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Charlotte Potvin, Century 21

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Halloween Issue next week

Adirondack Film Fest's secret weapon? Jess Levandoski

By Cathy DeDe

Chronicle Managing Editor

Jess Levandoski, Programming Director of the Adirondack Film Festival, is the festival's secret weapon.

Here & at other fests she watches & picks the movies to see

It is Ms. Levandoski who selects the lineup of films — approximately 75 from this year's hundreds of submissions — and she works connections to bring in some other films she's aware of.

"Chad [Rabinovitz] gives me free range to select the films," she said. "He gets the bigger events, like the *Princess Bride* anniversary screening, and *Miracle*." For the others, she



Programmer Jess Levandoski with Festival director Chad Rabinovitz at last year's closing party.
Chronicle photo/Mark Frost

makes her recommendations to festival director Mr. Rabinovitz and the festival board, who have ultimate say — but Mr. Rabinovitz asserted even last summer, "She's the one who really knows the movies."

Yet, Ms. Levandoski didn't start out in the movies at all. She studied biology, in fact, at the University of Texas, Austin — and at Indiana University in

Bloomington.

Bloomington is where she caught up with Mr. Rabinovitz, who divides his time as Producing Artistic Director of both the Bloomington Playwrights Project there, and the Adirondack Theatre Festival here.

Ms. Levandoski said she got into the film world in part to have more time to raise her

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There were Monarchs

The Chronicle's Sandra Hutchinson took this photo of the butterfly against a backdrop of Dahlias at Stonecrop Gardens at Cold Spring in Putnam County two weeks ago.

Tonight! 'Miracle' movie FREE on the Jumbotron screen at Cool Arena, GF

Tonight, Thursday, Oct. 19, the Adirondack Film Fest hosts a free community party from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Cool Insuring Arena (formerly Glens Falls Civic Center).

The centerpiece is a free screening of the movie *Miracle* on the arena's Jumbotron/video scoreboard, lowered to movie screen level for this occasion.

The 2004 Disney film stars

Kurt Russell as Herb Brooks, the player-turned-coach who led the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team to victory over the seemingly invincible Soviet Union, on the way to winning the Gold in Lake Placid.

Sports Illustrated deems it the greatest moment in sports history.

On tap:

- **AYHA Youth Hockey** exhibition game, 5:15-5:45 p.m.
- **Q&A with Brad Tapper**, Adirondack Thunder coach, 6:16-6:30 p.m.
- **'Miracle'** screening on the Arena Jumbotron, 6:30-8:45 p.m.

Chris Sarandon, star of The Princess Bride, here Fri. for Film Fest

Cathy DeDe writes: He was the memorably callous Prince Humperdinck in the beloved movie *The Princess Bride*. It screens at the Wood Theater Friday night, followed by Q&A with him. **Interview, page 24.**



'Skippy' from Family Ties comedian at Basil ▶ 21



Some red in Glens Falls

It's been a subdued autumn for foliage, but this maple tree on Elm Street between South and Pine Streets was splendid last week. *Chronicle* editor Mark Frost's photo.

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