

Edgar Allan Poe's
Annabel Lee

[Screening at SBIFF Fri. and Sat., 2/12-13](#)

Contact:
Christopher Perez, Producer
951-532-5321
PerezPR06@yahoo.com
www.annabelleemovie.com

‘EDGAR ALLAN POE’S ANNABEL LEE’
SELECTED FOR SANTA BARBARA INTL. FILM FESTIVAL

Independent Feature Shot and Produced in Santa Barbara

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (January 20, 2009) – “Edgar Allan Poe’s Annabel Lee,” a locally produced feature length adaptation of the renowned macabre poem, has been selected to screen as part of the 2010 Santa Barbara International Film Festival. It will screen on **Friday, Feb. 12 at 1:45 p.m.** and **Saturday, Feb. 13 at 7:45 p.m.**, at the Metro 4 Theater.

“Edgar Allan Poe’s Annabel Lee” was shot entirely on location in and around Santa Barbara on Sony 24P High Definition video by Maria Lydia Pictures in the fall, 2007. The film was just recently completed and this marks the Santa Barbara premiere for the suspense thriller that features locales such as the Santa Barbara Library, the St. Mary’s Retreat Center, the beaches and cliffs below Shoreline Park, and the La Ladera Estate in Montecito.

The film was independently financed and integrated crew members from both Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, including production assistants from nearby UC Santa Barbara. Written and directed by Michael Rissi (“Soul taker,” “Up Against Amanda”), the film had the assistance of the Santa Barbara Film Commission, Department of Parks & Recreation, and several local businesses and residents.

-more-

www.AnnabelLeeMovie.com

The film from Maria Lydia Pictures stars newcomers Kristen Hagen (Material Girls) and Jon Woodward (CSI:NY) , and co-stars Ken Wolt ("True Blood"), Ron Becks (On the Lot), and the film's executive producer Bill Bordy (The Ice Runner), in a featured role.

"From the very beginning, Santa Barbara was the only city we seriously considered as the right place for making this movie," said filmmaker Rissi. "Not only because of the area's amazing beauty, but the community here is supportive and non-jaded. The crew, cast, extras, and especially our associate producer Nina Terzian, really came together to help us get this film made."

The adaptation of "Edgar Allan Poe's Annabel Lee" tells the story of Jack Blythe, an artist who rents a summer house in a quiet seaside town to find creative inspiration. He gets more than he bargained for when he meets a captivating but hauntingly mysterious woman who offers to be his subject for a painting. When Jack discovers that his seductive stranger resembles a woman presumed dead for 18 years, he becomes obsessed with uncovering the truth. Soon, Jack is caught up in a terrifying struggle that will unravel a mystery and reveal a horrific secret.

"This community sincerely supports and believes in independent filmmaking," said producer Christopher Perez. "Every time we felt we were at the end of our rope, a door would open by another amazing person in town who believed in us. Screening at the SBIFF is the perfect opportunity for us to share the finished product with these friends."

The journey from page to production is the result of an enduring love affair between the poem and the film's executive producer Bill Bordy, the retired founder and publisher of Drama-Logue Magazine (now Backstage West). A lifelong fan of Edgar Allan Poe, Bordy first began his quest to bring "Annabel Lee" to cinematic life back in the early 1960s. After meeting Rissi and seeing his work in the independent feature "Up Against Amanda" (New Concorde Home Entertainment, 2000), Bordy commissioned Rissi to adapt a screenplay and the subsequent production was quickly green lighted.

-more-

“Poe has a classically tragic, yet romantic voice that is at its best in ‘Annabel Lee’,” said Rissi. “It has been quite awhile since film audiences have been treated with a filmed adaptation of any of his work, and I’m very pleased with the results.”

Last year marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of the enigmatic author Edgar Allan Poe and to this day, “Annabel Lee” is considered one of the author’s most celebrated poems, the last he wrote before his mysterious death.

“Edgar Allan Poe’s Annabel Lee” is now available for major film markets, sales and distribution. For more information on the film, and to contact the filmmakers, see www.annabelleemovie.com.

The Santa Barbara International Film Festival runs from February 4-14, 2010 and more information can be found at <http://sbiff.org>

#