

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

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By Robert Osborne

NEW YORK -- Malcolm McDowell will be the principal guest of honor at this year's seventh annual Port Townsend Film Festival near Seattle, where two of McDowell's most celebrated films will be screened (Stanley Kubrick's "A Clockwork Orange" and Lindsay Anderson's "If"). The three-day fest, set for Sept. 15-17, also has 10 narrative films, six documentaries, 27 shorts and six classics -- the latter category including William Wyler's 1935 silent "Hell's Heroes," the Marx brothers' wacky 1935 "A Night at the Opera," 1938's "The Adventures of Robin Hood" and 1944's film noir standout "Laura." Producer Mike Kaplan also will be on hand to discuss his 1987 "The Whales of August" after a screening of the Lillian Gish-Bette Davis starrer, which was Gish's swan song after an 86-year acting career. (Gish later kidded that it took working with La Davis to drive both her and Helen Hayes out of the business; Hayes also did her last acting role in a movie with Davis, the 1985 telefilm "Murder With Mirrors.") Kaplan's film also earned Ann Sothorn a best supporting actress Oscar nomination. Also at the P.T. fest will be London-based Carter Pilcher, CEO of Shorts International, which buys and distributes short films; he'll do a program highlighting some of the best shorts being made for digital transmission online, on iPods and the like. ... Brian Friel's "Translations" will replace the Manhattan Theatre Club's scheduled revival of Clifford Odets' "The Country Girl" during the 2006-07 Broadway season. Friel's drama, which premiered in America 25 years ago, will open Jan. 25 at the Biltmore, directed by Garry Hynes, who is in the record books as the first woman to win a Tony for directing a Broadway play (for the 1998-99 "The Beauty Queen of Leenane"). Meanwhile, Friel's currently running Broadway play "Faith Healer" departs after Sunday's performance at the Booth. ... Patti LuPone is briefly out of Broadway's stunning "Sweeney Todd," but playgoers at the Eugene O'Neill are in good hands: The juicy role of Mrs. Lovett is being played this week by Tony winner -- and this year's Tony nominee for "Souvenir" -- Judy Kaye, who'll be holding forth with Michael Cerveris through Sunday's performance. LuPone will be back Aug. 15. At the moment, she's in Chicago prepping for the Aug. 11-13 staging of the Sondheim-Styne-Laurents musical "Gypsy" at the Ravinia Festival with a cast that includes Jack Willis as Herbie, Leo Ash Evens as Tulsa and Jessica Boevers in the title role. Lonny Price directs; the esteemed Paul Gemignani will be there, conducting the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. LuPone as Mama Rose? As exhausting as it sounds, it also promises to be an event with a capital E, a magic mix of performer and role. ... When she returns to "Sweeney," LuPone will have just three more weeks of baking meat pies on Broadway. "Sweeney," as previously announced, ends its run Sept. 3, having played 349 performances and 35 prevues. ...

- Marian Seldes, Brian Murray, George S. Irving, Simon Jones, Charlotte Rae and critic Howard Kissel have joined the cast of the Sept. 18 reading of George Bernard Shaw's "The Apple Cart" at the Players. This continues David Staller's wildly successful Project Shaw series. ... Burke Moses, who created the role of Gaston in the Walt Disney Co.'s "Beauty and the Beast" on Broadway, is now co-starring in "The Fantasticks," which is prevuing at the Snapple Theatre Center. He jumped into the role Friday, replacing James Moyer as El Gallo. The revival officially opens Aug. 16.