

WIFV/NE member Elika Portnoy receives an Award!



Photo caption: Accepting their award for best picture at the : Monaco International Film Festival Executive (left to right): Festival Executive Director Rosana Golden, "Tricks of a Woman" star Scott Elrod, Carlos Leon, Elika Portnoy, and the film's director and writer Todd Norwood.

Tricks of a Woman, a new romantic comedy starring Scott Elrod (*Men in Trees*), Madonna's ex Carlos Leon (*Oz, Law & Order*), Vincent Pastore (*The Sopranos*), Natasha Lyonne (*American Pie, But I Want to Be a Cheerleader*), and WIFV/NE member Elika Portnoy, received the Angel Award for Best Picture, as well as awards for Best Actress to Portnoy, Best Supporting Actor to Leon, and Best Supporting Actress to Lyonne, at the 6th Monaco International Film Festival on Saturday, December 6th, at the Theatre Princess Grace in Monte Carlo. The Angel Awards are bestowed on films that convey the best messages of humanity, either for positive change, love or inner values, or for a new beginning of quality entertainment through adventure, suspense, comedy and romance.

The film screened on opening night, December 4, which also marked the film's world premiere. Festival co-founders, Executive Director Rosana Golden and Director of Programming Dean Bentley, select the Angel Awards Trophy winner for best film while an international jury headed by British actress Camilla Rutherford (who won a Screen Actors Guild award for her part in *Gosford Park*) judged the Angel Awards competition. "We loved the film because it carries a dream and it has innocence and love in it," Golden said.

"At first we were honored to have been chosen as the festival's opening night film, but we were even more thrilled to sweep the awards," said Elika Portnoy a native of Bulgaria who is also the film's executive producer. "As a native European, it's especially gratifying that the film won in Europe at a festival that recognizes films with a positive message." A modern day twist on *Pygmalion*, *Tricks of a Woman* revolves around a fashion photographer, who is forced to accept a bet that he can turn any girl into a super-model. The Massachusetts written and produced film was shot on location in Massachusetts in July 2008.

The film, which was shot in and around Boston this past July, is produced by Boston-based *Mutressa Movies* and directed by New Hampshire resident Todd Norwood (*The Wayfarers*), who also co-wrote the screenplay together with Portnoy and Richard A. Lasser (the upcoming *Pearl of the Orient* to be directed by Ken Russell). Prior to entering the film business Portnoy worked as a model, which included a high profile spread in *Vogue*.

For more information about the film, visit www.mutressamovies.com.