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'Mist'

Ryan Bonin, left, sells popcorn to John Goodman at the U.S. premiere of 'In the Electric Mist' Wednesday night in New Iberia.

Movie based on Burke book premieres



From left, actor John Goodman, local author James Lee Wednesday night inside the Grand Theatre at the U.S. Burke and movie producer Michael Fitzgerald relax premiere of 'In the Electric Mist' in New Iberia.

MARTIN THE DAILY IBERIAN

Movie stars, locals and locals turned movie stars — at least 470 people from Hollywood, around Louisiana and right down the street came out for Wednesday night's U.S. premiere of the film "In the Electric Mist" at the Grand Theatre in New Iberia.

The movie, parts of which were filmed in New Iberia, Jeanerette, St. Martinville and surrounding areas in the early summer of 2007, is based on local author Electric Mist with Confederate Dead" and all the proceeds from the event go to benefit local not-for-profit Southern Mutual Help Association.

Michael McManus, general manager of the LEE BALL / THE DAILY IBERIAN Grand Theatre in Bayou Landing Shopping Center, said three of the 10 individual theaters at the Grand were dedicated to the premiere, including the two largest. Due to fire regulations, some seats had to remain empty, but the 470 available tickets for the three theaters combined sold out, said co-producer Deborah Dobson Bach.

Bach read messages from the stars who could not be there prior to the





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LEE BALL / THE DAILY IBERIAN People gather Wednesday night at the movie theater for the U.S. premiere

"A lot of movies set in this area have fake accents or accents that role in the movie as an Iberia Parish the area. I thought it was great." Louisiana," said Helen Bayard, accents and real actors from this whose husband, Jason, had a small area with real levees and scenes from

of 'In the Electric Mist' in New Iberia.

sound like they're from north Sheriff's deputy. "This one had real For Whiland Williams, seeing The Daily Iberian's Web SEE REVIEWS, PAGE A3 Click on the photo feature.

Star power grips New Iberia



Local residents:

'Mist' shows

area like it is

After watching more than an

hour-and-a-half of picturesque

scenes from the Teche Area on the

big screen, local residents agreed

"In the Electric Mist" was a hit for

New Iberia, one that offered an

dents here are really like.

accurate portrayal of what resi-

BY HEATHER MILLER

THE DAILY IBERIAN

John Goodman, left, is welcomed by Debra Jeansonne was the reason he attend- Goodman watched the at the U.S. premiere of 'In the Electric Mist.'

BY STEPHEN HEMELT THE DAILY IBERIAN

Without a doubt, the Mist" was veteran film actor John Goodman. LEE BALL / THE DAILY IBERIAN and television roles what ters."

Goodman said shortly biggest name attending before 7 p.m. while wait-Wednesday night's pre- ing in the concession line miere of "In the Electric at the Grand Theatre. "I've been a fan of Mr. author James Lee Burke, Burke for a long time, and And if you asked the I would actually like to Mist with Confederate star of more than 100 film play more of his charac-

ed New Iberia's version of movie with more than 100

Hollywood, the answer others Wednesday before attending an after-party "They invited me," at The Gouguenheim. He posed for countless pictures and may have been the only person who fielded more attention than author of "In the Electric

Dead" on which the film

was based.

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LOCAL

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HOME: Benefitting SMHA FROM PAGE AT

burgen, who has been back to New Iberia twice with her family since the filming, said she was "heartbroken" she could not be there, saying of all the many places she's filmed, "New Iberia most captured my heart."

uenheim manager Patty Williams said many cast members have returned "quite a bit."

o come nere and just be people," Jordan said.

At \$35 a person, with sales of posters and auctioned Bourg said it was ciation, though the figures prosperous rural commu-From left, Johnny Wormser, movie producer Michael at the after-party for the world premiere of in the much exactly was raised. has been active in hurri-Many services were cane recovery.

showing. Mary Steen-Many cast members have returned to New Iberia 'quite a bit.'

donated, with Peltier's Gouguenheim owner Catering providing food Chris Jordan and Goug- and The Gouguenheim providing space for the event free of charge.

Lorna Bourg, presiden and executive director of "The good thing about SMHA, has said the organ-New Iberia — they're able ization is "honored to have our work supported by the producers, writers and actors."

items as well, that adds up to Burke's decision to donate a nice boost for the Sou- the proceeds to SMHA, thern Mutual Help Asso- which helps "build healthy,

STAR: Goodman thrilled

FROM PAGE AI

Goodman, who arrived Wednesday night in New Iberia and left today for New Orleans, said he relished the Louisiana that can ty to "In the Electric Mist." Goodman played Julie "Baby Feet" Balboni in Louisiana.'

the movie. "I like to be part of anything about Louisiana that can be done in Louisiana," he said. "It was a great experience to work with so many people from the area on such a good project."

Burke was nearly as popater row as the author's see if there was anything to town. words were brought to life that was harmful. They "I really enjoyed the so much attention, Good- Local businessman Gorby a combination of Holl- put me in there in the movie, and it makes me man said, "It's kind of em- don Doerle said the turnywood veterans and fresh- shackles with the gear, and want to go back and read barrassing."

"It's a great cast," Burke was authentic. I had to Roark. said. "I thought they were take a very long shower As Bernie Lemaire stood very good. Tommy Lee Jones (when filming was over). I up from a table he was sitis an extraordinary actor. have no problem getting in ting at with actor John The local people were great, there doing what they Goodman, Lemaire said also. There is no weak link in asked me to do, but when I repeatedly that Goodman the chain. For years, I have got out, I felt nasty. That "was such a gentleman," home-grown boy, and this is brought film people here to water was pretty nasty." and when Lemaire asked one of the best nights of my look around. I've always In the end, Chekwa Goodman how it felt to get life." maintained, not since the film 'The Louisiana Story' resounding feeling for all has anybody done the real the area actors. Louisiana. Normally, films "It seemed like a pretty

are very predictable." praise for the film, specifi- and you watch and think, cally complimenting Jones' 'this is not how it is in the portrayal of his novel's South.' I think it was pretfamous character Dave ty accurate." Robicheaux. Of special note to the author was Jones' talent for understatement.

"(Jones) shows a kind of repressed sadness that is both indicative of the character in the book and also dramatically in the film comes to mirror the larger tragedy," Burke said. Although populated by

many recognizable faces, "Mist" also featured Acadiana actors in their first One was Chima Chekwa,

who played Dewitt Prejean in a memorable scene involving a swamp chase featured throughout the film.

REVIEWS: 'I think they portrayed the area well'

FROM PAGE AT the shotgun houses along Anderson Street in the

sense of nostalgia.

first-class (movie)."

"I was born on And-

houses when I was a little

boy," Williams said. "It

was cool seeing that in a

movie. I thought it was a

Dan and Kelly Roark

moved here recently from

Hopkinsville, Ky., but are

longtime James Lee

be done in

John Goodman Actor in 'In the Electric Mist'

'I like to be part

of anything about

"They put me in the Burke fans who read the

it was a go from there. It the book again," said Dan summed up what was the

go to New Orleans and shoot good movie, pretty Souththe same scenes, they shoot ern," he said. "Usually the same story The accents when you see Southern movies, people come out Burke had nothing but there with fake accents



ular as Goodman. The two swamp," he said. "They book the movie was based People line up Wednesday night to fill the miere of 'In the Electric Mist' in New men sat in the same the- cleared it out to check and on long before they moved Grand Theatre at the world movie pre- lberia.

"I'll have to see the movie the reception that foltwice because I was too lowed was "fantastic," excited about everything adding the movie sold out and seeing all the familiar a few times. places," said Lemaire.

"I think they portrayed

resentation of New Iberia," Doerle said.

here soon."

out for the premiere and "This is a really good rep-

"I'm trying to talk them into filming another one

'This is a really good representation of New Iberia.'

Gordon Doerle Local businessman