

...ment. "American Crime Story" (2021), had posted on Instagram a day earlier that, "Playing Fanny Brice on Broadway has been a lifelong dream of mine, and doing so for the last few months has been a great joy and true honor. Once the production decided to take the show in a different direction, I made the extremely difficult deci-

did not respond to a Newsday request for comment on Feldstein's assertion of "a different direction." The backstage musical about vaudeville and radio star Brice has garnered mediocre reviews, and recently lackluster ticket sales after a single Tony nomi-

night, both on and off the stage, are all remarkably talented and exceptional humans and I hope you continue to join them on Henry Street," referring to a local musical and a namesake song, "after I depart on July 2021

LI International Film Expo offers local films, more

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Catherine Curtin of "Stranger Things" and **Chad L. Coleman** of "The Walking Dead" are among the actors and filmmakers scheduled to appear at this year's Long Island International Film Expo, which runs Wednesday through Sunday at the Bellmore Movies.

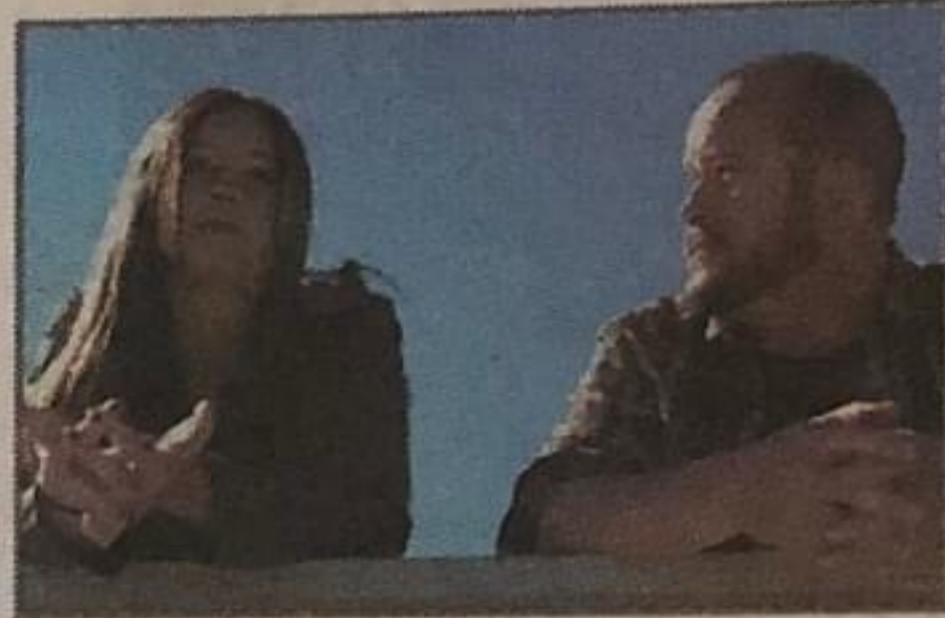
The 25th edition of the festival will be held in-person, but a version will also be available online with passes and individual tickets at a reduced rate.

The Expo is planning a closing night ceremony with numerous celebrity guests, including **Kevin Brown**, known to "30 Rock" fans as Dot Com, who will serve as host. Curtin is scheduled to re-

ceive the festival's Excellence in Creative Achievement award. Producer **Jeff Waxman** (the second and third "John Wick" films, "Don't Look Up") will accept the Excellence in Film & TV Award and **Greg Cergol**, the WNBC/4 Long Island reporter, will receive the Excellence in Newscasting Award.

Other guests announced by the festival include actors **Robert Clohessy** ("Oz," "Blue Bloods"), **Lukas Hassell** ("The Blacklist"), **Sal Rendino** ("Billions") and **Abigail Hawk** ("Blue Bloods").

The Expo offers a mix of features and



ISLAND LONG PRODUCTIONS

Director Michael Scully stars with daughter Michayla in his film "Montauk77."

shorts, with more than 120 titles in all. Screenings are arranged in roughly two-hour blocks. Some blocks include a feature and shorts, while others are all-shorts compilations.

One film with a strong local tie is "Montauk77," the debut feature from director **Michael Scully** and

his 15-year-old daughter, **Michayla**, of Levittown. He plays a ride-share driver; she plays the teenager who hires him to take her to Montauk Point to scatter her mother's ashes — though the girl's real plan proves to be far more troubling. The film, written by the Scullys together and di-

rected by Michael, was shot at nearly two dozen locations across Long Island and is scheduled for a digital and VOD release through Gravitas Ventures in August.

Other locally connected films include **Colleen Callan's** "Hot Water on Long Island," a feature documentary about time schools where students and staff are experiencing high rates of cancer and other illnesses. "UFO Club," a comedy from writer-director **Steven G. Tsapelas**, about a nerdy high schooler who identifies an eccentric UFO hunter, is the result of a script that won an Expo award last year. "Launch at Paradise," a short film shot in Farmingdale and featuring Curtin, centers on a man's attempt to live forever.

In-person tickets are \$13-\$15, day passes are \$35-\$45 and all-access Gold Passes are \$99. Virtual tickets are \$7 and passes are \$30-\$75. To purchase tickets and for more information, go to longislandfilm.com.

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hot
date

SEPT. 21

'The Conners,' starring Sara Gilbert and John Goodman, returns for its fifth season on ABC.



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