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Hollywood North: Celebrity sightings, new projects and more

Yvonne Zacharais, Vancouver Sun

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Was that the Matrix playing tricks on us or was that Trinity herself, B.C.'s very own Carrie Anne Moss, in head-to-toe black spotted on the corner of Hornby and Georgia deeply engrossed in her Blackberry Monday morning?

The Opus Hotel's Elixir bistro moderne has had a few interesting people sauntering through in recent weeks. Superstar Sarah McLachlan was in to enjoy the casual elegance, shared plates and fine wine with friends including husband/drummer Ashwin Sood. Meanwhile, Oscar-winning director Ang Lee was seen wandering through the Opus bar.

Vancouver fashion designer Jason Dussault comes up with some of the edgiest, most eclectic clothes on the planet. Now he is expanding to Los Angeles, opening the Dussault Motel Store on trendy Melrose Avenue.

The opening was featured on the television series Gene Simmons Family Jewels on Tuesday in an episode entitled Li'l Gene.

We truly do live globally. Hollywood North keeps getting updates on the Waterfront Film Festival in Saugatuck, Mich., which will be celebrating its 10th anniversary June 12 to 15 in where else? Saugatuck. With more than 70 films shown in five venues over the course of the weekend, it has been recognized as one of the top five film festivals by SAGIndie. Good luck to Saugatuck.

Speaking of global living, film is being used more and more to stitch together communities around the world and to unite them in causes.

To wit, Tourism Whistler with the help of the local community is participating in something called Pangea Day on May 10. Pangea, by the way, is the name given to the supercontinent said to have existed more than 200 million years ago, before the continents were separated by oceans.

Locations in Brazil, Egypt, India, Israel, Rwanda, the United States and Canada will link together via videoconference to produce a live four-hour program of 24 powerful films, inspirational music and visionary speakers, including Queen Noor of Jordan, CNN's Christiane Amanpour, musician/activist Bob Geldof and Iranian rock phenomenon Hypernova.

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