

# THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER®

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## Cannes Special Issue

### THE INSIDERS



Some Cannes doormen keep all the secrets.

#### **TATIANA FRIEDKIN** *director, Office of Coordination, Cannes Film Festival*

Friedkin is the longtime Los Angeles representative for the Cannes Film Festival who, during the fest, performs the function that separates the haute monde from the bourgeois: Friedkin decides who gets use of the fest's official cars.

From her office at the back of the Palais, Friedkin daily sorts through the hundreds of requests from Hollywood stars, French politicians, fest jury members, et al, who want use of the fleet of 70 chauffeur-driven Renault Safranes provided to insiders. Friedkin's other balancing acts also include riding herd on the most mysterious of all Cannes rituals: the stars-go-last arrival of the VIP limos for the Palais red-carpet screenings.

## UNSUNG HEROES

*In Cannes, these are the behind-the-scenes expeditors who know all the scores.*

#### **JULIE SISK** *founder and director, American Pavilion*

For the past 10 years, Sisk has overseen the corporate-sponsored communication and hospitality center for the thousands of Americans in Cannes. Providing a full-service business center and an affordable restaurant, the American Pavilion also features seminar series and a dangerous affair called the "Kodak Pitch Room," in which filmmakers present their ideas to film executives.

#### **GARY MANSOUR** *owner, Mansour Travel*

Mansour handles travel and hotel accommodations for scores of festivalgoers and production companies and has long-established relationships with the major hotels in Cannes. Usually, he can beat the jacked-up rates foisted on the hoi polloi. "If you're in a pinch," says producer Cindy Cowan of Initial Entertainment Group, "Gary can find you a room, even when the hotels say they are all booked up."

#### **M. MAURICE DELAUNY** *mayor* **M. KALOUSTIAN** *general secretary* **M. ARMAROLI** *deputy mayor*

Although not all requests for special publicity events/stunts must be made to the festival organization or the town council, these are the Cannes city officials that give the final OK. Deputy Mayor Armaroli is the specific contact for anything concerning the sea or port; i.e., he gives permission to use a floating pontoon for fireworks displays and the like. Basically, he's the guy you want to talk to so French paramilitary officers don't try to shoot down your utterly ridiculous seaside promotional display. (In most cases, if you want to put the name of your company over a hotel or a hotel beach, the hotel will handle any conflicting interests with the townsfolk.)

— Cannes correspondent Sally Knight contributed to this article.