



#### DETAILS

##### "Big Wednesday"

What: Screening hosted by the 15th annual Luau and Longboard Invitational Committee as a "Surf for a Cure" fundraiser supporting the Moores UCSD Cancer Center  
 When: Tonight at 6  
 Where: La Paloma Theatre, 471 S. Coast Highway 101, Encinitas  
 Cost: \$60, includes a pre-screening reception  
 Phone: (858) 822-0023



THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

# Street

# MR. 'BIG'

A Q&A with Denny Aaberg, screenwriter, surf maven and one-half of the team behind a cult fave

By Keli Dailey  
 UTSTREET.COM

**W**ith its Tijuana barroom brawls, house-party fights and beach punching scenes, "Big Wednesday," the cult surf film that turns 30 this year, did a 180 away from its "Beach Blanket" predecessors. And it had some killer shortboard footage of the "Sultan of Spit" himself, Gerry Lopez.

But the tale of three surf pals growing up around the Vietnam era hit the lip of critical acceptance hard — its co-screenwriter, Denny Aaberg, says it killed his Hollywood prospects, although the director and co-screenwriter, John Milius, went on to success directing "Conan the Barbarian" and writing screenplays for "Apocalypse Now" and (uncredited) "Dirty Harry."

But the film, screening tonight as part of the UCSD Cancer Center Research Luau and Longboard Invitational, has a growing fan base and even Quentin Tarantino name-checks "Big Wednesday" in his recent "Death Proof."

Street talked with Aaberg about the film's resurgence, surfers in wartime, and stars Gary Busey, William Katt and Jan-Michael Vincent.



Denny Aaberg

The surfing actors from "Big Wednesday" are (from left) Jan-Michael Vincent, Gary Busey and William Katt.

Read the full interview at [utstreet.com](http://utstreet.com).

## WHAPPY HOUR

### EMILIANO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT

6690 MISSION GORGE ROAD, SAN DIEGO, (619) 284-2460

The rundown: You'll drive right by this little strip-mall find at least once before you find it. Mission Gorge's anti-chain Mexican is perched right over the lush greens of Admiral Baker Golf Course. Really, the place hangs over the edge of a rocky, brush-dotted ravine. It's not quite Torrey Pines, but mountain scenery, a sun-filled patio room and golf cart paths will make your lips smile and your margie taste that much sweeter.

The deal: \$2-off apps and \$2.50 16-ounce margaritas from 2 to 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 2 to 5 Fridays.

Not to be missed: All-day \$2.50 Margarita Mondays and like-Nanita-made Albondigas soup.



David Brooks / Union-Tribune

— JENNIFER CROSHAW

## WEARD ON UTSTREET.COM

George Michael fans were out in force this week, commenting up a storm on UTStreet.com, and nearly all very pleased, thank you very much, with the show Michael did last week at the San Diego Sports Arena. Join the conversation:

From Slumber1: "I was never a GM fan until about a year ago when my Sister, Barbara (who by the way is his #1 FAN!!) introduced me to the Older CD ... I instantly fell in love with GM and his music. He is not the same GM we knew in WHAM! His concert was by far the BEST concert I've been to ... believe me I've been to quite a few! I have such an appreciation for all his music. The best part of the concert was when he sang "Amazing" ... he wrote that song for his partner, Kenny! George you are one hot STAR!"

From Sinomania: "It was a great fun show but more of an English arena type performance than American rock or pop concert. To say GM phoned it in is

to miss the whole point of the show, it's about connecting as a pop icon with the audience and getting the energy up. What did you expect 'nynya bidness'? For him to play every single instrument and run every song together without catching a breath? But your attitude raises a good point, I'm not sure how well this type of show will play all over America. San Diego is friendly and hip but will the audience respond in Podunk, Heartland?"

From BC: "I agree 100% with you Sinomania. This show was great and George never disappoints. Going to see him again in Boston in July, then again in NYC."

From KVS: "I was very blessed to have been at the kickoff to his US tour and I have to say the entire experience was AMAZING. GM did not disappoint and the entire experience was worth me losing my voice from all the screaming I did. I love you George you are a genius!"