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Resident: 'Elf-Man' is 'a gold star for Frederick'

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Whoever said movie premieres belong to Hollywood must not have heard about what happened Saturday in downtown Frederick.

The premiere of "Elf-Man" at the Weinberg Center for the Arts made for some excited people in the local arts community, including [Frederick](#) resident T.J. Grable, who described the event as unusual and unprecedented.

"It signals a positive change in the artistic scene of Frederick, and we're now moving into the realm of being a first-run producer of art instead of a recipient," Grable said.

It would seem movie premieres would be in Baltimore or Washington, [Frederick](#) resident Alex Malphrus said, adding, "Obviously, it means [Frederick](#) is taking that next step in the artistic arena."

A movie premiere in [Frederick](#) brings a lot of publicity to downtown and its small businesses, [Frederick](#) resident Alison Valois said.

"It's kind of nice to see our own little town in a movie, and to see people you know on screen," Valois said. "We are a very artistic town anyway, and it's a feather in our cap."

The premiere attracted people from as far away as New Jersey, and the consensus seemed to be that the movie was good family fare.

"It had a nice Christmas theme," said Gino Mecoli, of Atco, N.J.

"I laughed and really had a couple of tears," said Heather D'Amico, also from New Jersey, who was dressed in glitter for the premiere. "I can't wait to have kids and show it to them."

The "Elf-Man" premiere replicated Hollywood, complete with a red carpet, where news media from as far away as Philadelphia took turns interviewing several cast members.

The premiere marked "Elf-Man" star Mirelly Taylor's first visit to Maryland.

"The people here are so sweet," Taylor said, "and [Frederick](#) is at the top of my list of cities to come visit. There's a lot of great restaurants and good food here."

Taylor was responding to questions from Joe Hansard, who was interviewing the cast for "The Arch Campbell Show."

The movie premiere is a gold star for Frederick, Sarah Tapscott said, and a great opportunity to bring positive attention to the city's cultural diversity.

"It's a family-friendly movie, and we call it a night in Hollywood with VIP and paparazzi," Tapscott said, adding that the newly renovated Weinberg Center for the Arts was the perfect venue for the premiere.

Not many Maryland theaters can say they have had a movie premiere, said Tapscott, an [Urbana](#) High School graduate and Hood College student who was a volunteer for the premiere. "And it's a fundraiser as well, to benefit local charities."

Whether it's the city's arts programs and organizations, history or many restaurants, [Frederick](#) is truly diverse, Tapscott said.

"Hopefully, it will bring a lot of attention to [Frederick](#) so people realize what a gem it is," Tapscott said.

A few years ago, when Natasha Marshall was a student at [Frederick](#) Community College, there wasn't a lot of film activity in Frederick, she said.



Photo by Sam Yu

The Hollywood red carpet came to the Weinberg Center for the Arts on Saturday night in Frederick, complete with paparazzi who photographed anyone attending the premiere of the movie "Elf-Man," which was shot in and around Frederick. Being photographed on the red carpet here are Carly Robell, 8, of Frederick, who plays Kasey in the movie, and her grandparents Lynn and Sam Giordano, of Franklinville, N.J.

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"Now, there's a wonderful opportunity for people who want to be in the business," said Marshall, a film major at Towson University who was invited to be a volunteer for the premiere.

"I feel very happy I can go back to Towson and share my experience with my film club," Marshall said.

Being a volunteer for the premiere offered [Mount Airy](#) resident Greg Svedberg a close look at the industry's workings.

"I'm taking a couple of film and broadcast courses at [Frederick](#) Community College, and I thought this would be a great opportunity to learn a little about the industry," Svedberg said. "There's a big theater and film community in Frederick."

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