



The Carpe Diem Chorus take the stage at the New Vic

featured the Channel Aire Chorus and Ms. Cellaneous, covered a number of popular songs, including a rewritten version of "The Boy from Ipanema," whose original words were written by Montecito resident **Norman Gimbel**, and 525,600 Minutes from the hit Broadway musical *Rent*.

A most entertaining afternoon...

Maine Event

The \$100,000 documentary *Lutah*, which debuted at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival 15 months ago, is becoming a Maine attraction!

Having been screened in Palm Springs in February and the San Luis Obispo international film festival last week, the entertaining documenta-

ry, made by the Lutha Maria Riggs Society, founded by Montecito's **Gretchen Loeff**, has just been accepted to the Sanford international film fest in Maine in May.

"This is fantastic," says **Melinda Gandara**, archivist and historian. "It caught us completely off guard. *Lutah* really has legs!"

The film also won the Best Documentary Feature Award in the Central Coast Filmmaker showcase.

Worth Celebrating

Laguna Blanca School was definitely in a New York state of mind when it threw its "Celebration in the City"

gala and auction at the Bacara.

With a gigantic photo of the famous Manhattan skyline bordering the cavernous ballroom, a record 300 guests helped raise around \$800,000 for school projects, a hefty \$250,000 raised from sponsorships and ticket sales before the boffo bash.

Chaired by **Sherry Hlavarty**, the live auction featured **Zan Aufderheide** working her gavel magic with stays in Nicaragua, Kauai, Fiji, the Cayman Islands, Saratoga, Wyoming, three nights at the oh-so trendy Mercer Hotel in New York, and an original Marilyn Monroe diamond dust art work by **Russell Young**, husband of *General Hospital* actress **Finola Hughes**.

The silent auction, sure to be a hit with fashionistas, featured **Judith Lieber** clutches, St. John tote bags, a Tiffany pearl necklace, an emerald and diamond bracelet and necklace, and magnums of Veuve Clicquot.

Among those supporting the cause were **Kevin and Christine Costner**, **Robert and Robin Fell**, **Gina Tolleson**, **Blake Dorfman**, **Art Coppola**, **Jennifer Zacharias**, **Kim and Tammy Hughes**, **Craig and Susan McCaw**, and **Geoffrey and Alison Wrigley Rusack**.



Lutah marks its fourth international film festival appearance in San Luis Obispo. On hand are Lutha Maria Riggs Society members Robert Adams, film critic; Nancy Caponi, architectural historian; Ryan Petty, filmmaker; Melinda Gandara, historian; and executive producer and founder, Gretchen Loeff. (photo by Priscilla)

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