

TOWN TALK

Langley stands in for Iranian village

Going to Cannes: Short film *I Ran* by Vancouver moviemaker deals with effects of sanctions on Iranian student



Malcolm Parry

CANNES DO: Moviemakers often make Vancouver look like other cities. But attendees at the Cannes Film Festival's Short Film series next month will see Langley standing in for the Iranian village of Golestan. The 22-minute drama *I Ran*, which has also received a U.S. Best Shorts Competition's award of merit, was written, directed and co-produced on a \$10,000 budget by **Mostafa Keshvari**, 29, who also acted in it. The son of a Tehran business lawyer and a high-school principal, Keshvari studied mathematics, physics and economics, played varsity-level soccer, published a book on spirituality, designed men's and women's garments in Dubai, and was a BMO financial services manager before gaining a Vancouver Film School scholarship.



Matthew Morganstern, Nathan Dawe, Mark McNeil and Letitia Wan saw Vancouver magazine name Ask For Luigi restaurant of the year.

I Ran's theme is the effect of international sanctions on a Persian village girl with a scholarship to study in Canada. She's played by Keshvari's sister **Ghazaleh**, 20, a business and acting student who attended British boarding schools and boxes competitively. "The biggest problem we had on the (*I Ran*) set was fighting like when we were kids," she said. Still, "it was easier to bring out my emotions with him than a stranger."



IN THE PINK: Chefs from Hapa Izakawa, Pacific Rim Raw Bar, Miku, Zakkushi, Zen and Bella Gelateria pitched in at a Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival dinner in **Hidekazu Tojo**'s West Broadway restaurant recently. **Linda Poole**, who founded the intra-community arts-and-culture festival in 2005, greeted **Daphne Crocetti**, a Zurich resident she met when husband **Christopher Poole** was Canadian ambassador to Kuwait. Crocetti likely missed a traditional Swiss floral event, Kuhkaempfe (cow fights), where triumphant cattle are garlanded and have blossom-bedecked herdsman lead them to upland grazing meadows. Such floral frolicking might astonish **Peter Wall** has huge Holsteins return to parade between tables at the annual Wall Ball he hosts.

Clinical therapist and Sun columnist Michele Kambolis joined friend Andrea Hill at a fundraiser for the Cause We Care charity she heads.



Dueck auto dealer Moray Keith escorted warrior-father Norman, 103, at a dinner marking the 70th anniversary of the end of war in Europe.

KEEP GOING: Chaired by **Don Maunders** and **Cam Watt**, Ovarian Cancer Canada's Love Her gala hit the Pacific Rim hotel this week. BC Cancer Agency's gynecologic-oncology head **Dianne Miller** received an award commemorating business leader and senior bureaucrat Virginia Greene. West Vancouver womenswear retailer **Marilyn Diligenti-Smith** staged a fashion show. She and daughter **Mia** wore designer **Wayne Clark** dresses in wool-and-silk gabardine. Although not on par with cancers, especially ovarian, inventor Thomas Burberry called that tough material "practically impermeable to wet, cold winds and fish hooks."

HONOUR DUE: No veterans of battles on Turkey's Gallipoli peninsula that began 100 years ago remain alive. But Australians and New Zealanders remember them, and certainly will today, Anzac Day.

SCHOOL'S IN: At the Equinox gallery recently, marketing-communications pro **Andrea Hill** fronted a fundraiser for the Cause We Care Foundation she launched in 2007. Often partnering the YWCA and various neighbourhood houses, shelters, community centres, etc., the foundation provides or helps fund programs that assist needy single mothers and children. The Equinox event benefited enrolment in after-school programs at inner-city schools.

PEDAL TO THE MEDAL: Seaforth Highlanders Pipe Major **Vern Kennedy** and three pipers played The Atholl Highlanders as 50 or so Second World War veterans marched into the Pacific Rim hotel ballroom recently. The event marked the 70th anniversary of that conflict ending in Europe. It also celebrated the liberation of the Netherlands by Canadian troops, 7,600 of whom died doing so, along with 38,000 in other theatres. It was easy to picture the bemedalled veterans as youngsters literally fighting fit. One of them, Manitoba Dragoons Maj. **Norman Keith**, recalled racing behind enemy lines in a 14-ton Staghound armoured car. His appetite for heavy General Motors products ran until last year when, aged 102, he returned the last of his many Cadillacs. Son **Moray**, the Dueck Auto Group president, promptly put it on the lot.

BIGGER PORTIONS: Now with 240 podium finishers in 50 categories, Vancouver magazine's Restaurant Awards event takes time to be "the definitive compendium of all that is delicious, masterful, and of the moment." That moment drew nigh for Ask For Luigi's general manager **Matthew Morganstern** Tuesday. Although delighted with four awards, including Restaurant of the Year,



Cooking for a Cherry Blossom Festival event at Tojo's restaurant were, back row, Masa Hito Iwamoto, Takayuki Omi, James Coleridge and, front, Kazuhiro Hayashi, Hidekazu Tojo, Nabutaka Watanabe and Nobu Ochi.



To screen at the Cannes Film Festival, Mostafa Keshvari's short film, *I Ran*, has Langley as an Iranian village and stars sister Ghazaleh Keshvari.



Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival founder Linda Poole feted Daphne Crocetti who flew from Zurich to participate in the program.



Marilyn Diligenti-Smith and daughter Mia wore Wayne Clark dresses while staging a fashion show to benefit Ovarian Cancer Canada.



Photographer Kristina Napolskih's exhibition aided the Beauty Night organization's esteem-building programs for women and youth.



Joey's executive chef Christopher Mills made a monster paella for those who'd attended Vancouver magazine's restaurant awards event.

he murmured worriedly: "We have to be open at 5:30." Accepting the Green Award for his sustainable seafood efforts, Yew Seafood + Bar's **Ned Bell** deserved a most-bemused citation. "I don't know what to say," he confessed. "I didn't even know there was a green award." There'll doubtless be even more new ones next year.

disadvantaged women's lives, former Sun assistant managing editor **Alex MacGillivray**'s daughter **Caroline** founded the Beauty Night organization in 2000. Supporters recently included photographer **Kristina Napolskih**, who usually focuses on fashion, glamour, etc. However, an exhibition **Vernard Goud** staged in the Shangri-La hotel included engaging images shot

on beneficiary Beauty Night's home turf.

DOWN PARRYSOPE: For those who missed International Sauvignon Blanc Day Friday, perpetually repeating Jug Wine Day encourages the quaffing of more robust vintages whenever one wishes.

malcolmparry@shaw.ca
604-929-8456

RIGHT THERE: To enhance