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Screens lighting up as festival gains steam By SHANNON STARR / The Press-Enterprise

TEMECULA - The first day of the Temecula Valley International Film and Music Festival began Thursday with a few glitches amid a diverse group of films in many formats.

Chris Metzle, the director and producer of "Plagues and Pleasures on the Salton Sea," scrambled to get the sound right during his first screening. A loose connection in the projection booth was the culprit, he said.

Nate Barlow of "Tales from Beyond," "Garmento" director Michele Maher and Tony Urgo, editor on "No Second Thoughts," were discussing what they were hoping to see early on in the festival.

"It's only the first day, so there isn't a lot of buzz," said Barlow.

Fabiola Francesca and Julianna Lorenz, both of San Diego, came to the festival to "watch good movies and network." The actresses are involved in "New Village Arts" in Carlsbad.

The two encountered a familiar face, Steven Hensley, writer/director of "No Second Thoughts," a psychological thriller.

"We workshopped some scenes in the movie," Francesca said. "It was shot in San Diego at Moviemakers Connection, where they take students and give them hands-on experience producing films. It's very educational, giving young people real work experience."

Some celebrities might be on hand for the screening of "Class of '83" at 5 p.m. today. Filmmaker Brigid Walsh has invited some of her former public relations clients, among them Jason Patrick and Andy Dick.

Also playing today is "Icons and Legends, the Photography of Michael Childers," a documentary about the man known for his portraits of Natalie Wood, Bette Milder, Mel Gibson and Billy Wilder.

Staff reporter Lyle Spencer contributed to this report.

