



WHEELS ON REELS
"LOVE THE BEAST" WITH ERIC BANA
PREMIERES AT CALIFORNIA FILM FESTIVAL

Australian actor Eric Bana kicked off the summer season as the heavily made-up villain in *Star Trek*, co-starred with Adam Sandler in the comedy/drama *Funny People*, then starred opposite Rachel McAdams in *The Time Traveler's Wife*.

But months before this unbelievable string of back-to-back box office hits put Eric Bana in the spotlight, his directorial debut made its US premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York this past spring. The documentary entitled *Love The Beast* made its West Coast premiere at the inaugural Wheels On Reels Film Festival, October 23-24 at the Mary Pickford Theatre in Cathedral City, California.

Wheels On Reels focuses on the interactions of man and machine—automobiles and motorcycles—as that complex and sometimes emotional relationship continues to inspire filmmakers in so many ways. Hollywood has Cannes and Sundance, while Wheels On Reels calls to a uniquely different demographic—exhaust-loving, gear-shifting, tire-burning, speed-craving motorheads.

Love The Beast, written and directed by Bana, is the story of his 25-year love affair with his "Beast"—a '74 Australian Ford Falcon XB Coupe. The documentary was filmed mostly in Australia, yet is a story that will strike an emotional cord with anyone in America who owns or dreams of owning a muscle car. The film delves into Bana's man-car relationship—with appearances by television psychologist Dr. Phil McGraw, talk show personality Jay Leno, and *Top Gear* host Jeremy Clarkson.

Other films selected for screening at the inaugural event included *Truth In 24*, the documentary narrated by Jason Statham that chronicles the Audi Sport Racing Team in their attempt to earn a record fifth consecutive win at the 24 Hours of Le Mans; *The Rock Store*, a brilliant documentary by an award-winning stuntman that introduces you to Ed and Vern Savko, owners of a gas station and convenience store in the Santa Monica Mountains; and *The Indian*, a debut film by Southern California native James R. Gorrie about how the rebuilding of a 1917 Indian motorcycle repairs a relationship between a father and a son.

Proceeds from the Wheels On Reels Film Festival help provide advanced-level driving instruction for teens in the Palm Springs area; a project launched by Festival organizers Bernadine Bogdanovs and Chad McQueen in 2008. For Festival information, call 760-213-6826 or visit www.WheelsOnReels.com. ■



PORSCHE PANAMERA AT PORSCHE NORTH SCOTTSDALE
NEW PORSCHE 4-DOOR GRAN TURISMO IS A CROWD-PLEASER AT DEALERSHIP EVENT

By the time this event rolled around, we had seen the Panamera three prior times, but hadn't driven it.

First, while parked in an outer lot at the San Jose airport, early in the big Monterey event week in August, one surprised us as it roared by on our left, so our first live view was a 3/4 right rear, with sound effects, very striking. Next, we saw the car up close and personal at its Pebble Beach reveal, a static display, but a good chance to check its well-executed proportions from all angles, plus the roominess and purpose of its interior. Our third time was at Firebird International Raceway—while we were covering another event, the Panamera and its prime competitors were doing laps on the next track, then road testing while we were testing other vehicles. Not just another four-door—you can sure see one coming. In mid-October, Porsche North Scottsdale, part of the Penske Automotive Group on North Scottsdale Road south of the Loop 101, threw a Friday night launch party for its customers, with a full array of the stunning new four-door grand tourers on hand. That made four insider or near-insider exposures for us—though without having driven it yet.

The dealer event was packed. People were parked up and down the whole array of other Penske dealerships and in all entrances and drives. Crowd estimators told us the next day that some 800 to 1000 people had shown up. They came in their other Porsches, they came in their other luxury sedans and coupes, they even came in a Bugatti Veyron for their first glimpse. One easy conclusion—the car is a crowd-pleaser (or at a minimum, a vehicle generating much curiosity). The enthusiasm continued into the weekend, with a steady stream of shoppers taking test drives. By this point, we had indeed seen the car on the road quite a few times. By the time you read this, you likely will have, too.

The car is available in four models: the 400 hp Panamera S, starting at \$89,900 (0-60 mph in 5.2 seconds); the Panamera 4S, starting at \$93,800 and offering all-wheel drive, the same horsepower, but a quicker 0-60 time of 4.8 seconds; and the Panamera Turbo at \$132,600, generating 500 hp and hitting 0-60 in 4.0 seconds. If you haven't seen one yet, swing by the dealership. Though new and somewhat rare, they have secured a good supply pipeline and generally have something in stock for immediately delivery, or they can take orders for any of the models in the lineup. ■

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