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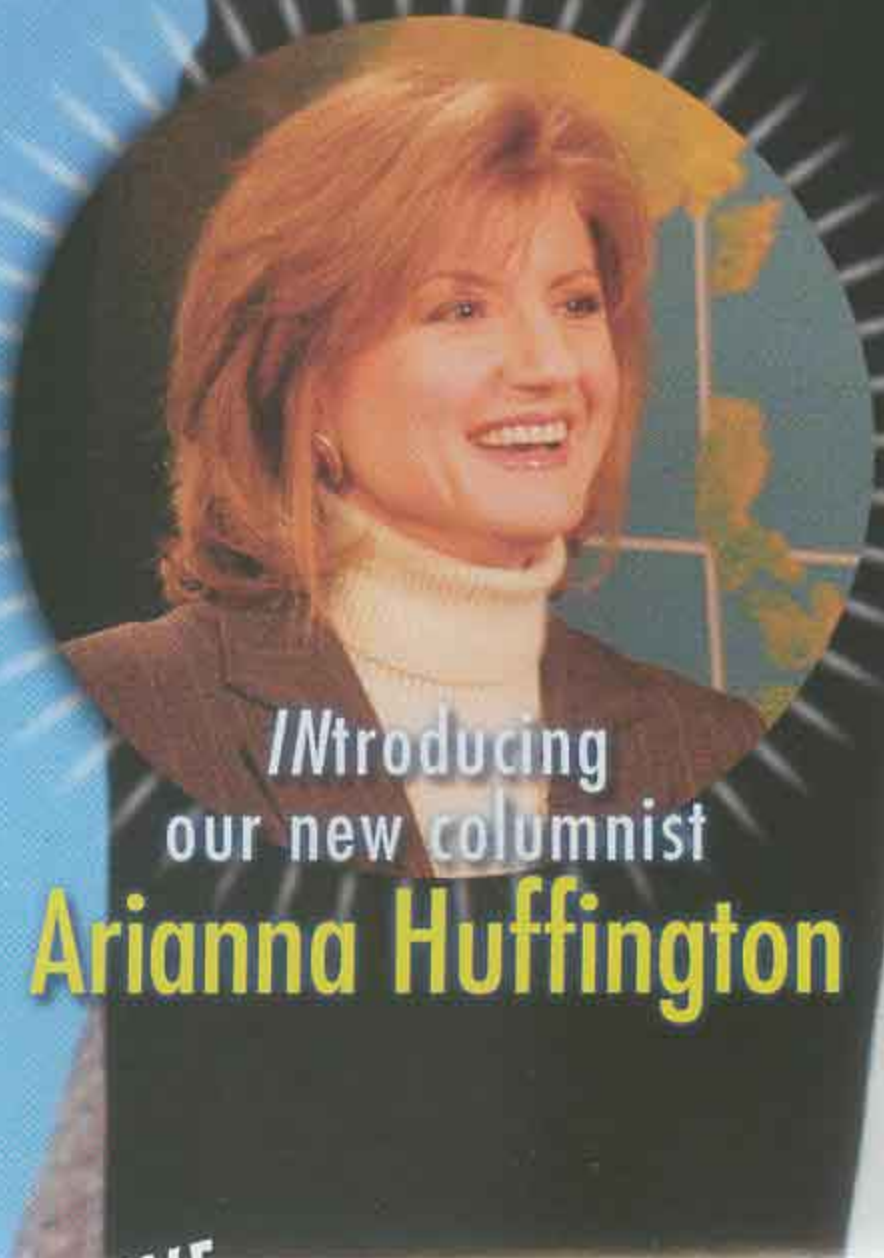
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LOS ANGELES

PALM SPRINGS • SAN DIEGO

LAPD Likely To Keep Boy Scout-Linked Explorer Program

Grateful Gays Greet Gavin Newsom



Introducing our new columnist

Arianna Huffington

Gay superhero on the big screen



"Gavin Lucas" and Lou Ferrigno

Who is Vincent Roth? By day, he can be found working as a corporate attorney in the business world in Orange County. By night, he penned *Surge of Power*, a screenplay about his real passion: comic books and superheroes.

In the film, Roth plays the leading role of Gavin Lucas, a mild-mannered gay lawyer at a technology firm who happens to be a fan of comic books. He gets harassed a lot because of this, but after he is involved in a freak chemical accident in the lab, he finds that he has incredible powers. He designs a fabulous "battle suit," and fights hate crimes and rescues the helpless victims. He puts on a cape to fight crime as "Surge" becoming involved in a battle between good and evil, with scientist Ronald Richards and Ronald's evil ex-lover, Hector.

The film is a fun and campy labor of love for producer Roth and director Michael Donahue, sure to be loved by gay men who grew up reading comic books and always wished that Superman would pursue a *Louis Lane* character instead of *Lois Lane*.

All characters, outfits, and "devices" were born of Roth's imagination. As a costumer, Vincent's piece-de-resistance is the *Surge of Power* "battle suit." Combining his writing and visual arts, he pays tribute and homage to many characters, creators, and icons from the comic book, fantasy, and science fiction genres he adores. Included are celebrity performances by former Mr. Universe, Lou Ferrigno (*The Incredible Hulk*), Nichelle Nichols (Lieutenant Uhura in the legendary TV series *Star Trek*), and Noel Neill (*Lois Lane* in the TV series *The Adventures of Superman* circa-1953). Other performances include Bobby Trendy, the interior decorator and designer who gained notoriety for his flamboyant appearances on the outrageous *Anna Nicole Show*, and actor Trev Broudy returns to acting in *Surge of Power* after recovering from a near fatal hate crime in West Hollywood.

The list of celebrity cameo appearances is extensive: comic book creator Marv Wolfman (*Teen Titans*, *Blade* and *Bullseye* from *Daredevil*); comic book writer Len Wein (*Wolverine*, *New X-Men* and *Swamp Thing*); Tadao Tomomatsu (*Mr. Shake-Hands Guy* from *Banzai TV*); leading science-fiction authority Forrest "Forry" Ackerman; actor Bob May (The Robot from *Lost in Space*); actor Butch Patrick (Eddie Munster); actress Lisa Loring (Wednesday on *The Addams Family*); actor Bernard Fox (Dr. Bombay from *Bewitched*) actress Erin Murphy (Tabitha from *Bewitched*); actor David Mandel (Adam from *Bewitched*); actress Liz Sheridan (Helen Seinfeld from *Seinfeld*) Marty Krofft (of Sid & Marty Krofft, Saturday morning kids' program legends); accompanied by *Witchipoo* and *H.R. Puff n' Stuff* (fighting over a *Surge of Power* comic); Rose Marie (Sally Rogers from the *Dick Van Dyke Show*), and Allison Arnglim (Nelly from *Little House on the Prairie*).

Surge of Power plays as the closing night program on Sunday April 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Reel Pride Film Festival in Palm Desert. For more information, go to www.ReelPrideOnline.com

In Long Beach, tune in to the *Gay & Lesbian News Magazine* on Monday, April 11 at 7 p.m. to see Vincent Roth interviewed (cable channels 95, 65, and 69) as well as Oanh Nguyen, artistic director of The Chance Theater and actors Nghia Luu, Dimas Diaz, and Ricky Culbertson from the production *Porcelain*.