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Abstract (Summary)

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Full Text (660 words)

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This was definitely the weekend to be Helen Mirren.

Friday morning the 61-year-old actress learned that her film "The Queen" had topped the list of nominees for the British Academy Film Awards, the U.K. equivalent of the Oscars.

Friday afternoon the American Film Institute honored her miniseries "Elizabeth I" as one of the year's 10 best television productions.

Friday night, the Broadcast Film Critics Association named that film the best picture made for television, and Mirren herself was honored as best actress for "The Queen."

Saturday night, American Cinematheque threw a sold-out tribute for her at the historic Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.

Last night, Mirren was primed to received a statuette from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, naming her best actress for "The Queen."

The actress is also a triple nominee at tonight's Golden Globes for "The Queen," "Elizabeth I," and the TV movie "Prime Suspect: The Final Act."

Mirren won a Globe for the 1996 television movie "Losing Chase," has three Emmys and has been nominated twice for an Oscar. (This year's Academy Award nominations will be announced Jan. 23.)

Although thrilled with her recent fame and success and having two roles as the queen of England under her tiara, the actress has no desire to take on any more royal material.

"No, I will not," Mirren told the Associated Press. "Possibly for the rest of my life."

Soprano Renee Fleming will be replaced by bass Rene Pape in a performance tomorrow with the New York Philharmonic and Symphonica Toscanini paying tribute to the Italian conductor Arturo Toscanini.

Fleming, a two-time Grammy Award winner, backed out of her role in "A Tribute to Toscanini" because of illness, the Philharmonic announced Saturday.

The two-hour concert will take place at Avery Fisher Hall on the 50th anniversary of Toscanini's death at age 89.

Pape will sing arias by Verdi and Mozart, and the orchestras will perform together and separately. Lorin Maazel will conduct.

Fleming, 47, is considered one of the world's leading lyric sopranos. She made her debuts with the New York City Opera and London's Covent Garden in 1989; her Metropolitan Opera debut was in 1991.

If you were hoping to check out the Sundance Film Festival this month, be careful about buying tickets.

Festival officials say they're investigating Sundance ticket sales on eBay and are cracking down on profit-minded sellers. Reselling Sundance tickets for profit is strictly prohibited.

To give locals the opportunity to attend, more than 2,000 Utah residents had the option to buy up to 20 tickets each at an auction over the weekend. Two tickets to the first screening of "Waitress," starring Keri Russell, sold for \$385 on Saturday afternoon, the Associated Press reports. About half an hour later, a second pair of "Waitress" tickets went for \$255.

Sundance officials warn that tickets resold online can be remotely deactivated before they're used.

"We've contacted those sellers and informed them of our policy and what actions we are taking," said festival spokesman Patrick Hubley. "I wouldn't advise people to buy tickets off of eBay or any other site," except that of the festival, he said.

A few entries found under a search for "Sundance tickets" over the weekend showed indications of sellers trying to get around the prohibition. Several were giving away "free" tickets with the purchase of festival venue instructions or a film guide, which normally are given to ticket holders at no charge.

The film festival begins Thursday and runs through Jan. 28, with screenings in Park City, Ogden, Sundance and Salt Lake City.

Looks like Washington's new mayor has a weakness for chicken tikka makhani and chicken palak.

Adrian Fenty did his part to stimulate the local economy over the weekend at Indique in Cleveland Park. Friday night the mayor picked up his own carryout in person, as noted by chef and co-owner K.N. Vinod, and shook hands with employees and waiting customers.

-- Compiled by Catherine Handren

from staff and wire reports

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