

# Prescott Film Festival: Red Machine

~Helen Stephenson

"I can't believe that was an independent film." One of the volunteers with the Prescott Film Festival spoke those words as the end credits rolled during a pre-screening for *The Red Machine*, the festival's December 16<sup>th</sup> offering.

The film is set in Washington DC, circa 1935, and the words that best describe it are from that era; it's a lark, a jaunt, a jape. They're pulling off a caper. It's fast paced, well-made, exciting to watch, and still has that unique "indie" flavor so often missing from run-of-the-mill blockbusters at the Cineplex.

Eddie Doyle, played by the handsome **Donal Thoms-Capello**, (whose performance in this film is reminiscent of **Robert Redford** in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*) is a professional thief who gets caught and thrown in jail. At the same time, U.S. Navy spy F. Ellis Coburn, played as a perfect counter-point for Doyle with steady and believable calm by **Lee Perkins**, is looking for a thief for some covert government work. Coburn promises Doyle he will make his jail term go away if Doyle will break into the Japanese Embassy and "steal" Japan's new coding device. *Without taking it out of the embassy*. The logline for the film is, "How do you steal something, without really stealing it?" This well written and tightly edited film takes the audience on a ride to find out.

The guest filmmakers on December 16<sup>th</sup> are the co-directors, co-producers and co-screenwriters of the film, **Stephanie Argy** and **Alex Boehm**. Argy has directed two other films, and has worked in editing and visual effects. Boehm is known for his work as a cinematographer, and before that in the camera and electrical department, working on such films as *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*, directed by **Gus Van Sant** and *Love Liza* with **Kathy Bates**. Boehm is also the Cinematographer for *The Red Machine*. Argy wrote an article about the experience of making the film for the May 2009 issue of *American Cinematographer*. In the piece, entitled *Crafting a Stylized Caper* she says, "In hindsight, making *The Red Machine* was almost as impossible as our heroes' mission – on a very low budget, we had to depict Washington in 1935 and, through flashbacks, Tokyo in 1926; and we had 32 actors in period costumes, 36 separate locations and a 27-day shoot."

*The Red Machine* was shot in Whittier, California, but the locations, cars and wardrobe for the film fit neatly and authentically into the 1935 time frame of the film. Argy and Boehm keep the action going. Aside from the strong sense of fun the visuals of this film have, it's the characters that keep you glued to the screen. They are well-written and expertly directed. In *The Red Machine* the characters are defined as individuals and you find yourself worried about them, laughing with them, and wondering where life will take them next as the credits roll.



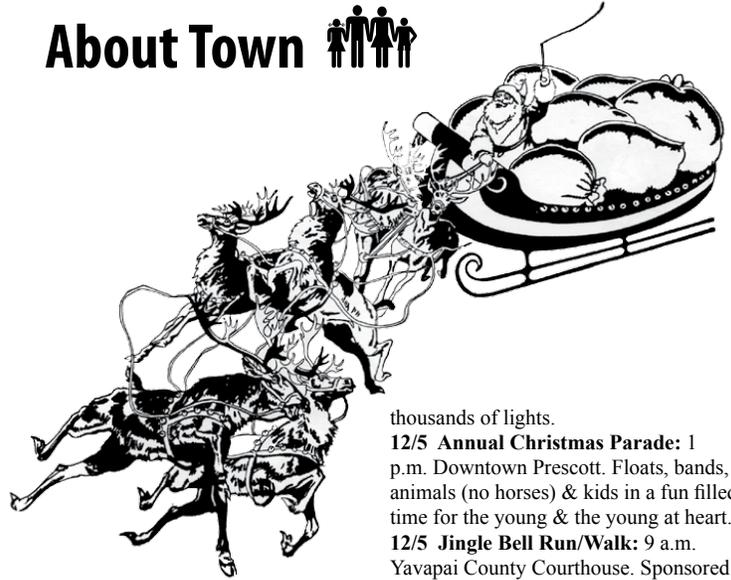
EDDIE AND THE SAFE

The Prescott Film Festival is honored to host the Arizona Premier of the film, which will be only the third festival screening for *The Red Machine*. Tickets are \$6.50 at the door, cash or check only. Please watch the website, [www.prescottfilmfestival.com](http://www.prescottfilmfestival.com) for the location of the December 16<sup>th</sup> screening, and the announcement of the short film.



THIEVES HANGOUT

# About Town



## Holiday

**thru 12/30 Valley of Lights:** Fain Park, Prescott Valley.

**12/4,12/5,12/11,12/18,12/19,12/25,1/1**

**Wild Lights Holiday Display:** 6-9 p.m. Heritage Park Zoo, 778-4242. Come see the Sanctuary lit up for the holidays; special light displays throughout the park. Special guest appearances & entertainment each night. Member-\$3, non-member-\$5, under 3-free.

**12/4,12/5 Hometown Chino**

**Christmas:** Hometown Chino Christmas is the biggest event of the Holidays in Chino Valley. Heritage Middle School (on Road 2 North & Road 1 West), 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday; 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is free. Nearly 100 Christmas Trees will be decorated by merchants, schools and other non-profits. It will be one of the largest tree displays in Yavapai County. Prizes are awarded for best decorated trees. Local choirs will perform continuously providing holiday music. And, of course, Santa will be on hand for the kids! 636-2493

**12/4 Festival of Lights Parade and**

**Tree Lighting:** 5 p.m. Prescott Valley Civic Center, 772-8857.

**12/4 A Celtic Christmas:** 7:30 p.m. Yavapai College Performance Hall, 776-2000. Canadian musical phenomenon Leahy brings their high energy genre-spanning music with a special Celtic Christmas flavor.

**12/5 Annual Courthouse Lighting:** 6 p.m. Yavapai County Courthouse. Join the crowd for the traditional Christmas carols by the Yavapai schools choir & the reading of the Christmas story. Then see the plaza come ablaze with

thousands of lights.

**12/5 Annual Christmas Parade:** 1 p.m. Downtown Prescott. Floats, bands, animals (no horses) & kids in a fun filled time for the young & the young at heart.

**12/5 Jingle Bell Run/Walk:** 9 a.m. Yavapai County Courthouse. Sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation. Costume contest, reindeer dash for kids. Dogs welcome. Visit website for details. 5K run or walk. Cost: \$30.

**12/5 Frontier Christmas Open House:** 6:30-8 p.m. Sharlot Hall Museum. Guests will be infused with the warmth and spirit of "Christmas past" as the Museum puts on its holiday finest, including festive luminarias, seasonal entertainment, scrumptious homemade cookies and costumed interpreters with tales of holiday traditions from Arizona's territorial past. \$3 for Museum members; \$5 for nonmembers; under 18 free, 445-3122.

**12/6,12/13,12/20,12/27 Arizona Revue Christmas Show:** 4 p.m. Our stockings are chock-full of new music & great fun for everyone. Purchase tickets in advance for show-only or a dinner & show package. 848-1219

**12/11 Acker Musical Showcase:** 5 p.m. Downtown Prescott. Musical acts in participating businesses downtown. A real favorite in Prescott for the holiday season.

**12/11-12/13 Elks Opera House Christmas Musicals:** 2 and 7 p.m. Grace Sparkes Activity Center, 777-1366. Spotlight Children's Theatre will be celebrating Arizona's Christmas City by performing *Bah, Humbug! Scrooge's Christmas Carol* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Tickets: Adults-\$15; Seniors, Children & Students-\$10.

**12/12 Dickens Of A Holiday:** 1-6 p.m. Courthouse Plaza. Listen to carolers and music while sipping on a peppermint hot chocolate. Visit Frosty's Enchanted Village and take a ride on a 30 foot Ferris Wheel, take a spin on the Dancing Bears or take a flight to the North Pole