



George A. Romero

Mark Canton, left, and Universal's Adam Fogelson



The film's Simon Baker, left, and producer Peter Grunwald



Aran Nevader/WIREIMAGE.COM

Brenden Theatres' Johnny Brenden, left, and the film's John Leguizamo

<< 'DEAD' END >>

It's fun, it's summer, it's hot ... but most of all, Las Vegas is a city in which you don't have to get shot in the head to become a zombie," producer **Mark Canton** said Saturday during Universal's premiere of "**Land of the Dead**" at the Palms Casino Hotel's Brenden Theatres. The film, which marks the return of director **George A. Romero's** legendary penchant for scaring audiences with tales of the undead, provided a monstrous finale to the CineVegas Film Festival following a weeklong array of world premieres, glitzy parties and star-studded tributes (including an honor for Romero).

After the screening, guests made their way to Curve at the Aladdin hotel for a killer party, where they mingled over Level martinis and took pictures with axe-wielding zombies to celebrate the conclusion of the fest, which president **Robin Greenspun** appropriately declared "the most dangerous festival around." — **Evan Fowler**

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It's a film that not only takes place in L.A., but is about L.A.," director **David Jacobson** said of his independent film "**Down in the Valley**," which appropriately kicked off the 2005 **Los Angeles Film Festival** on Thursday at the ArcLight Cinemas in Hollywood. Afterward, guests celebrated at the nearby Palladium for a "Valley"-inspired party. This year's fest boasts a roster of more than 250 independent projects — including "Nearing Grace," Warner Independent's "March of the Penguins" and Lions Gate's "Rize," which all screened over the weekend. — **Evan Fowler**



Find's Dawn Hudson and "Valley" star-producer Edward Norton

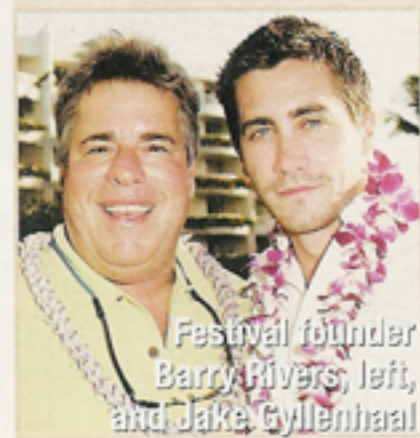


"Penguins" guest



"Grace's" Jordana Brewster and Gregory Smith

A constellation of stars — including **William H. Macy, Helen Hunt, Jake Gyllenhaal, Mike Myers, Andrew, Owen** and **Luke Wilson** and surfing legends **Laird Hamilton** and **Dave Kalama** — were honored during the **Maui Film Festival**, which ran Wednesday through Sunday.



Festival founder Barry Fivers, left, and Jake Gyllenhaal



Mike Myers



From left, Andrew Owen and Luke Wilson