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Drift premiere gets crowd cheering

By Zannia Yakas

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Actors and producers thank everyone involved in the making of *Drift*. Photo: Augusta-Margaret River Mail

More than 1300 people enjoyed a first look at the highly-anticipated surfing film *Drift* last night at its Australian premiere in the South West.

Producers and cast joined VIP guests and local community members as they returned to the region the film was shot in, celebrating at Caves House, Yallingup.

Walking the red carpet were actors including Myles Pollard, Xavier Samuel (who played Riley in *The Twilight Saga: Eclipse*) and Aaron Glenane, producers Tim Duffy, Michele Bennett and Joan Peters, and directors Morgan O'Neill and Ben Nott.

Star cast member and screen favourite, Sam Worthington (Avatar and Clash of the Titans) was missing from the event.

The screening took place outdoors with guests seated on a large stretch of grass in front of a cinema screen.

The film itself appeared to be a success, with certain lines initiating chuckles, and shots of beautifully-blue rolling surf getting several cries of "yeow!" from the crowd, which also triggered a few laughs in reply.

Beginning in black and white, the film got its first big audience appraisal when the topical Kelly family took a road trip, encountering an old sign stating the distance until Seacliffe, Margaret River, Augusta and Albany.

The second big cheer came when a young Jimmy Kelly took on his first monstrous barrel, at first stealing all noise from the audience before he burst out the other side along with the film's first rush of colour, to end the black and white era.

A soundtrack featuring old favourites and scripted colourful colloquialisms like "Let's get pissed!" and "Oh gee whiz" were reminiscent of the film's 1972 setting, but Drift was also inviting to a younger audience, with a couple of modern tracks from The Black Keys and The Jzebels thrown in.

As the end credits rolled, people clapped and cheered.

The film's directors said it was "a thrill" to be there and thanked everyone who came, while one of the producers celebrated the local community.

"This is a celebration of your contribution - what you gave to this film; a celebration of all the amazing things that are going to happen to this community over the next five to ten years."

- Augusta-Margaret River Mail

(<http://www.margaretrivermail.com.au/story/1382354/drift-premiere-gets-crowd-cheering/?cs=12>)