GENE TYBURN

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A TREE LOVER'S ALERT

If you own a pine tree in Santa Barbara...it's too late, they are going fast.. due to the beetle..I used to be able to stop this...BUT NO MORE. The state will not spray because the environmentalist lobby is too strong.

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A WALKING, TALKING TOUR OF YOUR TREES IS AN EDUCATION. CALL ME FOR AN APPOINTMENT. 969-4047.





After viewing a well-received presentation at the Palm Springs International Film Festival of *Lutah* are Robert Adams, film reviewer with Melinda Gandara, historian, and Warren Butler before joining the tour of the restored Kaufmann House (photo by Priscilla)

other small exhibitions in the future.” Among those attending the Palm Springs screening were **Robert Adams**, **Nancy Caponi**, **Brad Dunning**, **Melinda Gandara**, **Christopher Beirn**, and **Brent Harris** and **Lisa Meulbroek**, who hosted a reception at their historic 1946 Richard Neutra-designed Kaufmann Desert House, considered one of the most important examples of International Style architecture still in private hands...

Flu for Two

TV talk-show hosts **Oprah Winfrey** and **Ellen DeGeneres**, who both reside in Montecito, have not only been sharing anecdotes but also flu germs.

Ellen, 56, who turned down the opportunity to host next month’s 87th annual Oscars in favor of Neil

Patrick Harris, interviewed Oprah on her 12-year-old syndicated TV show, and revealed she had caught the bug attending the TV titan’s annual gospel brunch at her 42-acre East Valley Road estate.

“You had the thing I had,” remarked Oprah. “Remember, I told you.”

“I got it from you!” retorted Ellen. “Because you said it was that day. It was the brunch. You said you felt like you were coming down with flu.”

Oprah, 60, queried: “You got it?” with Ellen replying: “You gave it to me. I was so proud. Oprah gave me the flu, y’all!”

The tony twosome were joined on set by *Selma* co-stars **David Oyelowo** and **Carmen Ejoga**. Oprah co-produced the film with actor **Brad Pitt** and also co-stars in it...

Oscar Grouches

On the subject of the Academy Awards – which last year drew 44 million viewers across America, making it the most-watched non-sporting TV event in the U.S. since the final episode of *Friends* in 2004 – it appears to be suffering the *Downton Abbey* effect.

Oscar organizers fear they will fail to reach close to that number with this year’s show due to the fact nominations will likely be awarded to art films that the majority of the public have not seen.

A leaked memo revealed that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences bosses are concerned they could lose viewers to the popular PBS series, which stars **Dame Maggie Smith**, **Hugh Bonneville**, and **Penelope Wilton**, which will be showing at the same time on rival channel PBS.

Although the official nominations will not be announced until Thursday, January 15, films such as *Foxcatcher*, *The Imitation Game*, and *The Theory of Everything*, are some of the movies expected to land nods, while the more popular blockbusters that prove to be the biggest hits at the box office are not likely to get a look in.

The three favorites for the Best Picture award are *Boyhood*, *Birdman*, and *Selma*, according to GoldDerby.com, which is a specialist awards site.

Collectively, the films have raked in around \$69 million at the box office, less than a tenth of what *Guardians of the Galaxy* – the best-performing

superhero film of 2014 – managed to make.

The night could be exciting for British stars **Eddie Redmayne**, an Old Etonian, and **Benedict Cumberbatch**, an Old Harrovian, as they are expected to be nominated for the Best Actor award for *The Theory of Everything* and *The Imitation Game*, and they have been sweeping up nominations at other ceremonies so far, including the BAFTAs, the U.K. version of the Oscars.

In the memo, which was revealed by *The Hollywood Reporter*, it is mentioned that with “art films rather than blockbusters that have mass appeal” taking center stage, the awards show could see “counter programming” become a challenge.

The academy has reportedly invested millions in a bid to drive viewers to the ABC show and began their blitz campaign over the Christmas period...

Sightings: Actor **Ashton Kutcher** of *Two and a Half Men* at Sly’s and the Barbecue Company in Carpinteria... **Christopher Lloyd** picking up his Java jolt at Pierre Lafond’s... **Bo Derek** lunching at Tre Lune

Pip! Pip!

Readers with tips, sightings and amusing items for Richard’s column should email him at richardminerals@verizon.net or send invitations or other correspondence to the Journal