



**For Immediate Release:**  
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[www.bigbearlakefilmfestival.com](http://www.bigbearlakefilmfestival.com)  
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### **Big Bear Lake Film Festival and Dr. Doolittle Go to the Dogs!**

The 2009 Big Bear Lake International Film Festival (BBLIFF) will feature a family and Fido friendly evening with “A Movie Under the Stars” on Thursday, September 17, 2009 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Discovery Center in Fawnskin (on the North Shore). Doors will open at 6 p.m. for a variety of doggy doings including Tyson the skateboarding Bulldog, critter visitors from Moonridge Animal Park and a few more puppy and wildlife surprises. The movie, Dr. Doolittle, will be screened at dusk (around 8:15). The affordable evening of family fun is priced at \$5 for adults with children 14 and under free.

Traditionally the pre-festival kick-off event is a screening of a movie that was made in the Big Bear Valley. This year, in keeping with the Sidebar Showcase theme, “Pets and Animals” the featured film is Dr. Doolittle” starring Eddie Murphy. The movie was filmed in Big Bear in 1998, interestingly not far from the property of Noel Blanc, Master of Ceremonies. Blanc is known throughout Big Bear Valley for his impersonation of the many voices created by his famous father Mel Blanc. If he “talks to the animals’ it just may be in their voices.

C.A.T.S (not the fuzzy ones that meow but thespians who give purr-fect performances), will serve people, but not pets, delectable eatables. To avoid showing favoritism to their feline namesake, C.A.T.S will have hot dogs on the menu but couldn’t resist offering Kit Kat bars for sale too. Other taste bud tempters are popcorn, Chili Fritos, and soft drinks. The kick-off event is a joint venture between the Film Festival and C.A.T.S. with all proceeds from the Snack Bar to benefit the C.A.T.S organization.

Debbie Richardson from Moonridge Zoo will meet & greet guests with Mr. Raccoon, Master Hawk and a third wee beastie. She’ll be on the stage at 6:30 P.M. to share Moonridge Animal History.

Meanwhile, there’ll be a whole lot of tail shaking going on as costumed canines queue up for their turn to strut their stuff in the Pet Costume Parade. The Doggie Parade is open to all prancing pooches on a first come, first served basis. To assure that your “best friend” doesn’t miss out on the fun and great prizes, compliments of Bear Valley Pet and Animal Supply, pre-register by calling Event Co-coordinator Gloria Meade at 909-585-6541. Entries are limited to a 30 dog maximum.

Guests will vote for their favorites in the following categories: Best costume; Best trick (No worries for pampered pups Tyson, the Bulldog won’t be competing on his skateboard – he’s already a Tournament of Roses Parade star.); Biggest Dog; Smallest Dog and Pet/Owner Look-Alike. All sociable dogs are welcome

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but must be on leash and under the owners control at all times. It is suggested that responsible dog owners bring water, portable water bowls and doggy bags in case of 'faux paws' from puppy pals.

Dog training rehearsals are recommended and will be provided at no cost by the Dog Club of Big Bear, contact Angelique at 909 585-8889. While the ballots are being counted Angela from the Dog Club will introduce her cherished Afghan Hound, a rescue dog, who was featured in the June issue of "If We Could Talk to the Animals" in Oprah's magazine, OH.

Noel Blanc will return to the stage to announce the Doggie Parade winners and hand out prizes. Pet Raffle items, courtesy of Bear Valley Pet & Animal Supply and Centinela Feed & Pet Supply, guarantee that all dogs, dudes and dolls have an opportunity to be a winner when the Big Bear Lake Film Festival "Goes to the Dogs."

As the sun slips from the sky (around 8:15 p.m.), dogs and Doolittle fans settle in for a howling good time at the "Movie Under the Stars" featuring "Dr. Doolittle." Fall evenings can be brisk (September 17<sup>th</sup>) so bring warm jackets, blankets and folding chairs. Refreshments for sale are available and no ice coolers are allowed. The BBLIFF "Four Paws Up" affair is sponsored by Bear Valley Pet & Animal Supply.



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