DAILY NEWS

(ANNES

The famous film fest on the French Riviera feted the movies with star power

t began with Jerry Seinfeld zooming from a hotel roof dressed like a giant insect to promote his upcoming animated flick, "Bee Movie" ("One thing I hate is any sort of movie promotion that smacks of desperation," joked the sitcom legend), and saw red-carpet appearances by George Clooney, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Daniel Craig, Norah Jones and U2.

And then there were the movies. Michael Moore's "Sicko" continued the controversial rabble-rouser's run of Cannes hits. The Coen brothers, who've been Cannes faves in previous years with "Barton Fink," "Fargo" and "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" brought their new film, "No Country for Old Men," starring Javier Bardem and Josh Brolin, U2 rocked the festival with "U2-3D," a concert film in, yes, 3-D (they performed a two-song set on the red carpet for thousands of fans outside the Palais theater).

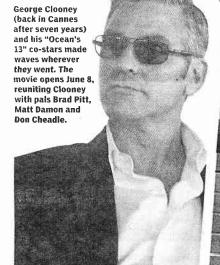
Jones made sweet music of another kind in her acting debut, the opening-night entry "My Blueberry Nights," from director Wong Kar-Wai ("In the Mood for Love"). DiCaprio brought "The 11th Hour," an environmental documentary that he produced, parrated and co-wrote. Jolie and Pitt presented "A Mighty Heart," about

slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl and his wife, Mariane, which Pitt produced and in which Jolie stars. And Clooney, Pitt and Damon added Rat Packstyle panache with "Ocean's Thirteen."

All this, plus Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig's fantasy epic "The Golden Compass" had a special mini-screening, New Line honchos Michael Lynne and Bob Shaye got a Chevalier lifetime in filmmaking award and auctioneer Sharon Stone raised a record \$7.5 million to fight AIDS at a star-studded AmFar event.

Geez, didn't anyone just hang out at the beach? Joe Neumaier and Michael Giltz





U2, led by Bono (center) and Adam Clayton (right) rocked out for fans in front of the Palais theater. The band had a concert film, "U2-3D," screening at the festival.

Nicole Kidman stars in "The Golden Compass." The first entry in the "His Dark Materials" saga brings the bestselling fantasy books to life. Daniel Craig, Eric Bana and Eva Green costar. Cannes-goers got a brief peek.

> New York's Norah Jones took time off from being one of pop's loveliest songstresses to star in "My Blueberry Nights," a romantic drama-road movie co-starring Jude Law; it opened the film festival.