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Hollywood legend Connie Stevens arrives Saturday for special screening ---- followed by Q & A ---- of her 2009 film SAVING GRACE B. JONES

Stevens to be honored Sunday with Lifetime Achievement Award at 17th Annual Temecula Valley International Film & Music festival

Festival is set for September 14-18

TEMECULA ---- Connie Stevens just couldn't wait until Sunday to come to Temecula to accept her Lifetime Achievement Award at the 17th annual Temecula Valley International Film & Music festival. The Hollywood icon has decided to arrive a day early for the special screening of her 2009 film SAVING GRACE B. JONES, which she wrote, directed and co-produced.

The film, which stars **Tatum O'Neal, Michael Biehn and Penelope Ann Miller**, tells the story of a Missouri couple who are thrown into chaos when the husband's sister is released from the local asylum and comes to live with the family during the infamous 1951 flood that covered the Heartland.

The film will be shown at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Ultrastar Tower 10 in the Tower Plaza Shopping Center.

Ms. Stevens will be available for a question and answer period following the screening.

On Sunday, Sept. 18, she will be honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the festival's annual **Black-Tie Gala** held at the **Pechanga Resort & Casino**.

Stevens will be saluted along with legendary Producer/Director **Peter Bogdanovich**, Academy Award nominated actress **Virginia Madsen**, Writer Producer Director **Oren Peli** of Paranormal Activity fame, legendary Music Producer **Russ Regan**, rising star **Booboo Stewart**, film orchestrator and arranger **Pete Anthony** and DVD and Blu Ray Manufacturing Technology pioneer **Erick Hansen**.

The multi-talented Stevens has captivated audiences on both the small and big screens and entertained millions from the jungles of Southeast Asia while touring with Bob Hope to the Broadway and Las Vegas stage.

Stevens burst on both the music and television scene in the early 1960s playing Cricket Blake on the hit detective show “Hawaiian Eye” and with the pop single “Sixteen Reasons.”

Over an extraordinary career she has starred in films, headlined in Las Vegas and made guest appearances on numerous television shows.

Stevens was married to actor **James Stacy** and crooner **Eddie Fisher**, the father of their daughters **Joely** and **Tricia Fisher**, both successful actresses and entertainers who are expected to attend the Black Tie Gala.

An accomplished businesswoman, in 1986 Stevens founded a cosmetic line called “Forever Spring” and in 2005 she was elected secretary-treasurer of the Screen Actors’ Guild.

Her tireless charitable work is legendary including founding the Windfeather Project which provides scholarships to Native American students.

About the Festival

The 17th annual Temecula Valley International Film & Music Festival takes place Sept. 14-18, 2011 at Ultrastar Tower 10 in the Tower Plaza Shopping Center. The festival is presented by Cinema Entertainment Alliance, a non-profit arts and education organization dedicated to celebrating world cinema and music. In 2010 over 300 filmmakers, musicians, producers, directors, writers, judges, composers, arrangers, agents, publicists, cast and crew participated in the festival, which was attended by more than 18,000 people

Past TVIFF honorees include Smokey Robinson, Kenny Loggins, Raquel Welch, Dionne Warwick, Carl Reiner, Mary Steenburgen, Michael Madsen, Shirley Jones, Gena Rowlands, Michael York, Hector Elizondo, Ray Charles, Rita Coolidge, William Shatner, Patty Duke, Billy Preston, Earth, Wind & Fire and Louis Gossett, Jr.. Additional honorees have included Directors John Badham, Andy Fickman, Jonathan Lynn and Robert Wise, as well as Producer Lucas Foster and Composers Lalo Schifrin, Christopher Young, John Ottman and John Debney.

About Temecula

Home of Southern California’s Wine County ---- with more than 30 award winning wineries ---- the Temecula Valley offers championship golf courses, hot air balloon rides, relaxing spas, a vibrant Old Town, restaurants, shopping and a wide variety of accommodations, all within an easy drive of anywhere in Southern California. For more information contact the Temecula Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.temeculacvb.com.

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ATTENTION MEDIA: To arrange an interview with the honorees of this year, call 951-699-5514 or send an email to johnhunneman@yahoo.com.

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