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On The Hamptons Summer Party Circuit: Ukraine Doc Screening, Southampton Arts SummerFest Gala

'Once Upon a Time in Ukraine,' produced by former U.S. ambassador to Finland Earle Mack, tells the story of the war in Ukraine through the eyes of children affected by the conflict.

BY BETH LANDMAN AUGUST 20, 2024 1:28PM



David Rubenstein and Judith Miller spoke at the screening for 'Once Upon a Time in Ukraine' at Southampton Arts Center. PATRICK MCMULLAN/PMC

On the weekend before the Democratic National Convention — in the midst of a high-temperature season of presidential fundraisers — **Hamptons** heavyweights with serious political bona fides gathered at a series of events on the tony East End, along with folks from the entertainment world.

On Saturday, Aug. 17, there were two big charitable functions on one evening. The nonprofit Haiti Air Ambulance — which provides helicopter ambulance services to people in Haiti — held a fundraiser at the Bridgehampton home of real estate honcho Ken Fishel

performed for guests including Candace Bushnell, skincare guru Peter Thomas Roth and real estate mogul David Levinson.

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Clash of the Hamptons Cultures: "We Don't Want People Wearing Shorts"

On Sunday, Aug. 18, Hamptons power players gathered for a screening at Southampton Arts Center of a film produced by Earle Mack, former U.S. Ambassador to Finland, former chairman and CEO of the New York State Council on the Arts, and the producer and co-director of the documentary *The Children of Theatre Street*.

Former New York Governor George Pataki, journalist Lally Weymouth, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, Wendy Stark, NY Jets co-owner and former U.S. Ambassador to the U.K. Woody Johnson, former UN Ambassador and National Security Advisor John Bolton (with six bodyguards), art collector and producer Jane Holzer, writer Bob Colacello, and billionaire hedge fund manager John Paulson were among those who gathered to watch a half hour version of the 90-minute documentary, *Once Upon a Time in Ukraine*, directed by Betsy West. After the screening, a Q&A was held with David Rubenstein, chairman of the board of the Council on Foreign Relations, and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Judith Miller.

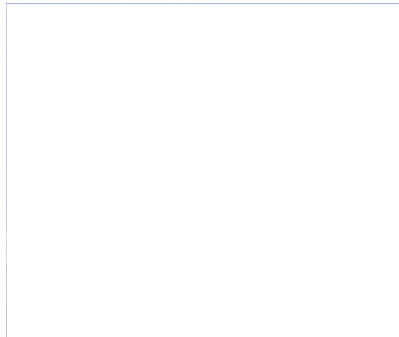
(L-R) Jane Holzer, producer Earle Mack and Hilary Geary Ross attend a screening for 'Once Upon a Time in Ukraine' at Southampton Arts Center. PATRICK MCMULLAN/PMC

'Once Upon a Time in Ukraine' looks at the Ukraine war as seen through the eyes of four children. STORYVILLE FILMS

After, guests trekked across the street through the rain to gather at Le Charlot for dinner, where people discussed the most moving parts of the film, which showed the war in Ukraine through the eyes of the country's children, and also talked up their own projects. Pataki's

Guinness, that she will executive produce for Netflix, and author Howard Blum talked about Village Roadshow making an eight-episode series from of *The Night Comes Falling*, his book about the University of Idaho student murders and revealed that Ron Howard will be making a feature out of his Gold Rush tome *The Floor of Heaven*. Said one guest of the turnout, "It doesn't matter if it's *Jaws* on the beach, or a serious documentary. On a Sunday night in the Hamptons, they come to see their friends, share a cinematic experience and give their private chef a night off."

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