

## **Silver Screen Westerns Thrive at Lone Pine Film Festival**

LONE PINE, California--The recent evolution of the former Lone Pine Film History Museum into one of the leading institutions of western film history, [The Museum of Western Film History](#), kindled a renaissance in this year's [2015 Lone Pine Film Festival](#), held in Lone Pine, California October 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>.

The 2,500 plus silver screen and television western fans who attended the festival enjoyed expanded new programs featuring westerns filmed throughout the U.S., westerns of the silent film era (complete with live piano accompaniment), and a panel discussion on "Outlaws" and "Lawmen"... and their guns regarding the firearms used in westerns.

Local Lone Pine motels and RV parks were booked solid by the end of August by festival goers who packed film screenings, location tours, and discussion panels. This year's roster of film screenings--developed by western film historian and Festival co-director [Packy Smith](#), also a member of the museum's board of directors, proved to be the best attended in several years.

Museum Director and Festival Director, Robert Sigman noted this year's festival major film screenings, followed by a panel of experts, "establishes confirmation on a format for a future festivals of having more screening films followed by panels of leading actors, writers and directors discussing the film and followed by Q&A's.

Ninety-one-years-young former actor [Billy King](#), a cast member of four [Hopalong Cassidy](#) films, highlighted one of the film festival's finest combination of events including a Hopalong Cassidy screening, a tour of several "Hoppy" Alabama Hills locations, and a star panel.

Also featured in the film festival on panels were contemporary actors, writers, producers, directors, and stuntmen including *Tron* and *Babylon 5's* [Bruce Boxleitner](#), a popular television and film actor; western actor/author/scriptwriter [Robert Knott](#); stuntwoman Sylvia Durando and NCIS stunt coordinator [Diamond Farnsworth](#).

The son of Academy Award nominee [Richard Farnsworth](#), Diamond was one of four members of prominent Hollywood families who participated in the festival, along with Wyatt McCrea, grandson of actors [Joel McCrea](#) and [Frances Dee](#), Petrine Day Mitchum, the daughter of actor [Robert Mitchum](#), and [William Wellman, Jr.](#), son of legendary director "[Wild Bill](#)" [Wellman](#). All four offspring followed their parents and grandparents into the film industry.

Although a western film festival normally faces a challenge to grow interest due to an aging western film audience, Sigman observed that almost one-third of this year's festival audience attended for the first time. He attributed the growth to building momentum via word-of-mouth of a better organized event; better and expanded news media communications; and "the power of social media as people spread their photos, video and experiences of being in Lone Pine." The 2016 Film Festival will be held October 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

For more information contact Robert Sigman, director, Museum of Western Film History at 760-876-9909; or e-mail [wranbler@museumofwesternfilmhistory.org](mailto:wranbler@museumofwesternfilmhistory.org).

Museum of Western Film History: <http://museumofwesternfilmhistory.org>; Lone Pine Film Festival website: [www.lonepinefilmfestival.org](http://www.lonepinefilmfestival.org)