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A Film Festival With Repeat Showings



'THE 5TH QUARTER' Andie MacDowell and Aidan Quinn.

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The Long Island International Film Expo, now in its 13th year, is welcoming back at least 15 filmmakers who have previously shown their work at the festival, which will run July 8 to 18 at the Bellmore Movies. It will include panels, parties and the screening of 156 films, including 37 from filmmakers with a connection to Long Island and 38 foreign films from 19 countries.

Debra Markowitz, the festival's director, said the number of returning filmmakers was growing. "We're very filmmaker-friendly and go the extra mile," including getting distributors to attend, said Ms. Markowitz, who is also director of the [Nassau County Film Office](#), which co-sponsors the festival with the [Long Island Film/TV Foundation](#).

Stevan Mena, who grew up in Westbury and now lives in Bellport, said that after his first film, a horror movie called "[Malevolence](#)," was named best feature at the 2003 expo, "I got a distribution deal, and it was in theaters in 2004. That made my career."

He is back this year with [“Bereavement.”](#) a prequel to his first film, about a serial killer of young women who abducts a 6-year-old boy to witness his crimes. Unlike his initial shoestring venture, the new movie, to premiere July 16, is a multimillion-dollar production, he said, which has had “six companies battling to distribute it.”

Rick Bieber also is back with his second feature, [“The 5th Quarter,”](#) which he wrote, directed and produced. He said Ms. Markowitz has “always been extremely generous” in helping his career. The first movie he wrote and directed, [“Crazy,”](#) won best feature in 2008.

His new film, a \$6 million production based on a true story, already has a distributor, said Mr. Bieber, a graduate of Plainedge High School and [Hofstra University](#) who lives in Los Angeles. It stars [Andie MacDowell](#) and [Aidan Quinn](#) as parents of a son killed in an auto accident. Another son, wearing his brother’s jersey number, helps lead [Wake Forest University’s](#) football team to its most successful season. “The 5th Quarter” is the opening night film on Friday.

The festival is about the same size as the one last year, though only 400 films were submitted, compared with 450 last year. “This year the economy caught up with filmmakers,” Ms. Markowitz said.

New this year are two free panels, one hosted by a group called [Directors ’n’ Actors](#), the other by [New York Women in Film and Television](#). There will also be the usual question-and-answer sessions with filmmakers after screenings, panels on film distribution and scriptwriting, an opening reception, a breakfast with filmmakers and a closing ceremony, which honors the actor [Armand Assante](#).

The Long Island International Film Expo runs July 8 to 18 at the Bellmore Movies, 222 Pettit Avenue, Bellmore. Tickets, \$7 to \$60. For more information: (516) 783-3199 longislandfilm.com.

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