

NEWS / Monterey County Film Commission

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2011 Steinbeck Festival “Friends and Foes” expands to include Hollywood film professionals on “Villains Panel” this Saturday

In its first collaboration with the Monterey County Film Commission, the National Steinbeck Center presents “The Villains Panel: Bad Guys and Why We Need Them” as the Saturday, Aug. 6 event of its 31st annual festival with this year’s theme of “Friends and Foes.”

From 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., several award-winning screenwriters and producers from Hollywood will join together to celebrate villains in literature and film and to explore the human impulse to create “us” and “them.”

One of the four panelists is David Peoples, the Oscar-nominated screenwriter for “Unforgiven,” Clint Eastwood’s Academy Award-winning Western film. Peoples, who also wrote “Blade Runner,” will be joined by his wife Janet Peoples. They have numerous writing credits as writer or co-writer of documentaries and features, including “Leviathan,” “Day After Trinity,” “Hero,” “Salute of the Jugger,” and “Twelve Monkeys.”

Panelist Walon Green has written more than 20 feature films: “Sorcerer,” “The Border,” “Eraser,” “Dinosaur,” and “Hi-Lo Country.” As a writer/executive producer of episodic television drama, his credits include “Hill Street Blues,” “NYPD Blue,” “ER,” and “Law and Order.”

David Milch will also participate. He is perhaps best known for creating the hit HBO television drama “Deadwood”, but his career in TV began as a writer for “Hill Street Blues” and, later, he was a co-creator of “NYPD Blue.” A former lecturer in English at Yale University, he runs RedBoard Productions.

The panel will be moderated by Susan B. Landau, the head of Thompson Street Entertainment and the executive producer of dozens of films including “Road, Movie,” the “Great American Songbook” (hosted and narrated by Michael Feinstein), “Princess of Thieves,” “An Ideal Husband,” and “Cool Runnings.”

The Villains Panel will be held at the National Steinbeck Center in downtown Salinas. Ticket prices: \$18 non-members/\$10 members. Wine will be available for purchase before and after the event, sponsored by Poppy Wine.

Current members of “Reel Friends of the Film Commission” may reserve their discounted ticket by calling the film commission at 831-646-0910 by Aug. 5.

For more on the National Steinbeck Center's annual Steinbeck Festival events, go to www.steinbeck.org or www.FilmMonterey.org Tickets are available by phone at 831-775-4721.